

FOREWORD

It is a pleasure to introduce the second volume of the third issue of our department journal. The volume is a reflection of the research interests of the Department of East Asian Studies, which is a part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Malaya. The volume features a variety of ongoing security, economic and social issues that are yet to be resolved.

Within the security realm, these topics include the issue of relocation of the Marine Corps Air Force Station Futenma in Okinawa, deepening Indo-Japan relations and Tokyo's perception of the China threat to its security. These topics are directly related to Japanese security. Increasing Chinese domination, especially in relations to maritime encroachment has resulted in the strengthening of Japan-US alliance. Nonetheless, the long shadow of Okinawan opposition to the existence of US bases in Okinawa has made it difficult for policymakers in Tokyo to give in to the demands of the Okinawan public as the main aim of the alliance has always been to secure Japanese territories. To the Japanese, China's dominance needs to be contained. Deepening Indo-Japan relations and India's *Look East Policy* has thus far counter balanced a growing China. Moreover, India and Japan share common interest in ensuring the Asia Pacific region is multi-polar rather than bi-polar or uni-polar.

Generally, states develop long term economic policies based on principles and models. In terms of formulating economic policies, one of the articles examines the extent to which the revealed comparative advantage of South Korea and her major EU trading countries in the manufacturing sector has changed over time between 2000 and 2010. The study is useful for South Korea and the European Union in choosing appropriate policy measures in order to overcome the so-called EU sovereign debt crisis. In addition, the study revealed that there is a need for expansion of trade volume in order to overcome the on-going economic recession in the EU. In other words, these countries should export more of their products to the international market. Similarly, another attention-grabbing article posits that the application of the theory of relativity founded by Albert Einstein in economics is relevant to measure the energy of economics. The study found that it is possible to apply the $E=MC^2$ formula into economics analysis. The approach takes into account the measurement of energy of economics (\ddot{E}) as an alternative approach to analyzing economics behavior.

Developing economies like China are keen to export environmentally friendly agricultural products. But China is disadvantaged due to ambiguity in the certification of production standards for agricultural produce. One of the contributors in this volume urgently urges the Chinese government to formulate clearer production standards and technical regulations for the production of pollution-free, green and organic farming products by emulating the agricultural standards of developed countries. More significantly, he advocates simplification of administrative procedures as well as the promotion of independent certification bodies in order to improve transparency and credibility of the certification results.

The volume also carries a key social concern for South Korea which is increasingly becoming multicultural in composition due to a variety of social and economic factors. While ethnic Koreans seem to have accepted this new reality, research on multiculturalism and multicultural policies in Korea finds that there is a need for re-

examination of the current practice of group-specific policies initiated by the Korean government. These are deemed inconsistent and discriminatory and inappropriate as the foundation for coexistence of peoples from different cultural backgrounds. Thus, the recommendation is to enact policies for social integration that are more universal and inclusive that can be applied to all members of Korean society.

In conclusion, the variety of topics featured in this volume reflects the issues of concern that is currently affecting most nation states. I hope readers are enriched by the issues explored and are keen to read more works produced by the Department of East Asian Studies. I would like to thank Dr. Asmadi Hassan, the departmental editors and Puan Isha for their efforts in ensuring this publication is produced according to schedule.

Dr. Geetha Govindasamy
Managing Editor
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