

Acknowledgement

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This book entitled “Political Change and Legal Reformation towards Democracy and Supremacy of Law in Indonesia” is a report of a study on the political and legal change which occurred in Indonesia in the context of the multi-dimensional Reformation Movement, which caused and followed the downfall of President Soeharto, who governed and lead the Republic of Indonesia for 32 years (from 1966-1988)

Despite the fact that he called his long-term of tenure “The New Order”, which is supported to counter Soekarno’s (our first President) “Old Order”, which he and his followers found very autocratic, Soeharto’s leadership became even more autocratic and tyrannical than the “Old Order”.

It was therefore very difficult to find out the exact date of the start of the Reformation Movement, which must have been some time during the first decade of Soeharto’s rule, but became clearer until it exploded during the student’s rally in the Parliament’s (MPR and DPR) Building in Jakarta, in May 1998.

In conducting this study I wish to express my gratitude first and foremost to Dr. Naoyaki Sakumoto, who asked me to conduct this study and assured that Institute of Developing Economics of JETRO that in spite of my many activities, I would still be able to complete this study.

To be sure, this would not have been possible but for the cooperation of Pr. Dr. phil. Astrid S. Susanto (Professor of Political Sociology and Political Communication at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Politics at the Postgraduate Programme of the Sahid University, University of Indonesia and member of the Parliament (DPR/MPR) also serving as Vice Chairperson of the First Commission (Foreign Relations, Human Rights and Security) and APU Research Professor eqv. RM Surachman, S.H., (Deputy Ombudsman of the National Ombudsman Commission).

Prof. Dr. phil. Astrid S. Susanto wrote Chapter III on the 1945 Constitution and its Amendments, and Chapter VI on Decentralization.

Whilst Research Professor eqv. RM Surachman responsible for part of Chapter IV and Chapter V (on the Ombudsmanship in Indonesia).

Ms. Wuryastuti Sunario furthermore translated the most important laws, to be found in the Annex in the English language, without which it would have been very difficult for a foreigner, not speaking the Indonesian language, to understand the analysis of the laws discusses in this book.

Therefore, I am most grateful to Prof. Dr. Astrid S. Susanto, Research Professor eqv. RM Surachman, and Ms. Wuryastuti Sunario for their most valuable contributions to this study and for their time spent in order to have this report finished in time.

I will not forget to thank Mrs. Koeswanto Tami Haryono, S.H. and her team for the most valuable help for assisting me in the administrative and secretarial activities needed in completing this book.

After having finished writing this book, the authors feel that much more exact picture of the political and legal changes which occurred in the last four years (1998-2001) of Reformation in Indonesia. It is hoped that this study may start the beginning of longer and deeper studies upon the matter.

May God bless all of you, who helped me finish this study as planned, and may this study be beneficial, not only for Japan, but also for Indonesia.

Sunaryati Hartono