

Peace and Progress – United Nations University Graduate Student Journal,
Volume 1 (1), pp. 1-2.
<http://upp.unu.edu/>



EDITORIAL

The need for inclusivity in global governance

Writing the editorial for the inaugural issue of *Peace and Progress* was an endeavour that stretched out over two years, from the moment when I first proposed the idea to the faculty of the United Nations University. With all the planning, waiting and sleepless nights that the Editorial Board and I invested in this work, typing these words at the conclusion of our trials is still difficult to believe. Just two years ago, this journal seemed naught but a distant fantasy. Yet here we are, with the complete first issue of *Peace and Progress*, an academic journal entirely planned and facilitated by the postgraduate students of various institutions of the United Nations University that stretch across all continents.

As the first Editor-in-Chief writing the first editorial for the first issue of this journal, I believe myself to be in a unique place to introduce *Peace and Progress* and the motivations behind it at the point of its conception. This journal was inspired by and thus founded as a result of the Charter of the United Nations University and its mandate: a global community of learning and research whose works are devoted to solving the “pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare” (Article 1, Paragraph 2) and the dissemination of that knowledge for “dynamic interaction” (Article 1, Paragraph 4). *Peace and Progress* was thus designed for that very purpose- encouraging enquiry and dynamic interaction surrounding those issues that pose real problems to the world today.

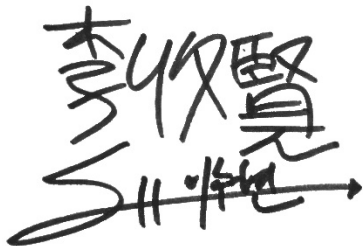
In that way, this journal is not your typical academic publication. Our focus and that of the articles in this volume are on delving into the existing problems of the day, guided by the Thematic Clusters of the United Nations University (UNU), to realize Secretary General U-Thant’s 1969 vision for the UNU as an institution that was “truly international and devoted to the Charter objectives of peace and progress.” A further departure is the journal’s focus on publishing the voices of emerging scholars through solely accepting the works of like-minded postgraduate students from any institution around the world. As a result of this intellectual chemistry, the volume that you hold in your hand is the research, commentary or enquiry into the objectives of peace and progress from the perspective of the world’s future scholars and practitioners in an exercise of collaborative contemplation on the faults of our respective and united societies.

The two research papers and two commentaries that comprise our inaugural issue find connection in the importance and general lack of inclusivity in international endeavours such as peacebuilding and economic governance. The lack of inclusivity in terms of providing greater representation to local ownership and awareness showed to have long run, structural implications in global institutional efforts such as peacebuilding processes and transitional justice, which Young, Chaobang and Wong approach from a post-positivist perspective.

Fernández-Wulff adds to this by pointing to the lacking representation of food security in global economic governance, particularly on matters of international trade regimes constructed by such institutions as the World Trade Organization.

By confronting the faults in trans-boundary efforts while identifying potential ways to expand these efforts, this issue suggests that limited purviews based on overly institutional sensibilities not only limit the success of such efforts, but also result in consequences that possibly negate their long run sustainability. This is what Chaobang identified as a “value myopia,” which Young may agree resulted in the failings of transitional justice mechanisms in Sierra Leone. This lack of a wide angle receives further attention and criticism from Fernández-Wulff and Wong in an overreliance on international institutions and institutionalized beliefs in defining concepts like local ownership and economic success that do not pay proper attention to issues such as food security, biodiversity, internal strife and civil discontent. The articles in this issue seek to problematize institutional beliefs that resulted in limited success of such crucial efforts as peacebuilding, transitional justice and local ownership. Without a more inclusive approach to these efforts, no matter how noble the cause, structural weaknesses will ultimately prove to detract from their lasting power as solutions.

Thus it is with this issue that *Peace and Progress* launches into its endeavour to engage in a dynamic interaction on the unified concerns that pressure our societies today. With each issue of this journal, new approaches, criticism and research will seek to contribute to our shared awareness and conscience in the search for ever-deeper insight and perspective, led by the belief that truly sustainable and inclusive solutions do exist and thus must be sought.



LEE, Soohyun
Editor-in-Chief
United Nations University *Peace and Progress*