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Thomas J. Schoenbaum
University of Georgia School of Law



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BOOK REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ichiro Kato, Nobuo Kumamoto, William Matthews, & Ariffin Suhaimi eds. Tokyo University Press, 1985. Pp. 205 plus appendices and index.

*Thomas J. Schoenbaum**

Since the early 1970's, the United States has administered a program to manage coastal and wetland resources.¹ This management program singles out wetlands for special regulatory attention, and closely monitors development that endangers estuarine resources.² In this small but rich collection of essays, readers find that concern for coastal resources is evident in the nations of the Pacific region as well.

The publication of this unique book on the efforts of selected Asian nations to manage coastal resources is due especially to the dedication and organizing efforts of one of its editors, Professor Nobuo Kumamoto of Hokkaigakuen University in Sapporo, Japan. Professor Kumamoto, who has traveled widely in the Asian area, conceived the idea of convening a conference every two years of leading persons in Asia for the purpose of discussing different aspects of environmental protection in Asia. This pioneering effort has resulted in two previous volumes: *Environmental Law and Policy in the Pacific Basin Area*³ and *Water Management and Environmental Protection in Asia and the Pacific*.⁴

Together these three volumes constitute a remarkable survey of the law relating to environmental protection in a group of Asian countries, especially Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines. Little information previously has been available on these Asian nations,

* Dean Rusk Professor, University of Georgia School of Law.

¹ The statutory authority for coastal zone management is the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.

² See *United States v. Riverside Bayview Homes*, 106 S. Ct. 455 (1985).

³ Tokyo University Press, 1981 (I. Kato, N. Kumamoto, and W. Matthews eds.).

⁴ Tokyo University Press, 1983 (I. Kato, N. Kumamoto, W. Matthews, and Ru. Sutamihardja eds.).

which have very important environmental resources. Moreover, the essays in these volumes are not written by outsiders, but are authored by persons in the best position to speak authoritatively — eminent scientists and lawyers in the countries themselves.

The essays grouped under the general heading of coastal zone management exhibit a wide range of topics and points of view. This interdisciplinary nature of the collection further enhances its value.

The opening section of the volume concerns the important issue of water quality in selected areas of the Asian region. There are quite specific studies of particular problems, such as water quality in Jakarta Bay, as well as more general summaries of water resources in southeast Asia. Readers learn not only what difficulties of pollution exist, but also what is being done to address these problems. The last essay in the section, a case study of a proposal to upgrade water quality, summarizes recommendations on a water resources code for Malaysia.

The second section of the book considers coastal zone management itself. The section covers primarily what is being done to address a variety of problems, such as erosion, land use, and preservation of distinctive ecological communities. These essays provide a great deal of information, particularly on Malaysia, the site of the conference that produced the book. Of special interest is a study of integrated coastal zone development strategies by Professor A. Maheswaran, the Director-General of the Department of Environment in Malaysia.

After a short section on the marine environment in the coastal zone, the volume addresses the problem of human activities and their impact on coastal resources. This section is the richest of the book, discussing a wide variety of specific issues, including population, industry, energy production, and settlement patterns. In essence, discussion of these issues serves as a kind of environmental impact statement for the Asian area. The essays concerning nations about which not much is known regarding environmental protection are particularly interesting. Readers learn, for example, about extensive land reclamation efforts and consideration of environmental questions in Singapore.

As a result, this volume, as well as the others in the series, should have great appeal for anyone interested either in Asia or the problem of international protection of the environment.