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Max Planck Institute Assumes Editorship of Oceana's *Constitutions of the Countries of the World*

Dobbs Ferry, New York and Heidelberg, Germany, January 17, 2005 – The Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law has assumed the editorship for the leading print and online database for national constitutions, Oceana Publication's *Constitutions of the Countries of the World*. Director and Professor Rüdiger Wolfrum and Senior Researcher Dr. Rainer Grote of the prestigious Institute will update and expand the coverage of this acknowledged classic in the field. Enhancements to the product will begin to be reflected in the product in February 2005.

For over 30 years, *Constitutions of the Countries of the World* has distinguished itself as the gold standard for full-text, integrated versions of 192 constitutions, translated into English by constitutional scholars familiar with the legal systems, judicial languages, and official languages of the foreign jurisdictions covered. Gisbert H. Flanz, Professor Emeritus of Political and Comparative Politics at New York University, the founding editor of *Constitutions of the Countries of the World* whose contributions to the product were immeasurable, will continue to work with the new editors, acting as Editor Emeritus going forward.

As part of their revamping of this classic information source, Drs. Wolfrum and Grote will update all relevant materials, enhance the online product features, and expand the introductory and comparative notes on the constitutional texts, providing researchers with as complete and current context as possible for each country's constitution. Users will be informed regularly of the most recent and significant constitutional reforms and alerted to upcoming updates to the product.

"We are convinced that our co-operation with Oceana will contribute to a further strengthening of the reputation of CCW as the most valuable tool for constitutional law research and analysis worldwide. More than ever, CCW is indispensable as the most reliable and up-to-date source of information on the rapidly changing constitutional systems and structures in the different parts of the world," said Professor Wolfrum.

"*Constitutions of the Countries of the World* has been an important product for international researchers and Oceana for over 30 years," said David R. Cohen, the CEO of Oceana Publications. "It is a global product requiring a global perspective, and the Max Planck Institute is the perfect partner to aid us in developing an even more timely and informative product."

The **Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law** was founded in Berlin in 1924 as the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für ausländisches öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht and was re-established in 1949 within the framework of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Sciences. The Institute combines fundamental research in public international law (including the law of the European Union) with an in-dept-analysis of current trends in the constitutional and administrative law systems of individual countries. Such a broad

approach is essential in order to gain a full understanding of the structure and functioning of modern states at the beginning of the 21st century. In this regard the flourishing of constitutionalism since the end of the Cold War and the return to democracy of many states in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa have considerably increased the need for, and the scope of comparative constitutional research and analysis.

Oceana Publications, Inc. has been the premier publisher of essential transnational and international legal information for over 50 years. Oceana specializes in providing in-depth, multi-jurisdictional coverage by pre-eminent experts from around the world on the latest topics of interest. Oceana is particularly strong in the following international legal practice areas: business and commercial, dispute resolution, finance and investment, intellectual property, environmental, terrorism, European Union regulation, civil rights, customs, telecommunications and the Internet, international organizations, constitutional, and much more.

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