

## Editorial

In August 2000 when I just came back from Seattle after completing the draft of my doctoral dissertation, I met a young international lawyer from China named Zhao Yun. This genius academic lawyer just began his research for a Ph.D. project under the supervision of Professor Peter Malanczuk at Erasmus University Rotterdam, who was also my mentor. During my stay in Rotterdam, we discussed a wide range of conventional and cutting-edge topics and ideas concerning international law. As becoming interested in our regional questions and perspectives, however, we felt a kind of frustration mainly because academic space was very limited for us. There were few international law reviews having an East Asian regional focus. I agreed with Yun that a global law journal covering topics and trends in East Asia was an urgent need. Six years sure fly by. I met Yun again in Chiangmai, Thailand in November 2007. There, I finally opened all of my plans to establish the *Journal of East Asia and International Law* (JEAIL). We surely agreed with each other on this project and set all the agenda on the table. The JEAIL was born in Chiangmai as a semi-annual publication and edited in Seoul and Hong Kong with the invaluable help of many prominent international lawyers representing member nations. In particular, our editorial staff including Professor Zhao Yun, Professor Sean Hayes and Dr. Young-sue Han helped me so much.

The JEAIL takes the responsibility of being a fair and balanced forum to discuss the most fundamental, timely and creative discourse on international law. Its main focus is international public and comparative legal questions in East Asia. The inaugural issue includes four leading articles and two notes & comments. In addition, it analyzes a very controversial regional dispute by two international lawyers from conflicting states. This time, the Journal picks up the question concerning the legal status of Taiwan in WHO. The current issue, also, introduces the life story and ideas of a great international lawyer at A Dialogue with Judicial Wisdom. We interviewed Professor Sompong Sucharitkul, member of *Institut de Droit International*. Treaty Reports and Article Review all contains interesting and useful information.

East Asia (North and South) is the most critical region in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Politically, many diplomatic and security questions would arise because China and the United States will be competing here. Economically, this region will be the most influential sphere for the global economy. Culturally, several civilizations will be harmonizing with each other under the Chinese-Indian cultural alignment. These issues that arise in these areas are what we are emphasizing in the JEAIL. We cordially invite creative and provocative academic papers from international legal scholars and practitioners from both

East Asia and all over the world. Once again the editorial staff expresses our deepest appreciation to the authors of the inaugural issue.

Eric Yong-Joong Lee  
Editor-in-Chief