

Foreword

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China has been a major player in international affairs and international lawmaking. She has taken views on many issues that can be perceived as different from those of many States. In her management of international relations, She has travelled down the less-trodden path and exhibited an independent spirit. So it is only natural that the international community would need to have access to viewpoints and materials from and about China. Until now, however, there has been on the mainland only a *Chinese Yearbook of International Law* published in Chinese and no journal of international law published in English.

We hope that the publication of the *Chinese Journal of International Law*, edited primarily by scholars from the mainland of China and published in association with the Chinese Society of International Law, will fill the gap highlighted above, and will promote the mutual understanding, accommodation, co-existence, and mutual flourishing of the different civilizations in the world.

We intend the *Journal* to be a general journal unlimited in scope and viewpoint, while attempting to present materials and viewpoints from and/or about China and other parts of Asia. We will cover the classic inquiries in international law as well as the topics that only recently have started to capture the minds and souls of leaders and denizens alike, such as human rights, non-governmental organizations, the environment, so on and so forth. We will present views that are thought provoking, even if not necessarily “correct”, and we will leave it to the readers to pass judgment on these arguments. In so doing we hope to generate lively debates on all plausible points of view. We shall try our best to be true to this aspiration, and we appreciate the loftiness of our goal and the heftiness of our task.

We hope that the publication of the *Journal* will also help to inform decision-making in international law and relations and promote research and teaching in China. This would seem inevitable since many players in the field in China have participated, or have promised to do so, in one way or another, in the preparation of the *Journal*, including writing papers for the *Journal*. Such participation is no doubt conducive to improvement upon the already sophisticated scholarship in China and thus will redound to the benefit of international law and policy decision-making. The *Journal* and its associated work will increase the workload of those teaching and doing research, and, we hope, will lead to the general strengthening of teaching and research in China.

We also hope that the views published in the *Journal* will be a force to reckon with in other parts of the world, and thus will help to strengthen the scholarship and decision-making around the world.

Whatever goals we may achieve, we hope that the publication of the *Journal* will at least make some contribution to the promotion of international peace and security and the general flourishing of humanity.

The publication of the *Journal* also gives the Co-Editors-in-Chief some personal satisfaction. Many times we have been asked, "Where is the *Chinese Journal of International Law*?" Many times this question has brought tears to our eyes. Today one finds an answer to that question, finally.