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## Preface

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This book originated from an idea by Steven Van Uytsel. While studying, and later working, at Kyushu University in Japan, he became interested in the influence of foreign and domestic elements in the creation of competition laws in Asia. Several people have, directly and indirectly, shaped the ideas on this topic and have so contributed into the development of a book project.

Professor Sakda Thanitcul encouraged Steven to deepen his insights on how Asian countries have gradually embraced the concept of competition law. In 2009 he brought a group of LLM students from Chulalongkorn University to a study visit in Kyushu University. After being given the opportunity to talk about the Japanese leniency programme with his students, Professor Thanitcul invited Steven to join the group in Dazaifu, an ancient city near Fukuoka (Japan). While traversing the Fukuoka City Highway, he inquired about Steven's research interest. Steven expressed his interest in the evolution of competition law in Asia. He suggested exploring this field, but at the same time being patient. Seeing the developments in ASEAN at that time, he predicted that the Asian competition law landscape would change drastically over a period of 5–10 years.

2013 was another important year. Steven was invited by Professor Burton Ong to the National University of Singapore for his workshop on Cartels in Asia. At this workshop, Steven encountered Shuya Hayashi, a colleague working at Nagoya University. During a coffee breaks, Steven and Shuya discussed the difficulty of teaching Japanese competition law to international students at their respective universities, Kyushu University and Nagoya University. An idea for a book on Japanese competition law began to take shape. Despite enthusiasm, the topic proved to be too narrow to become commercially viable for publication houses. Thankfully, they received advice: expand the geographical scope. Steven remembered the conversation with Professor Thanitcul and conferred with Shuya as to whether he would be interested in a book on ASEAN Plus Three (including Taiwan and Hong Kong). His response was positive. It was decided to wait a while until most of the ASEAN countries would have adopted a competition law.

Steven and Shuya wanted to expand the editing team to include an internationally renowned scholar on Asian competition law. When Steven mentioned this desire to Professor Thanitcul in Bangkok in 2015, after having taught a course on Product Liability Law at the Thai Office of the Judiciary, Professor Thanitcul quickly recommended Professor John O. Haley. One email between these two scholars consolidated the editorial team for this book. Thus began this book on Asian competition law.

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5 October 2019