

SJEAA

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The Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs (SJEAA) is dedicated towards addressing compelling issues in the East Asian region in a manner accessible to a general audience. SJEAA showcases undergraduate and graduate work on East Asia in all academic disciplines from leading universities both in the United States and from abroad. Copies of the SJEAA are distributed to East Asian studies departments and libraries across the nation.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOICES

	Sarinna Areethamsirikul <i>ASEAN as a “Regional Community”</i>	10
	Michael Snyder <i>The Shanghai Cooperation Organization</i>	16
	Michelle Park <i>Defining Responsibility for Sexual Assault</i>	23
	Josephine Suh <i>The Korea-US Free Trade Agreement</i>	33
	Pelu Tran <i>Pursuing a Harmonious Society</i>	36


GREATER CHINA

	Sarah Getzelman <i>Forbidden Image</i>	44
	Cynthia Liao <i>The February 28 Incident</i>	56

JAPAN

	Annika A. Culver <i>Migishi Kôtarô’s Shanghai</i>	68
	Ke Wang <i>Japan’s “Defense” Policy</i>	87

KOREA

	Alex Dukalskis <i>Difficulties of the Human Rights Discourse</i>	102
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SOUTH EAST ASIA

	Loan Dao <i>Cai Luong</i>	112
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The Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs has now entered its seventh year of publication. In that time, it has witnessed the tragic human consequences of the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, traced the geopolitical fallout of continuing North Korean brinkmanship and testified to the horrific cost of the 2003 epidemic maelstrom that came to be known as SARS. Its pages have also borne witness to the emancipation of an unprecedented number of people from the shackles of poverty, discussed increasing pan-Asian cooperation through regional institutions like ASEAN, and debated Beijing's triumph in its bid to host the upcoming 2008 Olympics. This issue brims with an astonishing breadth of analysis that the Journal has come to exemplify, showcasing at an international level both undergraduate theses and doctoral papers from leading institutions in the United States and the United Kingdom.

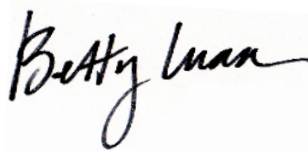
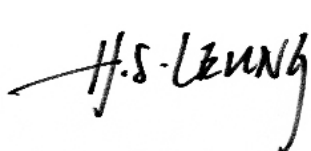
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NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Amidst growing unrest in the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) in the run-up to the Beijing Summer Olympics, Sarah Getzelman provides timely analysis of the 1996 Chinese ban of the Dalai Lama's Image. Elsewhere in Greater China, Cynthia Liao offers a backdrop to the 2008 Taiwanese presidential elections by reviewing the seminal February 28 Incident in Taiwan. On Japan, Ke Wang examines the limitations of Japan's "Peace Constitution" in dealing with rising Chinese military supremacy, while Annika Culver places Sino-Japanese ties in historical context with an account of Sino-Japanese cultural exchange in the turbulent 1920's. Alex Dukalskis debates the relevance of contemporary human rights language in accounting for North Korea, and Loan Dao concludes this issue by bringing to light the subtle role of theatrical performances, *cai luong*, in mobilizing the masses of colonial Vietnam toward national liberation.

This issue also marks the return of short opinion pieces included in the *Voices* section. These lively articles discuss China's actions in the Sudan, the rise of a new order in Central Asia, argue for official recognition of Korean "comfort women" in the Second World War, and debate the future of regional institutions like the longstanding Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), signed in April 2007.

The Journal has grown from strength to strength, and has slowly garnered a worldwide presence. We invite you to continue contributing to the discussions that take place within and beyond these pages, and to provide new insight on the compelling East Asian issues of our time.



Hin Sing Leung & Betty Manling Luan
Editors-in-Chief, Winter 2008

