

EDITORIAL

The rise of East Asia is an irrevocable trend of contemporary global society. Northeast Asia contains three of the ten biggest traders of the world and Southeast Asia is the fastest developing economic region in the early twenty-first century. They are also leading the current digital revolution. East Asian hegemony is not novel anymore. The 'China threat' is one concern from the West. Unlike the situation three hundred years ago, however, people in East Asia are obliged to set up a regional order for peace rather than violence. This will be the new 'platform' of peaceful co-existence and prosperity. Such a paradigm can be realized by international lawyers of East Asia where this vision originated. Our Journal will be a new academic 'forum' primarily incorporating today's individual issues into one grand aspect of mutual understanding and cooperation.

Volume 8, Number 1 of the Journal delivers ten highly critical and provocative research articles and reports. The thematic topic of the issue is "Global Responsibility of Transnational Corporations," which has been controversial for the past decades. Professor Mahdev Mohan has examined the National Action Plans for Responsible Business Conduct under International Law focusing on Southeast Asian practices. Professor Mariko Shoji's article has discussed the many important questions on how soft law regulates international business. Professor Jun Zhao has talked about human rights accountability of transnational corporations with special references to bilateral investment treaties. The Journal invites two leading articles. Professor An CHEN and Mr. Fan Yang have addressed the Chinese position on the New International Economic Order and South-South Cooperation. It should be one of the few research papers comprehensively representing the native Chinese stance on the 21st century's world economic order. Professor Abdul Hamid has reviewed the use of force against terrorism under Article 51 of the UN Charter in a critical manner. There are two interesting essays in the <Notes & Comments> section. Professors Hyungjin Moon and Jongho Nam have tried to discover the international customs of medieval East Asia under the Great Ming Code. Professor Tianbao Qin has looked into the Chinese position on the Svalbard Treaty. The Journal, in <Regional Focus & Controversies>, has dealt with the maritime disputes in the Ambalat block between Malaysia and Indonesia. Experts from both countries have advocated their own positions in this dispute. In <Student Contribution>, Shuvra Dey has evaluated

the dissenting opinion of Justice Radhabinod Pal in the Tokyo Tribunal relating to the notion of ‘aggressive war.’

The Journal has interviewed Professor Dr. Asia Hasan Quresh, a highly renowned international economic lawyer. As a successful legal scholar and practitioner, he has told many interesting and significant stories for younger international lawyers to keep in their mind.

National Correspondents of our Journal have filed valuable State practice reports including treaty and arbitration cases in the <Digest> section. Professor Marcel Hendrapati has reported on the International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code and its Implementation in Indonesia in the <East Asian Observer> section. Professor Lin Zhang has reviewed the book, *INTERPRETING WTO AGREEMENTS: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES*. We should deeply admire these contributions.

The Journal extends the deepest appreciation 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, English proofreading, etc. Without their painstaking devotion and sacrifices, this fifteenth issue would not see the light of day. Professor I.H.Ph. Diederiks-Verschoor, senior advisor of our Journal is going to mark her 100th birthday on July 29. We cordially celebrate the centennial birthday of queen of international law. Unfortunately, however, Dr. Chung Il-yung, another senior advisor of the Journal passed away on January 19. May he rest in peace!

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 August 1, 2015, will be considered for possible publication in Volume 8, Number 2.

Editor-in-Chief