FOREWORD

Nexus and Change: Chinese State-Societal and Foreign Relations

This third and final issue of Volume 5 of the *International Journal of China Studies* (2014) represents an excellent collection of research articles covering some of the most pertinent aspects of the state and changes in the internal political economy and foreign relations of today’s China. Among the first five papers focusing on the former are Tabea Bork-Hüffer and Yuan Yuan-Ihle’s article on the Chinese government’s management of foreigners in the country amidst changes in migration law and regulations, Fu-Lai Tony Yu’s on comparing and contrasting Mao Zedong’s and Deng Xiaoping’s style of entrepreneurship and their impacts on China’s economic transformation, Qin Pang’s on the central Chinese State’s management and control of State-societal relations in the particular context of the recent years’ revival of Confucianism among the masses, Shiliang Zhao and Yang Gao’s evaluating whether adjustments in China’s family planning policy (more specifically, the one-child policy) could really be expected to relieve pressures from the problem of population aging, or in other words, a panacea or Pandora’s box in the context of China’s colossal demographic dilemma, and Shaping Hua’s on the American influence in the legal system of today’s China, in intriguing contrast with the pre-reform era when countries like Japan, Germany and the former Soviet Union had had more impact on China in terms of law transplantation in the twentieth century.
With the next three papers this journal issue moves on to China’s foreign relations. Included here are Mikio Oishi’s comparative analysis of three major and long-standing conflicts in East Asia – that of the Korean Peninsula, of the Taiwan Strait and of the South China Sea – in his exploration of an East Asian way of conflict management, Liu Yangyue’s study on the key social conditions that facilitate a “new-type” Sino-U.S. relations, drawing insights from the complex constructivist ideas that are based on binary complementarity and an emphasis on dynamic process, and Paul Joseph Lim’s policy comments and research notes on a European perspective of China, ASEAN and East Asian regionalism.

This issue also includes four book reviews: Hang Lin commenting on Enze Han’s book on the politics of contestation and adaptation to Chinese national identity among the country’s ethnic minority groups; Monir Hossain Moni’s take on William C. Kirby’s edited volume following a conference at Harvard University’s Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies on the six decades of People’s Republic of China and where she is heading to; Kai Chen looking at Stephen Bell and Hui Feng’s study on the dynamics of the People’s Bank of China – one of the most powerful central banks in the world; and Amit Ranjan discussing Ashok Kapur’s treatise on the tringular/multipolar relationship between China, India and Pakistan in the pre- and post-Nehru eras.

This December 2014 issue of the International Journal of China Studies, the third and final issue of the fifth volume since the launching of the journal in 2010, thus significantly completes a trilogy beginning with the April issue (Vol. 5, No. 1) that focused on Taiwan’s democracy and cross-Strait relations, followed by Vol. 5, No. 2, covering the quarter-century legacy of the Tiananmen demonstrations of 1989 which culminated in the June Fourth tragedy – a June/August issue as the usual August publication date was brought forward to June to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of a momentous, tragic event of June 1989 that tremendously shaped and altered China’s trajectory of development whether in terms of her internal political economy or her foreign relations and diplomacy in the subsequent decades. The impacts, overt or subtle, are undoubtedly still strongly felt today. The present issue, Vol. 5,
No. 3, hence brings the 2014 trilogy to a close by concentrating its focus on some of the most critical areas of the state and changes in the domestic political economy and international relations of today’s mainland China.

An earlier version of the first article in this journal issue was originally presented at the ICS International Conference, “From Hu-Wen to Xi-Li Administration: China’s Leadership Transition and Its Domestic and International Implications”, jointly organized by the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya, and the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, held at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12-13 September 2013 – one of the last two in an uninterrupted series of biannual international conferences convened at the Institute of China Studies (ICS), University of Malaya, during my tenure as the director of the institute (13th March 2008 – 1st January 2014). Another paper, on Xinjiang, also originally presented at the said conference, has been included earlier in the Vol. 5, No. 2, of this journal. (The reviewed and revised versions of four other papers from the conference were published in a thematic special issue of the Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies this year which I and the assistant director of the East Asian Institute, Liang-Fook Lye, jointly guest edited.) The sixth article and the policy comments and research notes in the present IJCS issue are from another earlier ICS International Conference, “China, ASEAN and the Changing Context of East Asian Regionalism”, jointly organized by the Institute of China Studies of University of Malaya, Research School of Southeast Asian Studies of Xiamen University (China), Department of International Relations of Changwon National University (Republic of Korea) and the Asia-Europe Institute of University of Malaya, held at the University of Malaya on 5-6 December 2012. IJCS wishes to thank these four presenters from the two conferences for their patience and efforts in revising their papers for this volume of the journal following conference feedback and reviewers’ comments.

Before ending this foreword, I would like to thank all the contributing authors and the two anonymous reviewers for each paper for their invaluable efforts in making the publication of this journal issue
possible. I am also grateful to the journal’s administrative and webpage officer Miss Susie Yieng-Ping Ling and administrative assistants Miss Geeta Gengatharan and Miss Nazirah Hamzah for webpage, printing and distribution arrangements. The responsibility for any errors and inadequacies that remain is of course fully mine.

Dr Emile Kok-Kheng Yeoh
Chief Editor, International Journal of China Studies
Associate Professor
Department of Administrative Studies and Politics
Faculty of Economics and Administration
University of Malaya, Malaysia

Dr Emile Kok-Kheng Yeoh 楊國慶 is the founder and editor of the International Journal of China Studies (Scopus-indexed since 2010) and a member of the international editorial committee of several other journals in Asia and Latin America. He holds a Ph.D. on ethnopolitics in socioeconomic development from the University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England (1998), and was the director of the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya, from 13th March 2008 to 1st January 2014. <Email: yeohkk@um.edu.my, emileyeo@gmail.com>