

## EDITORIAL

*Only sincere philanthropy will inspire real thoughts and discourse.*

*The most fundamental ground is to love human beings.*

Young Bok SHIN, great economist of Korea

Statistics shows there are more people living inside the circle in the below map than outside of it. East Asia is the virtual center of gravity of the globe.



The more people are living here, the heavier their historical duties will be for world peace and prosperity. Today, controversy and consensus are standing alongside each other in our region. Strategic coordination based on human security will be thus a great concern for us.

Editing a journal is similar to conducting an orchestra. The conductor does not play any instrument, but he will make the music in the end. Volume 9, Number 1 of the Journal has been published by such orchestration. As a thematic issue, we have reconsidered the imperialism haunting the 21st century's international law. Two young scholars - Aiyub Kadir and Ping Yi - have touched on such a delicate and critical topic successfully. This current issue also includes two general articles which have theoretically tackled the witness protection mechanism of the ICC and the protection of the marine environment of international straits. We appreciate the authors - Sangkul Kim, Hazmi Rusli, R. Dremluiga & Wan I. Talaat for

their vigorous efforts. More specific topics have been deal with in the <Notes & Comments> section by leading international lawyers from China (Haifeng Deng & Chiyuan Chen) and Malaysia (M. Z. Mohd Nor & A. Zahid), respectively. They have discussed common and symmetrical responsibility in climate change and underwater cultural heritage. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section has published two papers on the currently escalating crisis of the US FONOPs. The authors - Xinjun Zhang (China) and Benjamin Wagner (US) have well advocated their stances on the right to innocent passage of warships, which is a long-standing issue under the UNCLOS. Mr. Joel Browning has analyzed the Lone Star vs. Korea ISD case in the <Student Contribution> section. We have interviewed Professor Abu Bakar Muni at the University of Malaya, one of the most actively researching and working legal scholar of the contemporary world for the <International Lawyer> section. This leading scholar has explored many new areas like Nanotechnology law and ICT law in his lifelong academic journey. His belief of “sharing the knowledge” tells us what the real academic responsibility should be. In addition, the Journal contains significant analyses of a few highly topical questions of today’s international law. National Correspondents have filed State practices reporting, treaty, national foreign policies and court cases in the <Digest> section. Also, we have happily introduced new Ph.D. recipients with their dissertations.

The Journal would extend the deepest appreciation to our honorable editorial members, experts, and colleagues for their work on this issue. 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.

**Editor-in-Chief**