

EDITORIAL

2023 will be recorded as a year of major changes in post-Cold War human history. A big turning point was initiated with the US's concern about a default. Unless President Biden agrees to dramatic budget cuts, more than 30 trillion dollars of US national debt will be passed on to the world. Such an astronomical amount of debt was basically due to continuous expansion of US fiscal spending for the past two decades since the War on Terror and following armed interventions. The US policy of devaluing the dollar via quantitative easing has exacerbated the situation. The exclusive role of the US dollar for the payment of petroleum transaction was first challenged after World War II by even its allies such as Saudi Arabia, UAE and Brazil. As the dollar may be competing with CNY or EURO for monetary supremacy, US hegemony cannot be fully maintained in each corner of the globe. It will be a crisis for some and a chance for others. In this course, both sides should carefully reposition their stances to the coming era. Especially, East Asia is a center of this transformation in line with the US Indo-Pacific Strategy, Russia-Ukraine armed conflict and rearmament of Japan.

The current issue addresses great changes in and around East Asia from the eyes of international lawyers. In the <Articles> section, Jinyup Kim tackles Biopiracy in Southeast Asia focusing on Compulsory Licensing or Disclosure Requirement. Steel Rometius reflects on the Legislative Features of the UNCLOS for the past forty years. Sri Wartini discusses the Law Applicable to Flags of Convenience States and Vessels against Overfishing on the High Seas. In the <Notes & Comments> section, Patrawan Rattanakaset examines Legal Measures for Forest Conservation in Transboundary Protected Areas in the ASEAN Community. Hazmi Rusli & Lowell Bautista evaluates the Proposed Thai Canal on Crucial Sea Lines of Communication under the US Indo-Pacific Strategy from a viewpoint of international law and strategic studies. The thematic issue of the <Regional Focus & Controversies> section is the US-China Strategic Competition and the New Law of War. Nehaluddin Ahmad et al. compare the Islamic Laws of War and Contemporary International Humanitarian Law. Eric Yong Joong Lee & Ramya Ramachanderan critically evaluate President Trump's Threat to Destroy Cultural Heritage in Iran through his tweet messages. In the <East Asian Observer> section, Duong Anh Son & Tran Vang-Phu analyze the Revocation of Russia's MFN Status by the US and Its Allies. Badar Alam Iqbal & Mohd. Nayyer Rahman report BRICS and India in the Light of

Russia-Ukraine Crisis. In the <Review> section, Juhyun Park reviews a book titled, *The US-DPRK Peace Treaty: A Commentary* written by Eric Lee & Ridoan Karim (Springer) last year. On December 1, 2022, Dr. Jay Kun Yoo, the First Chairman of the YIJUN Institute of International Law passed away. We send our deep condolences for his passing.

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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