

Chinese Civil Law for Business

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Foreword

Over the past couple of decades, China has rapidly developed and transformed itself, particularly in its economic and legal systems. China's economy continues to boom and people around the world are attempting to enter the Chinese market or to put their business dealings there on a firmer footing. Doing business in any country requires an understanding of the laws of that country, and China is no exception.

In order to meet the growing market demand for information about Chinese business law, especially since China joined the WTO in 2001, the business school of the Open University of Hong Kong has introduced a series of Chinese business law courses and programmes. This book is based on one of the courses in our Master of Laws in Chinese Business Law programme, which was developed by Chinese business law experts from mainland China and Hong Kong as well as senior academics and instructional designers within the university. The book, like the course and programme it evolved out of, focuses on the practical implications of China's laws and its legal system for doing business in China. It does not focus on the law for its own sake; nor does it take a theoretical approach to the subject.

Over the years, we have found that there are very few Chinese business law books available in the market, particularly books that are written in English and that have a business focus. Our major targeted readers are business people — those doing business or intending to do business with or in China, and who for that purpose want to know more about Chinese business law — as well as students. We hope that this book can help to fill a gap through both its timeliness and its approach.

This book is the first in our Chinese Business Law book series. We have chosen to start with Chinese civil law because, in our view, it is a very