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EDITORIAL

Namhae is a beautiful island at the southern tip of the Korean peninsula. When I visited a small coastal town on the island named *Sangju* last summer, I was completely captivated by the sea tinged with sap green following the setting sun. It seemed like the real color of peace that the Creator shows us. This absolute peace of the sea, however, is far from the human condition as shown by current events in East Asia. Competition over maritime sovereignty has been escalating between nations around the East China Sea and the South China Sea since last July. It is a sign that hegemony is fast changing in this region. Conventional powers have gone; new leaders are coming. At this critical turning point, international law is a navigation system to lead us to peaceful coexistence. The Journal of East Asia & International Law will be dedicated to the grand mission of initiating peace as a guiding satellite for this cruise.

The current <Issue Focus> is ASEAN. Authors from China, Indonesia and Singapore have contributed their ideas on this topic. Mr. Joel Ng from Singapore has analyzed the rule of law framework in the ASEAN Community; Dr. Ida Wyasa has tackled a fundamental question of ideology in the development of ASEAN law; and Dr. Huan Qi has reported on investment law in the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. The Journal is also honored to publish two leading articles. Professor Zhongfa Ma's paper deals with a very critical question of IP infringement in China under the TRIPs. His work contains true Chinese ideas or positions on this controversial topic. Professor Saratoon Santivasa's paper addresses a cutting-edge issue, namely the role of NGOs before international tribunals. His positive analysis of the ICJ Statute demonstrates the roles of NGOs and their limitations participating in an international law system whose main actor is still the sovereign State. In <Note & Comment>, an Egyptian diplomat, Ahmed Buckley, has published a short article regarding the war against terrorism mainly led by the United States. Probing into various legal logics based on international and domestic law against terrorism, the author has suggested a new policy which would be implemented in the second term of the Obama administration. For <Regional Focus & Controversies>, the Journal invited two eminent international lawyers from Korea and China in order to find sensible answers to the dilemma of Chinese illegal fishing in the Yellow Sea. Dr. Suk-kyoon Kim has criticized the Chinese fishing in line with the position of the Korean government, while Dr. Zewei Yang has defended Chinese fishermen fishing in the disputed maritime zone by using political, social, economic and legal arguments. As a student contribution, Mr. Robert Gallo has written

about informalism in ASEAN. In addition, Professor John Riley interviewed Dr. Jay-kun Yoo for the <International Lawyer> section. As a highly renowned human rights lawyer of Korea, Dr. Yoo has given his ideas on how to protect fundamental human rights under international law. Readers will be moved by his lifelong devotion to promoting peace in human society. The Journal has newly set up an <East Asian Observer> section which analyzes on-going international legal issue(s) regarding East Asia. Two cases are contained here: the patent infringement case (Samsung v. Apple) and the islands disputes in the East China Sea (China v. Japan). In addition, the Treaty Report section has been expanded to a <Digest> which will be the forum for discussing a wide range of legal documents such as treaties, court cases and foreign policy statements.

The Journal is much beholden of our editorial staffs, colleagues and friends. In particular, Professor John Riley, Professor Darren Bean, Professor Andrew Wolman, Mr. Ershad Karim, Mr. Gene Jarvis, Ms. Sungmin Koh and Mr. Jinsung Chang assisted a lot by proofreading and reviewing an enormous number of draft manuscripts with their legal expertise. Also, young student editors, Ji-eun Lim and Kelly Gieop Na helped me considerably to bluebook citations and inspect for plagiarism. The current issue could never been published without their sacrifice and contribution. We appreciate all these efforts so much.

The Journal of East Asia & International Law has been indexed to highly prestigious academic Databases such as SCOPUS, Lexis/Nexis, Westlaw since this June. We have finally obtained a Grand Slam in legal scholarship with our SSCI listing last August. Our Journal will be always open to legal questions regarding East Asia and the contemporary global world. Your contributions will be most welcome in both English and French. Submissions, received before February 1, 2013, will be considered for possible publication in Volume 6, Number 1. We are particularly interested in receiving papers concerning the feminist approach to international law.

Editor-in-Chief

