

## FOREWORD

It is a pleasure to introduce the third volume of our department journal. The main objective of the journal is to highlight academic themes or topics that fall outside the usual disciplinary boundaries. Equally, the volume is a reflection of the interdisciplinary nature 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.

Contributors include academics, an administrator as well as post graduate students. As such, it is not surprising that the contributions range from issues dealing with literature, biography, military bases, dominant ruling parties, multiculturalism, China's domestic general development, Japanese popular culture, Trans Pacific Partnerships to ballistic missile defense developments. They are personal in nature and at the same time cover national and regional happenings.

Countries featured in this volume are Japan, China, South Korea, the United States, Malaysia and Singapore. Japan's politics, economy and security considerations are under examination. Issues that remain unsolved and lessons that can be learnt from the past include the subject of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's relocation during the administration of the Democratic Party of Japan, politics of regime change under the one-party dominant rule in Japan and the lessons for Malaysia's ruling party, Japan's agricultural issues in negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership with the US and Japan's alliance cooperation with the US in terms of ballistic missile defense developments. The re-examination of Japan's social and cultural past can be viewed by means of analyzing status of women during the Heian Period through the works of Murasaki Shikibu and Sei Shonagon and Japan's efforts in maintaining its cultural dominance in Indonesia through popular culture between 2011 and 2012. A biographical sketch of Yabuuchi Kiyoshi's life and contributions to Chinese history of Science and Technology brings us back to Japan's global social contribution in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In addition to the above, the volume also features two concerns that dominate discourses among policymakers in South Korea and China. The article on multiculturalism attempts to analyze some Malaysian and Singaporean multicultural policies that may be considered by South Korean policymakers who are facing challenges in integrating migrant population into the wider Korean society. Another issue of particular interests is the investigation of China's domestic developments through the Global Dimension of Regional Integration Model. The DGD model indicates that there exists a large and growing gap between the coastal areas of East and West China in terms of political, social, economic and technological developments. Compared to the West, Eastern China seems to have more progress.

I hope readers are enriched by the issues explored regardless of the multidisciplinary nature and manner in which issues are approached. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Asmadi Hassan, the departmental editors and Miss Sheila for all their efforts in ensuring this publication possible.

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Managing Editor  
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