

EDITORIAL

As the first decade of the 21st century draws to a close, one is reminded of the extreme agony and untold human suffering resulting from conflicts throughout the world. However, this decade was also a time for the international community to recognize the everlasting value of protecting human rights in international law. The realization of this common vision in academia will remain a highly significant mission for the Journal of East Asia & International Law.

The JEAIL publishes its volume 3, number 2 with the topical question of 'human rights.' The Issue Focus contains three articles concerning the human rights protection of minorities in an age of globalization. As workers move to other countries throughout Asia in order to find better employment conditions, more people have become the victims of human rights abuses. Three articles in Issue Focus section discuss the roles of international law for the protection of migrant workers or minority groups whose basic human rights are in danger. Professor Patricia S. Daway analyzes the rights of migrant workers under the principles of the International Labor Organization. This article reflects a perspective from the Philippines, one of the largest exporters of laborers in East Asia. On the other side, Professor Yoshiaki Sato's article addresses the critical legal problems related to foreign labor in Japan, one of the largest importers of foreign labor in the region. Professor Lijiang Zhu's article analyzes human rights protection of ethnic minorities in China and the extraordinary problems faced by China in ensuring fairness in criminal proceedings to its large and diverse ethnic minorities. The paper in Article section explores health as a basic human right and analyzes the health care system of Bangladesh from a viewpoint of World Health Organization law. The Notes & Comments section contains a few succinct, but valuable articles. Professor M. Mohan previews a human rights assessment of Singapore by the Universal Periodic Review process of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Dr. A. Zahid & Professor R. Shapiee carry out juridical research of the *pacta sunt servanda* principle from an Islamic perspective and is followed by their article about customs in *Siyar* published in the last issue. In Regional Focus & Controversies, two authors from Palestine and Israel present diametrically opposing viewpoints regarding politically and legally sensitive issues related to the Middle East conflict. These articles are expected to attract keen interest just like their counterparts did in the last issue where two prominent legal scholars debated both sides of the dispute between China and Japan regarding of the Diaoyo/Senkaku islands in the East China Sea. In this issue, the Journal also has the honor to interview

professor Ko Swan Sik from Indonesia, one of the most highly respected international lawyers of our time. He is a truly man of virtue; his lifelong belief in humanity, warm-hearted personality, pure academism and in-depth views of international law will surely encourage young legal scholars and practitioners to contribute to a more peaceful and harmonious world.

This issue has been born by way of the painstaking paper selection process, reviewing and editing during one of the hottest summers of recent memory. I would like to celebrate the academic rewards with all of our academic staff, including the editorial and advisory board members, national correspondents and student assistants. I would especially like to express my gratitude to Professor Zhao Yun, Professor Nakatani and Professor Supancana who were instrumental in the publication of this issue. A sincere thanks should also be extended to two associate editors, Professor John Riley and Mr. Chang Jinsung, whose proofreading and support remain steadfast even during the most difficult projects. Finally, I am grateful to our fellows, Ms. Lee Ahreum, Ms. Park Hye-yun and Ms. Lee Hyun-young, as well as Ms. Koh Sung-min and Mr. Robert Gallo, two student assistants who carefully bluebooked the citations reviewed the articles for grammatical errors and precise use of English legalese. Their sacrifice and dedication will never be forgotten.

The coming decade will require people in East Asia to fight against disruption and to progress for solidarity and integration. Our editorial staff believes wholeheartedly in line with this march in this grand vision for the 21st century. The JEAIL welcomes academic contributions in both English and French. For volume 4, number 1, we are particularly interested in receiving papers concerning world climate change. Submissions received before February 1, 2011 will be considered for possible publication in the next issue.

Editor-in-Chief