

Thomas M.J. Möllers/Hao Li (eds.)

The General Rules of Chinese Civil Law

History, Reform and Perspective



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Foreword: The Current Reform of Chinese Civil Law

University of Augsburg's law faculty looks back on a long history of scientific contact to China. Already in May 2006, several colleagues of the law faculty, namely the Professors *Marion Albers*, *Ivo Appel*, *Volker Behr*, *Michael Kort*, and *Thomas M.J. Möllers*, undertook a research trip to China and established first contacts there. In 2015, these close contacts led to the foundation of a research center for Chinese law (Research Center of Innovation and Legal Studies between China and Europe – *RICE*) at the University of Augsburg.

When the German Civil Code (*BGB*) was introduced in Germany on January 1, 1900, it was considered “a new code for a new century”. The People's Republic of China now plans the same. It will certainly be a feat of strength before the civil code will be completed in 2020. China pursues a vision as well: introducing a modern, progressive, overall codification which is competent to overcome the challenges of the 21st century.

This was reason enough for us to hold a conference on the already completed general part of this civil code, the General Rules of Civil Law (*GRCL*), on July 20, 2017. In this context, we wanted to learn how the *GRCL* and the *BGB*, which was created more than a 100 years earlier, differ. It is even more surprising how similar they are. This conference transcript depicts these very similarities and differences.

We would like to sincerely thank the Bavarian Academic Center for China (*Bay-China*) whose financial support was indispensable for the conference. Special thanks go to the persons primarily responsible, *Dr. Liuhua Shen* of the research center for Chinese law and *Pirmin Herz* for the preparation of the conference and this transcript. We thank *Professor Dr. Knut Benjamin Pißler*, *Dr. Peter Leibkühler* und *Nils Klages* for providing a German translation of the Chinese legal text. The research assistant *Sandra Paulson* kindly translated the legal text into English. Lastly, we owe great thanks to the staff of the Augsburg Center for Global Economic Law and Regulation (*ACELR*), in particular *Michael Biesinger* and *Tristan Eickholt*, for their support in performing the conference as well as supervising the conference transcript.

Professor Dr. Thomas M.J. Möllers (Augsburg)

Professor Dr. Hao Li (Beijing)

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