

## EDITORIAL

A century has passed since Ahn Joong-geun, a highly esteemed Korean patriot and great peace thinker published his masterpiece, "Principles of East Asian Peace" in 1910. His lofty vision and ideas are about to be realized in this region with a newly arising initiative of the East Asian community. In the "Joint Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of Trilateral Cooperation among China, Japan and Korea" released this October, the leaders of China, Japan, and Korea finally reached a common understanding as to the development of the regional community in East Asia based on the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness. This spirit is also evident with the currently arising ASEAN+3.

International law is a remarkable invention of human society in modern times. It is the result of a rational system of thought that mankind has set up as a standard of communication for a segmented global society. International law will be thus needed more than before in East Asia preparing for a new regional unity. The JEAIL takes for granted the need to find and develop common norms, values and ideas in East Asia towards one community. The JEAIL will academically realize the ideal of peaceful coexistence and prosperity in this region by way of universally accepted collateral and language. We firmly believe it will satisfy social and human needs in this contemporary world and beyond.

The JEAIL publishes its volume 2, number 2. Last issue attracted much readership from not only East Asia but also all over the world. In particular, four articles in the Issue Focus section, "Islamic World and International Law," drew much attention because it was one of the first series of English-based law review articles addressing Muslim position over contemporary international legal questions from a fair and impartial perspective. Two articles in our Regional Focus & Controversies section and other papers also drew international attention.

The current issue contains many creative and significant papers. The Issue Focus includes four articles concerning maritime environmental protection under international law. It reflects the common interest against serious maritime pollution in the vast sea areas of this region. This issue also publishes a paper addressing the very fundamental thoughts of Erasmus, the 16th century's great philosopher in relation to the implications of modern international norms for peacemaking. Readers will easily

recognize the academic value of this paper just in the variety of primary sources provided by the author, consisting of four different languages and covering a wide time span. It is not often that one can read an academic paper by one of the truly leading scholars of our time. A couple of young international lawyers have contributed articles raising timely legal questions related to the 21<sup>st</sup> century's East Asia. These articles are reflective of the rapidly changing legal circumstances of our region brought about by globalization. The Regional Focus and Controversies section includes two papers regarding a military demarcation dispute on the Yellow Sea between North and South Korea. As an international lawyer, Justice Florentino Feliciano of the Supreme Court of the Philippines was invited to share his thoughts. Our dialogue with him provided insightful legal scholarship and told a successful life story of a highly respected international lawyer called a "judge's judge." We believe his wisdom and lessons will have much influence over the younger generation and how they design their lives.

Once again we had to pass a painstaking review process to select and publish articles from the numerous drafts submitted. The JEAIL is much indebted to our board members and experts who evaluated and edited the drafts with their expertise and professionalism. In particular, we extend our sincere appreciation to Professor Joseph Harte, Managing Editor, and Mr. John Riley, Associate Editor, for their enthusiastic contribution in the editing process. Mr. Todd Howland gave his comments during the extremely hard work in the UN Human Rights office in Congo. We are also beholden of our credible national correspondents for their treaty reports and communication.

The Journal is edited in English and French. We cordially welcome draft articles or reports from both academic lawyers and practitioners for future publications. Our next volume will be published in May 2010, and the Issue Focus will be "Weapons of Mass Destruction in East Asia." Submission is open to anyone before February 1, 2010 for the spring issue.

**Editor-in-Chief**