

THIS BOOK IS MORE THAN A REVIEW OF LABOUR LAW, it is the only comprehensive review available of labour law in the Asia Pacific region. It investigates the impact of labour law on workers in 30 countries. It analyses trade union and labour activists' responses to changes in labour law, and examines what labour law means for workers' daily lives.

- **NORTH KOREA:** workers are at the mercy of neo-liberal economic reforms
- **JAPAN:** restructuring identified as responsible for many Japanese suicides that rose from 200,000 to 300,000 at the end of the 1990s
- **CAMBODIA:** the labour law only covers around 25 percent of the labour force
- **BANGLADESH:** labour legislation prevents union organising in Export Processing Zones
- **VIETNAM:** public workers who enjoyed a 'work for life' system now work under flexible contracts
- **INDIA:** repressive British colonial labour legislation has changed little in over 50 years
- **BHUTAN:** the ruling elite denies workers almost every fundamental right
- **CHINA:** it took 14 separate Chinese authorities to draft 18 OSH rules and regulations
- **THAILAND:** the Labour Relations Act covers only around 50 percent of the workforce

"This remarkable publication is not just about labour law in 30 Asian countries. The AMRC publication is also a wonderful portrait of how labour legislation actually works and impacts on millions of workers, and of how labour law interacts with the workers' movement in the region. This is the only comprehensive review available of labour law and its actual functions in the Asia Pacific. All of us who work on social and labour issues in Asia again owe much to this publication from AMRC, the organisation that has devoted its creative energy to the social cause for working people in Asia and the Pacific."

—**CHANG-HEE LEE**, *Industrial Relations Specialist*
East Asia Multidisciplinary Advisory Team, ILO

WORKERS' RIGHTS FOR THE NEW CENTURY

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