

EDITORIAL

Ten years have passed since the new millennium began with an overwhelming desire by people all over the globe for a better world. The past decade, however, has proven to be sadly disappointing in that regard and at times utterly tragic. Tens of thousands of people have been killed by terrorism and counter-terrorist wars that are still on-going in many parts of the world. Poverty, violence, killing, mistrust and mass destruction remain a part of our daily life in the international community of the post-Cold War world. A great portion of this agony arises from insufficient understanding and communication among peoples and governments that possess important differences in outlook, objectives, policies and opinion. At the Journal, our objective is to provide a forum in which to bridge those differences. Our academic project is based on the premise that “wars begin in the minds of human beings” and it is in that very same place where we will find the rehabilitation of peace. The ultimate goal is to connect people across the many divides in our world for the purpose of establishing mutual respect through a deepened understanding of international law and its place in our lives. The Journal pursues this goal with a particular regional focus on East Asia, an area that has until now been greatly underrepresented in the international law literature. We hope that the Journal may contribute to the greater project of achieving fundamental peace and human dignity in the region and in the world.

With the present publication, the Journal of East Asia & International Law moves into its third volume. The past four issues presented important papers on a number of critical topics, such as the legal status of Tibet, International Law and the Islamic World, and a particular focus in Volume 2 No. 2 on maritime questions related to environmental protection and delimitation. These topics have recently attracted much attention from academia and practicing lawyers alike. The current issue continues with this focus on cutting-edge questions. The Issue Focus section brings together three international lawyers from China, Japan and Korea who present their opinions on the legitimacy of the Proliferation Security Initiative (“PSI”). Since its launch in 2003, the PSI has become highly controversial due to its allowance for the interdiction of suspicious vessels on the high seas by participating States. The authors consider the issues attaching to the PSI from each country’s unique perspective. Also in this issue of the Journal, a young lawyer from India presents a very philosophical thesis on international law in the postmodern era. Despite some tentative attributes, this paper is sure to be in the vanguard of international legal academia in the 21st century. The Journal also opens

a space for juridical research. Dr. Zahid defines custom in the making of Islamic international law. In this issue, we also include a paper on the issue of the legal status of Jerusalem which is tackled by a Canadian law student. Another paper is devoted to a historical consideration of the collective security system of the United Nations. A leading German historian teaching in Japan gives an insightful analysis on this long-standing question. Territorial issues related to the East China Sea is the topic for the Regional Focus & Controversies section. Lawyers from both sides (China and Japan) present opposite, often clashing, views on the question. It is our hope that all of these papers will be informative and satisfying to the scholastic and practical interests of our readers.

For this volume, the Journal also had the honor of interviewing Ambassador Yamada Chusei, a highly renowned international lawyer and diplomat of Japan. Based on his wide academic background from Tokyo to Fletcher, as well as his diplomatic experience covering almost all areas of the United Nations, Ambassador Yamada shares in his gentle voice the wisdom on how to build human peace and justice in international society. As a treaty expert who served as a special rapporteur at the International Law Commission, his advice is especially invaluable. During the interview, we at the Journal were truly impressed by his expertise, generosity and devotion to justice. Readers may view the interview at the website of the YIJUN Institute of International Law (<http://www.yijuninstitute.org>).

In the painstaking course of editing and publishing the Journal, we are beholden to our able and warm-hearted colleagues and friends. First of all, the Journal would like to express its deepest gratitude to all of our editorial staff members and national correspondents. Without their enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism, the Journal would never see the light of day. Our sincere thanks also go to the fellows of the YIJUN Institute, such as Mr. Chang Jin-sung of the University of Pittsburgh Law School and Ms. Lee Ahreum of UNCITRAL in Vienna for their legal criticism. Finally, we should appreciate Dr. Lee Seryon, Ms. Park Hye-yun, Ms. Lee Hyun-young and our assistant, Ms. Koh Sung-min for their help.

As a unique academic law review with a general focus on the regional international legal affairs of East Asia and providing an East Asian perspective on such matters where appropriate, the Journal always welcomes your contributions with creative, challenging and provocative ideas in English or French. The Journal will publish its next issue in November 2010. Submissions should be received by August 1, 2010 for fall issue consideration.

Editor-in-Chief