

LETTER

FROM THE EDITOR

I have been saddened like many others by the violent acts of terrorism, military conflict, and humanitarian crises that have happened this year around the world. But the year 2015 will also be remembered as the year scientists discovered water on Mars, the year a country eradicated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis for the first time, the year Cuba and United States reestablished full diplomatic relations after 54 years of hostility, and the year all countries committed to reduce carbon emissions for the first time. The evolution of human societies and the changing dynamics between actors have always had a thematic place in previous issues, and it seemed fitting to devote one issue to the topic of technology and innovation. This issue of the *Yonsei Journal of International Studies: Papers, Essays, and Reviews*, features a collection of submissions on governance, including the context of technology. The questions raised by the articles presented include; How does technology shape and change the workings of civil society? How can developing countries promote innovation of small and medium enterprises? How should governments promote technology and innovation through intellectual property rights? Between the covers of this issue, readers will find a multitude of perspectives that contributes to the way in which we view the world. Included in this issue are four papers, three essays, an interview and a review; submitted by students and professors from around the world.

The first submission in the “Papers” section, “The Role of Technology in Promoting Civic Engagement and Democracy – A Comparative View: Egypt, Tunisia, and Turkey” by Talia Schwartz Maor, analyzes the role technology played during the Arab Spring. Maor’s quantitative and qualitative

analysis of social media leads to the conclusion that while social media played a crucial role in raising awareness and planning events, it is an insufficient drive for political change. In “The Economic Development and the Growth of Small-Medium Enterprises in Indonesia: A Hometown Investment Trust Fund Approach”, Suryo Ariyanto Nugroho examines the Indonesian government initiative to promote the growth of small and medium enterprises. He explores the implementation of a framework to facilitate SME access to finance and capital. Chris Kruckenberg in “One China, One Taiwan: A New Framework for the Settlement of the Taiwan Straits Dispute” argues in favor of a neutral and independent Taiwan as the optimal resolution of the Taiwan Straits Dispute when considering regional and global interests. Finally, “A Defense of Utility Models: the Case of China” by Runhua Wang examines the current state of the intellectual property rights regime in China and argues that a utility model regime will be conducive to China’s technological innovation and economic growth.

In the “Essays” section, “Abenomics: Revitalization and Resurgence of Japan” by James Shin and Jack Walsh provides an analysis of Shinzo Abe’s domestic and foreign policy as well as Japan’s future role in the region. The next piece “The Process of Decolonization, the Emergence of International Human Rights, and the Current de facto Inequality of International Law” by Justin Su Wan Yang examines the discrepancy between Western and non-Western states in the context of international law and governance. The final essay “On China’s New Era Anti-Terrorism Governance in the Middle East” by Jun Zhao and Yu Hu analyzes the motivations and implications of China’s anti-terrorism efforts in the Middle East.

This issue includes an interview with Signe Poulsen, Representative of the newly established United Nations Human Rights Office in Seoul which was set up to follow up on the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea report. In the previous Vol.6 no.2 issue of the *Journal*, we ran an interview with Hon. Michael Kirby, who chaired the Commission of Inquiry, about his experience with the commission and his hopes for future development of the COI report. This issue’s interview nicely complements the Kirby interview. Also included is Niv Horesh’s timely review of Liu Mingfu’s *The China Dream: Great Power Thinking and Strategic Posture in the Post American-Era* which was published in English this month. Horesh critically reviews Liu’s narrative on China and places it in the context of China’s global aspirations and Sino-US relations.

Yonsei Journal of International Studies: Papers, Essays, and Reviews began with the Spring 2009 issue as the first English-language journal of

International Studies run by graduate students in East Asia. And for the past seven issues, it has showcased unique perspectives of students and young scholars on many pressing topics. The past two years I spent at the Journal have been an extraordinary journey of learning. I say this because this issue marks the end of my time as the editor in chief of the *Yonsei Journal*. It has been an honor to have had the opportunity to work alongside inspiring young scholars as well as a devoted team of editors. The *Journal* is truly a product of their passion and motivation. Without the time and devotion of many individuals, this issue would not have been possible. I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation. I would also like to thank the Graduate School of International Studies administration for the support they provide for the Journal.

I wish the best for the future of the *Journal* and sincerely hope that readers enjoy this issue as much as previous issues. Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siri Sung". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Siri" and "Sung" being capitalized and prominent.

Siri Sung
Editor in Chief