

EDITORIAL

Groundbreaking incidents have been coming one after another in East Asia since last June. Today, there is no newspaper which could deliver its headlines without addressing international legal issues. Underlying this is the US-China rivalry. In security, both sides try to cooperate. US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in a historic summit in Singapore on June 12 and delivered a Joint Statement for rehabilitating the US-North Korean relations. In trade, however, there is more contestation. The US-China trade war has been getting more serious with tariffs and counter-tariffs. All evidence shows that the early twenty-first century mirrors the late nineteenth century in this region. History gives a lesson that, to prevent the escalation of conflict, we need international law with a human face.

This current issue takes this academic mission for granted, containing highly topical international legal questions of this region. In the <Issue Focus> section, two international law professors of Teheran University address the US' withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal. Iran's experience will be a useful guideline for the future denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The <Articles> section contains three papers. Sakda Thanitcul co-authors with Amonwalai Ninpanich to question whether Thailand fulfills the ASEAN requirements for foreign direct investment in Electricity Industry. Zewei Yang analyzes the global ocean governance reform from a Chinese perspective. Aryuni Yuliantiningsih et al. examine transnational organized crimes in fishery. In the <Note & Comment> section, Zuraini Ab Hamid et al. write about the rights of migrant workers in Malaysia and Bijun Xu reviews the Triple Intervention from a viewpoint of the nineteenth century's international law, both of which are very timely approaches. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section tackles "The US-China Trade War." Both Nany Hur and Yang Yu deliver their academic ideas on this on-going critical question. Xiao Mao, an Oxford law student comments on the legality principle and the Tokyo Military Tribunal for the <Student Contribution> section. We also interview Prof. Dr. Myint Zan for the <International Lawyer> section. He is the first international lawyer invited from Myanmar. The <East Asian Observer> section covers four essays which deeply analyze critical news and events. Our National Correspondents have filed State practices in the <Digest> sections and introduced two Ph.D. viva. Readers may enjoy a cartoon, as well.

Finally, the Journal has invited a few leading international lawyers from Russia

(Moscow and Vladivostok) and Kazakhstan as editors. They will guarantee broader representation of our academic works. 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