

Comments on OKUDA, Statelessness and the Nationality Act of Japan: Baby Andrew Becomes a Teenager and other Changes?

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I. INTRODUCTION

I read with great interest Professor *Yasuhiro Okuda's* Article in Volume 8(15) of this Journal titled, "The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Japan's International Family Law including Nationality Law".¹ Having read in Japanese his excellent earlier book on nationality law in Japan² and his analysis of the surveys collected by the International Social Service, Japan (ISSJ),³ I was delighted to be able to include an English language source in the materials on this topic for my course *Issues in Japanese Law*.⁴ My students who cannot read Japanese may now also enjoy *Okuda's* scholarship.

* The author thanks Mr *Kent Anderson* (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, The Australian National University and Co-Director, Australian Network for Japanese Law) for his comments on the draft of this Article.

1 Y. OKUDA, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Japan's International Family Law including Nationality Law, in: ZJapanR 15 (2003) 87.

2 *Okuda* has written extensively on issues such as nationality law, discrimination and conflict of laws. Here I am referring to: Y. OKUDA, *Kazoku to kokuseki* [Family and Nationality] (1996). A revised edition of this book was published in 2003. References in this Article are to the 1996 edition. *Okuda's* most recent book-length work is *Kokuseki-hô to kokusai oyako-hô* [Nationality Law and International Family Law] (2004), where he also discusses Article 2(iii), at 118-121, and the Andrew case, at 125-136.

3 Y. OKUDA, *Sûji de miru kodomo no kokuseki to zairyû shikaku* [Nationality and Visa of the Child: Statistical Analysis] (2002).

4 Undergraduate optional course for the LLB program at the University of Melbourne Law School. We use Andrew's case (discussed below) as a case study for our class on Japanese nationality law issues.