

EDITORIAL

War clouds are fast coming to East Asia with the Trump administration's imposition of additional tariffs against USD 200 billion worth of imports from China. Negotiations are ongoing between the US and China, but they are unlikely to find a dramatic settlement soon. The current dispute is not only a trade war, but also more fundamentally hegemonic competition between the G2, who together account for nearly 40 percent of world GDP. The defender (US) is aggressive, while the challenger (China) is emotional. Little space is available for mediation. In America, the Civil War was due to a single tariff against tea imported from the United Kingdom. In the beginning, however, the American people never expected such a long and disastrous armed conflict. It is the time to cool down the heat. The Greek philosopher Aristotle wrote that [...] ethics is a branch of philosophy that studies the conduct of human beings and the criteria on the basis of which behavior and choices are evaluated. The ethical values that characterize East Asian conduct are different from the American ones which have emphasized 'supremacy' throughout its history. However, peace can be obtained when every organ is well balanced in human society. Harmony between the individual and the entirety is the core of this process. International law can be a counterweight to this seesaw.

In the <Issue Focus> section, two international lawyers have discussed how Artificial Intelligence could contribute to conflict resolution between States. Professor Chen Zhou has addressed a very delicate question of Climate Technology Transfer in the <Article> section. In the <Notes & Comments> section, two articles are published on the legal aspects of energy security and a Chinese human rights activist who drafted the UDHR. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section has touched the amendment of the US-Korea FTA. Professors Binwu Qin and Rajesh Sharma have addressed the highly topical questions in this revision from the American perspective, while Professor Jaemin Lee mainly focuses on Derivative' ISDS Proceedings as a Korean lawyer. We also interview Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai for the <International Lawyer> section. He is an ex-Foreign Minister of Thailand and a Distinguished Professor of International Law at Chulalongkorn University. The <East Asian Observer> section includes two essays from Indonesia and Kazakhstan. Professor Patthara Limsira has filed Thailand's Ratification of the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention of 1930 in the <Digest> section.

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. We have also invited two leading international lawyers from China (Professor Huang Jin: President of the Chinese Society of International Law) and Thailand (Professor Sakda Thanitcul: Former Dean of Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Law) as International Advisory Board members.

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