

Preface

This work has its genesis in the Second Thematic Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law, held in Taiwan in May 2012.

The subject matter of this Congress was “Codification”, and the subject of the panel regarding the civil codes was: “*The scope and structure of civil codes. The inclusion of commercial law, family law, labor law, consumer law*”.

The essays that make up this volume are based on the National Reports presented in the panel, but are not necessarily identical, for the subthemes have been reformulated; considerations, arguments and conclusions from the debates that took place at the Congress were incorporated and minor or accessory details that may not result interesting for the audience were suppressed.

Hence, the comparatist paper *The Scope and Structure of Civil Codes* opening this volume is not a mere reproduction of the General Report presented at the Congress, but it is a re-elaboration written in light of the essays from all the collaborators. Nevertheless, the essay makes reference to the National Reports, specifically for countries that did not present contributions for this volume. The National Reports will be published by Taiwan University.

An original work has been shaped from this material seeking to respond questions ranging from the philosophical, political or economic justification for legislation under the form of civil codes, to essentially practical matters such as the content of contemporary codes and their relation with the rest of the national and supranational legal frameworks.

The comparatist analysis allows to envision that countries often offer similar and on occasions totally diverse solutions to the same problems; and yet this is not an impediment to begin by noting a conclusion: the announced death of the codes has not occurred, and on the contrary its survival is seen in the countries that adopted codification as a method of legislative expression during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as in the growing interest it attracts in countries that are getting closer to world markets. Furthermore, even countries whose tradition and peculiar

legal culture do not adhere to the codification method use alternative methods that result in an approximation to that product, the code, that has quite accurately been qualified as one of the most important fruits of the human spirit.

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