

EDITORIAL

Jacques Attali, a great thinker of the 'digital nomad' age writes in his book, *Une brève histoire de l'avenir*, that since the seventeenth century, modern capitalism has been developed on the basis of stronghold cities, most of which were located in the West. Such an Eurocentric tradition excluded Asia from the core group shaping the modern world up to the end of the twentieth century. This obstruction also took away the chance for Asia even to contribute to the development of international law. The new millennium, however, has shaken this tradition to its roots with fast-rising Asia. The United States is not the only superpower anymore, but rather is leading the world with China under a 'strategic partnership.' Now, Asian values, visions and ideas are becoming 'universal.' The Journal fully recognizes this changing paradigm and takes its mission to be an outpost in the contemporary world. It is realizing the zeitgeist in an insightful, intuitive and imaginative manner.

Volume 6, Number 1 of Journal has fully reflected the needs of our time as an academic forum. The current issue brings together three academic papers regarding changing trade norms in the 21st century. International trade lawyers from Japan (Professor Yoshinori Abe), China (Professor Ying Bi) and Korea (Professor Jaemin Lee) contributed their papers on this topic. In the <Articles> section, Professor Seung Hwan Choi stresses 'human dignity' as an indispensable requirement for international trade and economic integration. He warns of the excessive commercialism in contemporary international economic relations whose only purpose is to maximize profits. Dr. Kamurul Hossain writes about the US-China hegemonic competition on the South China Sea from the perspective of UNCLOS. Professor Hyunsoo Kim's article argues that China's basepoints and baselines are violating the basic principles of the international law of the sea. Professor Yun Zhao touches a highly sophisticated topic regarding China's possible participation in the international space station. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section contains two articles on the question of the so-called comfort women during World War II. Professor Seong Phil Hong and Professor Koji Teraya debate each other on judicial reparations for this wartime atrocity from diametrically opposite viewpoints. In addition, the Journal interviewed Professor A F M Maniruzzaman from Bangladesh who is teaching at the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom. Readers will be impressed by his in-depth coverage of a wide range of contemporary international

law topics with humanity. The <East Asian Observer> section reports two highly topical questions of the global community: the North Korean nuclear crisis and the Syrian armed conflict. The <Digest> section discusses and interprets treaties, court cases and foreign policies of each member country.

The Journal would extend the deepest appreciation to our editorial staffs, colleagues and friends. In particular, Professor John Riley, Professor Darren Bean, Professor Andrew Wolman, Mr. Ershad Karim, and Mr. Francois LeSieur carefully reviewed so many draft manuscripts. Also, young student editors, Kelly Gieop Na and Jaehyun Jeong helped me edit the manuscripts, check the sources, and inspect for plagiarism. The current issue could have never seen the light of the sky without their sacrifice and contribution.

The Journal of East Asia & International Law has been indexed to highly prestigious global academic databases such as SSCI, SCOPUS, Lexis/Nexis, and Westlaw. Our Journal will be continuously sharing views from the newly arising field of international law. Your contributions will be most welcome in both English and French. We accept submissions on a rolling basis. Submissions received before August 1, 2013, will be considered for possible publication in Volume 6, Number 2. We are particularly interested in receiving papers concerning the feminist approach to international law.

Editor-in-Chief