

Missions of Judicial Administration in Asia and the Pacific

Justice Ricardo C. Puno

30 ATENEO L.J. 11 (1986)

SUBJECT(S): JUDICIARY

KEYWORD(S): LEGAL SYSTEM, JUDICIAL SYSTEM

This was delivered as a keynote address in the "LAWASIA Conference of Chief Justices" held on 19-23 August 1986 in Penang, Malaysia.

Justice Puno enumerates the general causes of concern and satisfaction with the administration of justice, namely: (1) the causes for dissatisfaction with any legal system; (2) causes arising from the peculiarities of particular legal systems; (3) causes arising from the particular judicial organization and procedure of any given country; and (4) causes arising from the environment of the particular judicial administration adopted. Further, he names the two causes for dissatisfaction common to all legal systems, which are: (1) the necessarily mechanical operation of rules and therefore of laws, and (2) the somewhat inevitable difference in rate of progress between law and public opinion. He presents 10 questions, which were asked the countries in LAWASIA concerning, in general, judicial and legal systems.

By way of conclusion, he summarizes certain basic court management principles, which include: (1) the necessity of an information system and procedures appropriate and suited to a particular court system; (2) a system of procedures for data gathering which must work adequately and properly; and (3) a court system which deals solely with disputes appropriate to it and the recognition and identification of those cases, which should be excepted and diverted to other court systems, etc.