

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Japan's International Family Law including Nationality Law

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I. INTRODUCTION

The rights of children seem at first glance to be much better protected in Japan than in most other countries. Most Japanese children are well fed, clothed, educated, and safe from life threatening harm. Thus, the Japanese government found neither new legislation, reform of existing laws, nor accession to other conventions necessary when in 1994 it ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereafter the "Child Convention").¹ However, the Child Convention regulates not only the basic human needs mentioned above, but also a variety of human rights such as the right to nationality and the right to registration of one's birth. It further deals with various family matters with foreign elements such as inter-country adoption, recovery abroad of maintenance, and international child abduction.

* This article is reprinted from *Hokudai Hôgaku Ronshû*, Vol. 54, No. 1, 456 and based in part on a report regarding the Child Convention that the author prepared on behalf of the *Japan Federation of Bar Associations*. The author thanks Professor *Kent Anderson* (The Australian National University) for his comments, advice, and revising the English text.

1 The Child Convention was adopted by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. The English authentic text is available at <<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human/child/convention.html>>.