

EDITORIAL

East Asia in 2014 is as turbulent as Europe in 1914 when World War I broke out. As the Obama Administration has shifted its focus to East Asia with the new foreign policy doctrine <Pivot to Asia>, the US and China are competing more severely with each other over their strategic interests in this region. The 21st century's new American way is based on the actual expectation that Asia will cover more than half of the entire global economy by 2050. A core initiative of the new American foreign policy is to contain China with a more stable military alliance with Japan as a cornerstone. At the same time, the US is trying to forge a "New Type of Great Power Relations" with China rising extremely quickly, leading to the New Bipolar System. Such a hegemonic balance, however, would be often provoked by the retrogressing historical outlook of Japan's Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, who even denied Japan's basic responsibility for illegal acts committed against humanity during World War II. They are at the crossroad between peace and war, just as the Europeans were just one hundred years ago.

Fully reflecting these critical environments, the Journal has chosen a theme for volume 7, number 1 of the Bush Doctrine, which will examine a firm ground of American foreign policy since September 11. Two international lawyers from the US and China have contributed their ideas. Professor Patricia Goedde has touched a highly critical issue regarding Guantánomo detainees; she has revisited the US Supreme Court cases from a viewpoint of international human rights law. Professor Dong Chen has criticized an American perspective of the so-called 'Chinese threat' under the Bush doctrine. His arguments show a thinking of contemporary Chinese intellectuals regarding American expansionism. In the <Articles> section, Professor Wenwei Guan has examined the status of China in the WTO as a Non Market Economy from a historical perspective. Authors from Malaysia have discussed the question of biofuel imports and the environment. Also, Professor Eric Lee has discussed the Chinese volunteers in the Korean War, a long standing, but never fully investigated question from an international legal perspective. In the <Notes & Comments> section, Professor Medwis Al-Rashidi from Kuwait has proposed a legal solution to the on-going Syrian conflict under the UN system. Professor Yuji Hosaka has precisely scrutinized the so-called Rusk Letter as critical evidence of Japan's territorial claim to Dokto (Takeshima) island. The <Regional Focus &

Controversies> section deals with Japan's current currency manipulation. Professor Xin Chen and Professor John Riley have debated each other, advocating China and Japan, respectively. Mr. Benoît Mayer at National University of Singapore has contributed his paper on Mongolia's internal migrants. The Journal has interviewed Professor Nguyen Hong Thao in the <International Lawyer> section. This interview covers the story of a highly renowned maritime legal scholar as well as one of the leading diplomats of our time. His dedication to peace and national liberation will truly touch readers.

The Journal has also dealt with important treaties, court cases, State practices, foreign policy and highly debatable regional questions in the <East Asian Observer> and <Digest> sections which are no less valuable than the academic articles. Professor Peter van den Dungen has given comments on the article by Professor Conyan Cai titled, "New Great Powers and International Law in the 21st Century." We fully respect those contributors.

The Journal would like to extend the deepest appreciation to our editorial staff including manuscript editors, colleagues and friends. All of them spent much of their valuable time reviewing manuscripts very carefully. Our young student editors also made important contributions by checking sources and inspecting for plagiarism. Without their painstaking efforts and sacrifices, this great achievement would not be attained.

From this issue, we started adopting the ORCID, which is useful to identify each author. Our Journal will carefully watch the on-going legal issues regionally and globally. Provocative and creative subjects will be preferable. Also, each volume of the Journal undergoes a vigorous peer review selection process. We accept submissions on a rolling basis. Submissions received before August 1, 2014, will be considered for possible publication in Volume 7, Number 2.

Editor-in-Chief

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