

EDITORIAL

Since March 2023, the situation along the Taiwan Strait has seen significant escalation. This shift traces back to President Xi Jinping's legislative opening speech, wherein he called for a "vehement struggle" (敢於鬪爭) against western pressure. The translation of 'struggle' to 'fight' in American discourse has been misinterpreted by the US politicians as an overt and direct threat to Taiwan. Consequently, certain US intelligence officials and military strategists have posited that China could be prepared to invade Taiwan by 2027. This unfounded fear has driven the Biden administration to pursue a triangular military alliance with Japan and South Korea to counterbalance China's regional influence. Implementing this triangular alliance, however, presents significant challenges. President Biden faces a complex geopolitical landscape, including ongoing armed conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, all while preparing for an upcoming election. Additionally, South Korea and Japan must address historical, political, and environmental issues, such as the contentious release of Fukushima radioactive wastewater, which threaten to undermine their cooperation. The doctrine of "peace through strength" will reinforce just a "hostile balance." It is paramount to avoid exacerbating tensions unnecessarily and to instead strive for a normative order fostering mutual confidence and peaceful coexistence in the region.

The current issue covers critical international law questions reflecting the on-going regional politics. The <Issue Focus> section addresses "China as a Global South." This section contains: Exploring Venezuela's Perceptions of Chinese Loans (Andres Borquez & Eduardo Carreño); Innovations of China's Soft Power Strategies (Ella Gorian & Avinash Dadhich); and China International Commercial Court (Asif Kamal & Hamidul Haq). The <Articles> section accommodates: Coup in International Law: Between Theory and Reality (Deymah Alweqyan); The Integration of ILO Convention C111 into Vietnamese Labour Law and Its Implications for Gender- Based Discrimination (Minh Hoang Dang & Doan Thi Phuong Diep); and China's Law and Policy on Cross-border Data Flow (Ye Liu). In the <Notes & Comments> section, Somia Subi Daniel & Sheer Abbas discuss Space Colonization and the UAE's Sustainable Approach towards Mars Mission, while Trinh Tien Viet & Phan Quoc Nguyen examine Green Future and Sustainable Development in Vietnam. The central theme of <Regional Focus & Controversies> is the Legal Status of Airspace in Armed Conflict. Nehaluddin Ahmad et al. look into

Recent Drone Strikes under International Humanitarian Law and Jhih-Siang Liu tackles High-altitude Balloons under International Law. In <Digest> section, Stuart S. Malawer refers to the US's National Security and Protectionist Trading and Badar Alam Iqbal et al. report India's Position and Key Strategies during the 15th BRICS Summit. Finally, this issue features an interview with Professor Dr. Proshanto K. Mukherjee of Dalian Maritime University in the <International Lawyer: A Dialogue with Global Wisdom> section. Professor Mukherjee, a pre-eminent maritime law scholar and practitioner, shares invaluable insights from his extensive career. The interview video will be available on the Great International Lawyers channel of the YIJUN Institute of International Law.

The Journal extends sincere gratitude to our esteemed editorial members, diligent reviewers, knowledgeable experts, and collaborative colleagues for their unwavering dedication and cooperation throughout the preparation of this issue. The Journal remains steadfast in its commitment to thoroughly scrutinizing highly critical legal issues both on a regional and global scale. Our preference lies in the exploration of provocative, timely, and creative subjects, while also giving due consideration to fair national and topical issues. Notably, each volume of the Journal undergoes a rigorous peer-review selection process, ensuring the highest standards of scholarly integrity. We encourage submissions on a rolling basis, welcoming contributions that align with our commitment to advancing legal discourse.

Editor-in-Chief