



# Absentee Voting in Asian Countries

Australia • Burma • Cambodia • China • India  
Japan • South Korea • Malaysia • Philippines  
Taiwan • Thailand • Vietnam

1999

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reflects research undertaken as of the date of writing.  
It has not been updated.

**ABSENTEE VOTING IN ASIAN COUNTRIES**

Jurisdiction	Absentee voting
AUSTRALIA	Yes
BURMA	Yes
CAMBODIA	No
CHINA	Yes <sup>1</sup>
INDIA	Yes <sup>2</sup>
JAPAN	To begin in May Y2000 <sup>3</sup>
KOREA, SOUTH	Yes
MALAYSIA	Yes
PHILIPPINES	Mandated in Constitution but not yet enabled by law as of 10/1998
TAIWAN	No
THAILAND	Yes <sup>4</sup>
VIETNAM	No

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that at present direct elections in China are held essentially only at the village level, for village leaders.

<sup>2</sup> Please see attached provisions regarding elections; absentee voting (vote by postal ballot) basically only applies to persons with a "service qualification" (including, for example, members of the armed forces) and their wives, persons subjected to preventive detention, and Indian Government employees.

<sup>3</sup> Art. 49, Public Office Election Law (*Koshoku Senkyoho*), Law No. 100, Apr. 15, 1950, as amended by Law No. 47, May 6, 1998. The provision in English translation is not currently available.

<sup>4</sup> Election Law of Thailand, promulgated June 6, 1998. The text of the relevant provisions is not at present available in the Law Library collection, but a photocopy of an article that appeared in the press reflecting the fact that absentee voting is permitted accompanies this chart.