

LETTER

FROM THE EDITOR

The twenty-first century that we live in is the era of change and uncertainty. The seemingly invincible unipolar world order dominated by the United States is said to be shifting toward either the US-China bipolarity or the multipolar world. The advanced technology not only expedited globalization, but also introduced us new challenges like privacy invasion, online sexual exploitation, and smartphone addiction. In addition, globalization has become the center of a controversy for its negative influence on climate change and the increasing attention given on migration and refugees. It is an era of uncertainty; the newspaper headlines surprise us every morning with new sets of ideas, problems, and challenges. This is when the role of academics becomes significant. It is the responsibility of contemporary scholars to reflect on the problems of the past to improve the present and the future and to dissect the newly emerging challenges in many different perspectives. In this regard, the Fall/Winter 2018 issue of the Yonsei Journal of International Studies (Papers, Essays, and Reviews) under the theme of "Problems, Challenges, and Perspectives" is the collaborative attempt of international scholars and editors to undertake such responsibility. The "Papers" section starts with Jeremy Corbett's "Korean Public, Green Politics, and the Reluctance to Cooperate on the Northeast Asian 'Yellow Dust' Issue." Corbett points out the lack of environmental institutionalism in the Asia Pacific region and the reluctance of the South Korean government to take the lead in the Northeast Asian environmental cooperation. Then, he blames the lack of the asymmetric information between the South Korean government and the public as a major reason behind such reluctance. Corbett believes that when equipped with the right environmental information, the public

can push a government to make appropriate environmental initiatives in a mature democratic society like South Korea. The second paper is “Industrial Peace in Japan” authored by James Flynn. Flynn investigates the unique phenomenon of the industrial peace in Japan and seeks to identify the factors that discouraged Japanese workers from striking. Refuting the popular claim that the Japanese industrial peace has been reinforced by Japanese cultural traits, Flynn employs the neoclassical economic view that the Japanese industrial peace has been possible due to the individual and institutional incentives of Japanese unions and union members. Then, Jonathan Lim analyzes Xi Jinping’s consolidation of political power after the thirteenth National People’s Congress (NPC) in 2018. Lastly, Solomon Tai Okajare and Abiodun Daniels Famoye explore how the Nigerian government used the international peacekeeping activities of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to achieve its own foreign policy objectives. Next, Alexandra Gilliard opens the “Essays” section with her piece “Brokering Yemen’s Humanitarian Crisis: Turning Blood to Profit and Power.” Gilliard illustrates how the humanitarian crisis in Yemen followed by the Yemeni civil war in 2015 has turned into one of the worst nightmares by the hands of the external parties like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the US. On the other hand, Tashia Shupert turns her eyes on migration issues in her piece “Prohibiting Push-Back at Sea: European Regional Development in the Scope of Non-Reboulement.” Shupert argues how the recent maritime interception attempts of European states to push back incoming migrants has enlarged the legal scope of non-refoulement. Pamela Davila Alvarez delves into the nationalism and intrastate conflicts in Spain through the case studies of Catalonia and the Basque Country. Our junior editor Sue Jeong sat down with Charlotte Arribe, a Sustainable Development Consultant at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for East and North-East Asia (UNESCAP-ENE), to have an interview on Arribe’s unique perspectives on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During her interview, she emphasized South Korea’s exemplary work in promoting “smart cities.”

Rounding off the Fall/Winter 2018 issue is the article review on “The UK Solar Energy Resources and the Impact of Climate Change.” Under the review title of “A Positive Impact of Climate Change? The Growing Potential of Solar Energy Resources in the UK,” the reviewer Francis Kai-Ting Chang introduces us the unique view point of Douglas Burnett, Edward Barbour and Gareth P. Harrison—renowned climate change and energy scholars—on solar energy. The argument is that climate change has an impact on solar energy; climate change affects cloud cover char-

acteristics, thereby affecting the performance of solar energy. But most of all, I would like to thank our dedicated editors of the YJIS editing team—Anthony Hess, Kendra Hodapp, Diana Piscarac, Caroline Mahon, Aimee Beatriz Lee, and Sue Jeong—for being a part of this meaningful journey. I sincerely appreciate all of our editors for taking time from their busy schedule to make this publication possible. In my years at the Graduate School of International Studies of Yonsei University, the experience as editor in chief of the YJIS team is the one memory I will cherish forever. The profound insights from our intellectual contributors broadened my views on the world we live in. I learned a lot about the importance of strong work ethics from our staff editors. I also enjoyed mingling with like-minded people in the Yonsei GSIS community. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the editor in chief of the YJIS, and I look forward to seeing many more YJIS issues to come in the future.

Wishing you annyong 안녕 安寧 [peace and comfort] from Seoul, South Korea,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Se Jeong Choi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Se Jeong Choi
Editor in Chief