

EDITORIAL

An academic journey is similar to a revolution. Scholars are required to turn over firmly grounded ideas and ideologies in order to discover the truth. It is a painstaking, but indispensable course to open a new era. The Cold War ended decades ago, but a wartime mentality still remains in East Asia. One regards others as enemies. Since mid-2016, we have witnessed such clashes even more seriously than before. North Korea carried out its fifth nuclear weapon test in this September. This indicates that the current hardline policy of the international community towards North Korea is just a strong medicine without effect, which only leads to a stroke in the patient's body. There are no more cards to play for the hawks. A paradigm shift is needed towards peaceful co-existence through denuclearization. Regime change in North Korea is not the right answer. Now is the time to consider peace as a system under international law in this region. Our Journal will be a vanguard in such a revolutionary journey.

The Journal tries to contain these ideas in Volume 9, Number 1 of. The current thematic issue is public international law for private international lawyers, which is one of the most critical points of contention for academics and practitioners. Sung Pil Park and Lin Zhang have tackled these challenging questions nicely in a balanced and analytic manner. Keisuke Takeshita has discussed Japan's State practice on sovereignty and national civil procedure. In the <Articles> section, Tsung-Sheng Liao and Jinyuan Su carry out in-depth coverage of atmospheric absorptive capacity and space debris removal, respectively, from an international legal perspective. Jonathan Liljeblad is the first legal scholar with Myanmar origin to write in this journal. He has evaluated the 2014 Enabling Law of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission under the UN Paris Principles. Xiaoyi Zhang criticizes the jurisdiction of the South China Sea arbitration tribunal. We are also grateful for two maritime lawyers who gave their ideas on Taiwan's position in the South China Sea dispute. Mr. Yasir Gökçe is the first Turkish lawyer to publish in this journal; his article on relative immunity is included as a <Student Contribution>. He is a young and promising lawyer who went to Harvard. We have also interviewed Judge Raul Pangalangan, who is now serving for the International Criminal Court in The Hague as well as being Professor of international law at the University of the Philippines. Dr. Pangalangan is truly a top international lawyer who is admired

as a hub of international law in Asia. 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, court cases and news in the <Digest> and <Communication> sections. Also, we have happily introduced two Ph.D. recipients with their dissertations.

The Journal would like to 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

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