

EDITORIAL

The Korea-China FTA was finally concluded on November 10, 2014. It is expected to be the key to triggering the mega-RTA connecting China, Japan and Korea, which will be the biggest economic area on the globe. This new FTA between the largest market and a leading industrial country does not only signify economic integration, but it also implies a power-shift of the twenty-first century's world politics. The old dichotomy of civilization – the West and others – is no longer meaningful to the current international community. Today, the world is in a state of anomie when already established custom and ideas are fast changing. Many groundbreaking upheavals in these turbulent days will bring conflicts between States. International lawyers are responsible for resetting the norms and principles of cooperation of human society.

The current issue of the Journal is taking this responsibility; most of the articles are dealing with our common vision. The theme of <Issue Focus> is the future ocean regime recollecting the outcomes of the past 20-year period under the UNCLOS. Professor Mincai Yu's article has discusses the grand strategy of China to be a maritime power from an international legal viewpoint. He critically analyzes current Chinese maritime law and policy and suggests the way ahead for China. Professor Ishii Yurika has written about the international cooperation mechanism against piracy and armed robbery at sea. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section contains three articles regarding transnational environmental protection after the Kyoto Protocol system. Environmental lawyers from China, Japan and Korea – all significant GHG emitters – have examined the law and policy of their countries concerning the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol for the second commitment period (2013-2020) which was adopted in December 2012. The <Student Contribution> section also investigates an environmental question. Mr. Yubing Shi has compared the positions of gigantic shipbuilders of China, Japan and Korea to the IMO Mandates for GHG emissions. In the <Articles> section, meanwhile, two academic papers have been published. Professor Sung Pil Park has dealt with a very cutting-edge topic of harmonizing public and private international law, touching the on-going Apple vs. Samsung IP litigation. Professor Wei Shen has reviewed the notion of expropriation by carefully interpreting the *Tza Yap Shum v. The Republic of Peru* case. His positive legal analysis will impress readers.

The <Notes & Comments> sections includes two interesting papers. The Iranian lawyers including Dr. Abedini have carefully checked how the UN Security Council resolution is interpreted by domestic courts in relation to the judgment of the High Court of Singapore on the Iranian Nuclear Program. Professor Chao Wang has examined arbitration as a solution to international maritime disputes. His article tries to find whether it would be a useful option for East Asian countries.

The Journal has interviewed Professor Dr. Ukrit Mongkolnavin, a great legal scholar and politician who has been respected by the Thai legal community as a role model for the legal profession as well as saluted by the Thai people for his humility, compassion, and generosity.

National Correspondents of our Journal have filed valuable State practices including treaties, court cases, or foreign policy in the <Digest> section. Professor Michael Sheng-ti Gau has reported on the on-going Sino-Philippine arbitration and the territorial disputes in the South China Sea in the <East Asian Observer> section. Professor Guang Ma has reviewed the book, <CHINA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY>. These contributions are, of course, no less valuable than the academic articles and their authors should be thus deeply admired.

The Journal is beholden to our honorable editorial members, experts, and student editors for this issue. All of them spent much of their valuable time professionally reviewing manuscripts, checking sources, inspecting for plagiarism, proofreading English, etc. I would like to extend the deepest appreciation to their contributions. Without their painstaking devotion and sacrifices, this great achievement would not be attained.

Our Journal is carefully following on-going legal issues regionally and globally. Provocative, timely, and creative subjects will be preferred. Fair national representation is also considered. Each volume of the Journal undergoes a vigorous peer review selection process. We accept submissions on a rolling basis. Submissions received before February 1, 2015, will be considered for possible publication in Volume 8, Number 1.

Editor-in-Chief