

## A Word from the Editor

This journal is part of academic adventure to globalize Japanese studies in Korea. The Institute for Japanese Studies at Seoul National University makes the utmost endeavors to introduce intellectual works on Japan published in Korea to the global academic community by translating articles written in Korean into English. When the first volume appeared, many Japan specialists gave positive feedback. In the sense that we provide an unprecedented opportunity to expose Korean works to the non-Korean-speaking intellectual community, this journal is an attempt to break the wall of languages and widen the scope of academic debate.

This volume picks up *Zainichi* Koreans in the East Asian context as a special topic. Korean residents in Japan, who are often called *Zainichi*, represent a manifestation of complex East Asian history that goes beyond cultural diversity. Their lives have not been fully exposed to the outside world despite their bitter personal experiences and complicated status. Authors of three specially-chosen articles reveal different aspects of *Zainichi* Koreans' status and identity in Japan. Higuchi Naoto analyzes the occupational status of Koreans in Japan through census data analysis. Yoo Hyuck-Soo, who is a Korean resident in Japan himself, recasts the status of *Zainichi* professionals like lawyers and scholars in Japanese society. Lee Hongjang touches upon the historicity of the *daburu's* (doubles') identity among *Zainichi* Koreans. In a sense, these three articles unveil a hidden conception of Korean residents in Japan, which is a topic that requires more empirical research both within and outside Japan.

Three articles in the volume tackle some of the other under-researched issues in Korea-Japan studies. Nam Kijeong describes the short history of Japanese political studies in Korea. Park Young-June deals with the timely topic of Korea-Japan security cooperation in the context of South Korea's diplomacy. Rhyu Mina examines the issue of unrestored cultural properties in the process of normalizing Korea-Japan relations. The two remaining articles highlight rather concealed aspects of Japanese life, including the masculinity of unmarried sons in Japan and the potential of Japanese women's manga.

All these articles have been rigorously reviewed and chosen by the selection

committees. It is not a coincidence that most articles uncover relatively hidden and unexposed topics so far from the mainstream Japanese studies community. I think this is the strongest contribution that this journal can make to the academic community throughout the world. Not only does it widen the scope of analytical research, but it also presents fresh perspectives on the given topics.

I hope the readers of this journal appreciate the distinctive role that the *Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies* plays among Japan specialists. Editors of this journal welcome any comments, both positive and negative, to improve the quality of the journal in the years to come.

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