

## EDITORIAL

The US-China conflicts are resurging in and around East Asia. It all started when the US attempted to exclude China from the global supply chain of semiconductors. Recently, President Biden launched the Chip 4 alliance with Japan, Taiwan and Korea to build an independent supply network. Meanwhile, the US Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act which contains many provisions to foster decarbonization and support clean energy technologies, but constitute *de facto* import substitution subsidies by providing tax credit to the North American-sourced materials and components. Such actions would make grave violations of the general principles of the World Trade Organization and relevant international laws, thereby disrupting the global industry, supply and value chains. All these moves will benefit the US at the cost of seriously distorting global trade and the investment in relevant industries. Similar tensions will also emerge from the Indo-Pacific Strategy led by the US. Given the on-going Ukraine crisis and the beginning of President Xi Jinping's new political term, those initiatives are highlighting severe clashes rather than cooperation between the two sides in the third decade of the twenty-first century. Elsewhere in Asia, each country is being forced to choose one side for its future.

The current issue reflects upon the political economy around East Asia from international law perspective. In the <Articles> section, Deymah Alweqyan addresses the Combating Money Laundering to Finance Terrorism. Boris Kondoch deals with the so-called 2015 Agreement between Japan and South Korea regarding the Korean Comfort Women Issue. Soojin Nam critically analyzes the Clean Vehicle Provisions of the US's Inflation Reduction Act. Shidarta co-authors the question on the Indonesian Judges Approach Human Rights in Private Law. In the <Note & Comment> section, Harry Chao Wang discusses A Community of Shared Future for Mankind in the Global Pandemic Era. The thematic issue of <Regional Focus & Controversies> section is New Patent Law and Policy in ASEAN. V. Selvie Sinaga deals with Patent System in the ASEAN Member States and Nguyen Tien Vinh examines Vietnam's 2015 Civil Code and the International Tendency for Conflict of Laws in Intellectual Property. Said Tulibayev provides a <Student Contribution> titled Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Kazakhstan. In <East Asian Observer> section, Muayad Kamal Hattab from Palestine compares the Approach to the Employer's Unilateral Promises. Badar Alam Iqbal and Yen-Chiang Chang provide valuable book and article reviews for the readers. Professor

Wang Guiguo shares his ideas and wisdom with readers at <International Lawyer> section. In this November, Mr. Eung Gil Lee, the founder of the Journal and the YIJUN Institute of International Law passed away. We send our deep condolences for his demise.

The Journal deeply appreciates our editorial members, reviewers, experts, and colleagues for their painstaking devotion and cooperation on this issue. Our Journal carefully follows highly critical legal issues both regionally and globally. Provocative, timely, and creative subjects are preferred. Fair national and topical issues 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**

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