

## EDITORIAL

For the past half a year, people in East Asia have seen drastic changes in and around their region. The Trans-Pacific Partnership ("TPP") set up in full with the seventh round of negotiation in March 2012. The TPP is an economic partnership agreement along the coast of the Pacific Ocean as well as a strategic defense network led by the United States. It would create a 21<sup>st</sup> century regional alliance in East Asia replacing the conventional containment policy against China. In addition, another wave of nuclear crisis came from North Korea's missile test on April 13. These breathtaking transformations in the political and economic environment are accelerating the harsh competition between the United States and China to dominate East Asia. The two-way approach of South Korea to the Free Trade Agreement with both the U.S. and China symbolizes it well. The Journal of East Asia & International Law will humbly embrace all these within the academic forum. For this exciting job, <Again 2008> should be kept in mind when we stood at the starting line all together for launching our Journal.

The JEAIL's Volume 5, Number 1 contains leading articles interpreting contemporary East Asia with creative thinking. Three authors publish their articles at <Issue Focus> regarding the Pirates off the Somali coast. Professor Manjiao Chi writes about the Chinese legal position over the international legal framework against piracy, while Professor Eric Lee analyzes the Korean Navy's rescue operation in the Gulf of Aden. Professor Akiko Sugiki tries a significant approach to subdue the Somali pirates by erasing its root-cause based on the state-building method. The current issue publishes two leading articles. First, Professor Zhengxin Huo skillfully explains the reshaping process of China's private international law, especially concerning the reform of torts regulations. Second, Professor Jaemin Lee tackles the on-going legal disputes between two IT giants, Samsung and Apple. The functions of the Multinational Corporations ("MNCs") in the 21<sup>st</sup> century's global community are deeply addressed in his paper. In <Note & Comment> section, Professor Steven Hsu compares the border enforcement of the plant variety rights between Japan and Taiwan. In <Regional Focus & Controversies>, two lawyers from China and Vietnam advocate their positions over the territorial sovereignty and maritime delimitation on the South China Sea. Readers could understand the points at issue both legally and politically from voices of native experts on the law of the sea. Their legal logics fully based on scientific/historical data would guide us how to tackle the most sensitive issues in a reasonable way. Ms. Sophie Landberg at the University of Tokyo writes an article on the Mekong River basin development project, one of the grandest environment-related international projects in the world with a legal and policy concern. She is one of the most responsible and sincere student authors. The <International Lawyer> contains an interview with Professor S. Jayakumar at the National University of Singapore. He is a leading international legal scholar, diplomat and politician who built the current Singapore. We discussed many subjects covering national governance and international relations. During the interview in Singapore, I was deeply impressed by the pragmatic ways which could realize his

decisive ideas.

Our editorial staff members fully devoted themselves to publishing the best articles in the world. Without their painstaking efforts and services, this issue could never see the light of day. I must appreciate the great help and patience of all editorial members, colleagues and friends. At this time, Professor John Riley and Professor Andrew Wolman also contributed so much for this issue. I appreciate their sacrifices. The contributions of our editorial staff including Mr. Darren Bean, Mr. Gene Jarvis and Mr. François LeSieur should never be ignored. Moreover, my student assistant, Song-yi Kim provided invaluable bluebooking assistance and Jee-eun Song made the transcript of the interview. I would express my deep appreciation for their help. The JEAIL invited Professor Mahdev Mohan at Singapore Management University as an editorial board member. As a NUS and Stanford law graduate, Professor Mohan is a really brilliant legal scholar. He is cordially welcome.

The Journal of East Asia & International Law will be always open to the legal questions regarding East Asia and contemporary global world. Your contributions will be most welcome in both English and French. Submissions received before August 1, 2012, will be considered for possible publication of Volume 5, Number 2. We are particularly interested in receiving papers concerning the legal questions of ASEAN and Free Trade Agreements.

**Editor-in-Chief**