

PRIVACY LAWS AND BUSINESS

Editor: Merrill Dresner

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The drive toward data protection regulation is now spreading well beyond the traditional strongholds in Europe to Australasia. This issue reports on moves towards regulating both the private and public sectors in Japan, Hong Kong, and New Zealand. In addition to a government bill, Japan's finance industry has now published its own data protection code, following a similar one published by the Canadian bankers last year. Full details of both these codes will appear in our next issue.

Back in Europe, we can now reveal the shape of the forthcoming Swiss legislation in a report which covers its likely impact in several areas vital for business. The strengthening of workers' rights in the Swiss bill and opposition from some business sectors may mean that the bill is ultimately put to a referendum of the Swiss people - the first time voters have had a chance in any country to express their views so directly.

At a **Privacy Laws & Business Seminar** in London this autumn, you will have an opportunity to find out how Switzerland's comprehensive data protection law is likely to affect your company operations. On the same day, we will also cover developments in two other countries with limited registration systems, the Netherlands and Ireland. Speakers will include Dr. P. Muller, Head of the Data Protection Service of Switzerland's Federal Department of Justice, and Mr. P. Hustinx, Legal Advisor on Public Law to the Netherlands' Ministry of Justice and Chairman of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Data Protection. The Netherlands' and Irish bills may well have passed into law by then. In all three countries, companies will have to adapt their data protection management to the new challenge of meeting high standards without a universal registration system. Please keep October 19th free - we will send you further details shortly.

Merrill Dresner

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