EDITORIAL

Anxiety has been dominating human society in 2015. In particular, the Syrian crisis with millions of refugees and the subsequent brutal terrorism in Paris clearly proves that our belief in the rule of law and reason rests on feeble ground. We find it difficult to preserve our basic human dignity in this painful time. However, the current disaster is giving a chance to understand the essential cause behind the human conflict – capital. The right answer for peace is clearly shown in the following insight by Pope Francis.

> *Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer … is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.*

Paradoxically, now can be another starting point for a more peaceful world, just as Hugo Grotius addressed the principle of power balance between nation States for co-existence in the most sorrowful time of the modern world. Misunderstanding will often lead us to mishap and misfortune. The more disputes there are, the more international law is needed.

Volume 8, Number 2 of the Journal contains significant ideas and suggestions in articles and reports which represent the different classes and styles of international law in the 21st century. The issue includes three articles under "Regional Trade Agreement," a thematic topic which is getting more general in the contemporary world trade system. Three international lawyers - Ying Bi, Eric Y.J. Lee and Yong Shik Lee - have tackled critical subjects of international trade law. The Journal also includes two additional articles. Professor Jaemin Lee has analyzed the currently rising issue of Japanese collective security in a critical manner. Ms. Arina N. Shebubakar has tackled a highly controversial issue of production sharing contracts in Indonesia. Finally, two Chinese lawyers have compared the Russian absence in the Arctic Sunrise case to the Chinese non-appearance before the South China Sea Arbitration. In the <Regional Focus & Controversies> section, foreign investment protection in China has been discussed by two international lawyers from Canada and China. They have well established their logic, touching on different aspects of Chinese foreign investment law. Two law students from India have severely

criticized US drone attacks in Pakistan from the viewpoint of the law of war. Professor Charn Kiu Kim, a highly respected Korean international law scholar, has been the subject of our interview in the <International Lawyer> section. His integrity, modesty and scholarship will be a great model for future international lawyers. In this issue, furthermore, the Journal contains two significant reports which are considered as valuable as articles. National Correspondents have filed valuable State practice reports including treaty and arbitration cases in the <Digest> section. In addition, a newly launched <PhD Viva> section has introduced some recent Ph.D. recipients and their creative dissertations.

The Journal would extend the deepest appreciation to our honorable editorial members, experts, and colleagues for this issue. All of them spent much of their valuable time professionally reviewing manuscripts, checking sources, inspecting for plagiarism, English proofreading, etc. In particular, our student staff, Woongjee Song and Ramya Ramachanderan helped me a lot. Without their painstaking devotion and partnership, the current issue would not see the light of day.

Our Journal is carefully following highly critical legal issues regionally and globally. Provocative, timely, and creative subjects will be preferred. Fair national and topical balance will be 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, 2016, will be considered for possible publication in Volume 9, Number 1.

Editor-in-Chief