

EDITORIAL

Tensions have been escalating in Northeast Asia for the past months. Following the export control of essential semiconductor materials, Japan finally removed Korea from its White List of preferred trading countries. Responding to Japan's provocative measures, Korea decided to retreat from the General Security of Military Information Agreement with Japan and brought the case to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body. Confrontation between the two countries is not easing up yet in spite of Korea's announcement that it was rearranging its countermeasures to Japan. Both are still blaming the other side for violations of international law. In this meantime, the US suddenly required Korea and Japan to pay an extremely expensive budget for US forces stationed in this region, even five times higher than before. Such an unexpected rise of the US Forces' budget would exacerbate the mutual alliance which is the grounds for peace and security of this region. The key to stability of East Asia lies in the rule-based international order. In this regard, Volume 12, Number 2 of *Journal of East Asia and International Law* contains various academic discussions for this long-term goal. We are proud of the significant role of the *Journal* in searching for the way to the peace and prosperity in this region.

The thematic subject of this issue is Legal Control of Human Activities beyond National Jurisdictions. In the <Issue Focus> section, Professor Yong Wang has discussed the Restrictions to "Marine Protected Areas on the High Seas" and Dr. Abbas Sheer has addressed with Professor Shouping Li the Organizational and Operational Aspects for Removing Space Debris. In the <Article> section, Dr. Luping Zhang and Professor Chaohan Zhang have co-authored a paper on Conflict of Laws in Cross-Strait Air Transport. In the <Notes & Comments> section, Professor Deyi Ma has analyzed the Obligation of Exchange Views under Article 283 of the UNCLOS and Mr. Young Yoon Park has tackled the international legal aspects of Mass Finance Mis-selling in relation to the UK PPI Scandal. The <Regional Focus & Controversies> section has offered in-depth coverage of Japan's export control of semiconductor materials to Korea. Dr. Kotaro Shiojiri of the University of Tokyo has advocated Japan's position, while Professors Soojin Nam and Eric Yong Joong Lee have legally criticized Mr. Abe's policy from a Korean viewpoint. We have also interviewed Professor Dr. Viatcheslav Gavrilov, Dean of the Far Eastern Federal University, Russia. The <East Asian Observer> section includes an essay on Malaysian Efforts in

Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

The Journal would like to deeply appreciate our honorable editorial members, experts, and colleagues for their painstaking devotion and cooperation on this issue.

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