

rates and some others quasi-fiscal activities on energy and agricultural sector in Uzbekistan, Teig finds, that a lack of transparency as well as implicit taxation and benefits imply important welfare costs for the country. This is something that must be avoided in order to achieve country's commitment toward a market oriented system. However, the Central Asian context, permeated by authoritarian regimes and patronage, makes it difficult to reach the required levels of transparency and social control to achieve a good level of governance. Therefore, to perform this task, the support of agencies such as World Bank is necessary in order to address these major problems. Nevertheless, important changes within the countries must be done.

Summing up, the book gives a broad spectrum of governance issues, its applications and major challenges in developing countries. It outlines the great importance of Good Governance and the positive relationship between democracy, governance and development, but also discusses, when and why Good Governance may result in the greater instability.

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Oliver C. Ruppel (ed.)

Children's Rights in Namibia

Macmillan Education Namibia, Windhoek, 2009, 435 pp & xvi; ISBN 978-99916-0-891-4

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has had a profound influence on the appreciation and implementation of the rights of the child as a legal subject - also in Southern Africa. It has been an area of the law that has been sadly neglected in various regional countries. It is against this background that the book is welcomed as it fills the *lacuna* in the Namibian context. In brief, the book sets out the Namibian obligations for the protection and promotion of children's rights under national and international law. It analyses the extent to which the legislation and the various national institutions are successful in meeting these obligations. It is particularly useful in identifying and assessing policy and practical legal problems experienced within this legal system.

The collection of articles is not only academic in nature (although there are substantial sections from an academic perspective), but includes sections of a practical and inter-disciplinary nature, with some distinct recommendations for the Namibian legal system. The material is current and pertinent and, where relevant, includes a discussion of new legislative developments and reform in the country. It is clear that the Namibian legal fraternity is in the process of grappling with, and solving, contemporary child law issues: apart from the topics listed hereunder, there are references to a special children's court; children born of unmarried parents; and family violence to name a few.

The book is rather unique in that the contributors range from undergraduate and post-graduate students, to practitioners, a Namibian judge as well as experienced academics.

One could think that this variety of contributors would be problematic to the reader; however, it brings a fresh and almost enthusiastic perspective to the law. Each contribution adds a distinctive perspective and flavour to the overall collection of material – all falling within the broad theme of children’s rights. From an academic institutional point of view, this book is a lesson in empowerment and capacity-building of young professionals. The editor should be commended for his bold and challenging choices.

The topics covered in the book are equally wide. The introductory chapters deal with general constitutional and international child law issues: *Ambunda / Mugadza* on the protection of children’s rights in Namibia: law and policy; and *Ruppel* on the protection of children’s rights under international law from a Namibian perspective. The first article sets out the current law in Namibia within a broader constitutional context with references to legislation and pertinent case law. This article is of particular use to readers not knowledgeable about the Namibian child law. The article by Ruppel provides a succinct overview of the success of the implementation of international instruments in a global as well as regional and sub-regional context. In addition, interesting statistics are added on the Namibian mortality rate, school attendance and educational progress indicators, setting the rights within its actual practical perspective. These chapters are a critical measure of the legal developments that have already taken place over the past few decades.

The major section of the book is dedicated to contemporary legal problems in Namibia vis-à-vis the child: the age of majority (*Coomer / Hubbard*); the Child Care and Protection Act (*Kangandjela / Mapaure*); the best interests of the child (*Dausab*); children’s right to citizenship (*Chipepera / Ruppel-Schlichting*); issues relating to custody and guardianship (*Owoses-/Goagoses*); adoption (*Ruppel / Shipila*); child labour (*Mapaure*); and the right to education of pregnant learners (*Hubbard*).

The collection includes three articles focusing specifically on customary practices: albinism (*Ntinda*); children in polygynous marriages (*Anyolo*); and male circumcision (*Hinz / Hangula*). The article on the constitutional challenges of children with albinism is particularly new and insightful since very little has been written on the issue worldwide.

In addition, a grouping of multi-disciplinary articles has been added, focusing on vulnerable children within and outside the courts system: restorative justice in general (*Schultz*); child witnesses (*Silungwe*); child suggestibility (*Mudzanapabwe*); and perpetrators of violent crimes against children (*De Klerk*). Furthermore, articles have been included on the access of information by orphans (*Mchombu*); child trafficking and prostitution (*Conteh*); ombudsman for children (*Rogalska-Piechota*); and social assistance benefits (*Nkosi*).

The compilation concludes with a chapter on methodological provocations in what the author calls the quest for the recognition and implementation of children’s rights (*Stewart*). With the preceding chapters focusing on the history, current, future developments and problems in the Namibian legal system, Stewart focuses on the “search for a focus”. She asks fundamental and provocative questions going to the heart of the success of the implementation of children’s rights. The suggestion is that the legal fraternity should look at the

problems from the viewpoint of the most fundamental entity in the equation, namely the child. Questions should constantly be asked about the benefits and needs of the child. By doing so, the context of the child within his or her actual reality would lead to the clarification of the effect of the legal rights on the child. This in turn should strengthen the understanding of the effect of the implementation of the rights on the child and hopefully lead to an adaptation of the interventions.

Editorially, a compilation of this nature is bound to yield some contributions that are more in depth than others, as well as a variety in styles. This is indeed the case. Although the manuscript is not perfect linguistically, it would be unfair to focus on a few minor gremlins that crept through to the final product. These imperfections do not in any way detract from what is an informative and engaging study.

This book is a valuable contribution to the jurisprudence in not only Namibia, but also in Southern Africa as a whole. It would be indispensable to those who are concerned with the rights of children in these areas. It reflects insightfully on the issue of the promotion and protection of children's rights in general. It is also gratifying to note that the book has its roots firmly in Africa – from the authors and the material, to the art and poetry that introduces the book.

Marita Carnelley, Pietermaritzburg

Auswärtiges Amt (Hrsg.)

Biographisches Handbuch des deutschen Auswärtigen Dienstes 1871 – 1945

Band 3: L – R. Bearbeitet von Gerhard Keiper und Martin Kröger

Schöningh Verlag, Paderborn u.a., 2008, 749 S., € 158,00; ISBN 978-3-506-71842-6

Nun liegt er also vor, der 3. Band dieses eindrucksvollen Handbuchs, und bietet mit seinen meist mit Fotos versehenen tabellarischen Lebensläufen ein faszinierendes zeitgeschichtliches Kompendium mit vielen Überraschungen und Aha-Erlebnissen, wie schon die 2000 und 2005 erschienenen Vorgängerbände. Auf deren Besprechung in VRÜ 2005, S. 354-358 sei an dieser Stelle verwiesen.

Kaiserliche Reichskanzler findet man hier allerdings nicht: Die sind vollzählig in den ersten beiden Bänden enthalten, fünf im ersten und zwei noch nicht namentlich genannte im zweiten: *Fürst Chlodwig von Hohenlohe-Schillingfürst*, *Prinz von Ratibor und Corvey* (1894–1900), um den von Kaiser Wilhelm II. mit freundlicher Herablassung als "Onkel Chlodwig" Titulierten beim vollen Namen zu nennen, und *Graf Georg von Hertling* (1917–1918). Beide kamen aus der bayerischen Innenpolitik und Verwaltung und waren dort Ministerpräsident und Außenminister gewesen, Fürst Chlodwig noch im souveränen Königreich von 1866–70.

Im hier zu besprechenden dritten Band verdanken manche bekannte und auch bedeutende Persönlichkeiten ihre Aufnahme weniger bekannten früheren oder späteren außen-