

EDITORIAL

In his acceptance speech at the 2004 Wolf Prize ceremony, Israeli Maestro Daniel Barenboim raised a serious question of whether occupying other land and ruling other people by force were consistent with the holy spirit of the Declaration of Independence of Israel. In order to commit his government to a peaceful and humanistic way of dispute resolution rather than military measures, Barenboim pinpointed the Declaration: “We extend our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and ... cooperation and mutual help...” It is an ideal of international law which should be also applied to the current situation of Northeast Asia. Since North Korea’s sixth nuclear weapon test last September, President Trump and Secretary Kim Jong Un exchanged aggressive rhetoric against each other, even referring to military attacks. This cross-fire has escalated the military standoff higher than at any other time for the past decade. Today, I would ask a similar question in this region that Barenboim did in the Middle East: “Will any military option be the ultimate solution of the current nuclear crisis?” The answer is “No.” The best option is to come back to the basics of international law, whose initial step is to rehabilitate the corridor of communication. All the efforts of our Journal’s family will be dedicated to paving a way for peace through international law in East Asia.

The current issue touches on renewable energy development as a thematic issue which is critical to building an eco-friendly world. Two international lawyers from China and Japan have contributed their ideas for this topic. In the <Articles> section, G. Lilienthal and N. Ahmad have critically reviewed pro-torture law and policy from a theoretical perspective. Also, Yong Wang has evaluated China’s Practice in Treaty Reservations since 1949. In the <Notes & Comments> section, two academic lawyers have touched on international law research and teaching in today’s China and the US military option against North Korea. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section has dealt with R2P in a natural disaster situation and the mining of the international deep seabed, respectively. Yi Chao, a McGill Ph.D. student, has written an article for the <Student Contribution> section. We have also interviewed Mr. Mohamad Rozaiman for the <International Lawyer> section. He is the first Bruneian lawyer invited to us. The Journal will continue to publish interviews with academics and practitioners from less represented

countries in East Asia. The <East Asian Observer> section reports on highly topical questions of today's international law, including the right to health of refugees and the UNWTO and terrorism. Our National Correspondents have filed State practices in the <Digest> sections. Finally, we have happily introduced two Ph.D. recipients with their dissertations and a cartoon.

The Journal would like to extend the deepest appreciation to our honorable editorial members, experts, and colleagues for their work on this issue. Their painstaking devotion and partnership are the firm ground for this achievement.

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