

EDITORIAL

Things have drastically changed in and out of the Korean peninsula since early this year. The peace mood began at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympic Games, when the team members of the two Koreas entered the Olympic arena together at the opening ceremony. Such a breathtaking development led President Moon Jae-in (ROK) and Chairman Kim Jong Un (DPRK) to sign the historic “Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula” on April 27, 2018. The US-DPRK summit is also scheduled to be held on June 12 in Singapore where President Trump and Chairman Kim are expected to agree on a concrete timetable for dismantling North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. Considering that just economic integration took about 40 years in Europe, the Korean peacemaking course is not easy-going, but will be painstaking in every step. If all the parties share the common vision for peace in Korea as well as East Asia and try to march together keeping the ideal of international law in mind, however, even long-standing and ill-defined goals will come true earlier than expected. They are finally entering the sphere of international law in a real sense.

Commemorating this epoch-making event, the current issue deals with critical questions of international law. In the <Issue Focus> section, international lawyers of China (Shengli Jiang & Yun Zhao) and Korea (Han Take Kim) have evaluated the US Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act and fundamental principles of space resource exploitation under international law. In the <Articles> section, Ran Guo has criticized the translation in the South China Sea Arbitration Award, while Zezen Mutaqin has touched on human trafficking in the Thai fishing industry. In the <Note & Comment> section, Jinxing Ma has analyzed Treaty Interpretation on the Status of Maritime Features from a Chinese perspective. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section tackles “Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction.” Mary George and Deyi Ma from Malaysia and China have exchanged their ideas on this newly arising question. Ridoan Karim, a University of Malaya Ph.D. student, has written an article for the <Student Contribution> section. We have also interviewed Prof. Dr. Stuart Malawer for the <International Lawyer> section. The <East Asian Observer> section reports on the US steel tariffs in East Asia and the removal of offshore installation in Indonesia. Our National Correspondents have filed State practices in the <Digest> sections and introduced Ph.D. dissertations. Readers

may enjoy a cartoon, as well. Finally, the Journal makes sincere condolences on the demise of Prof. Dr. Diederiks-Verschoor who was a pioneer of international air and space law as well as grandmother of all Asian students.

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