Four years after the *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal (APLPJ)* published its first issue, *APLPJ* continues its commitment to publish high-quality articles on legal, policy-based, and socio-economic issues impacting the Asia-Pacific region. The articles, comments, and essays in Volume IV, Issue 1 demonstrate *APLPJ*’s mission to publish scholarship on a wide range of topics by authors from throughout the region.

*APLPJ* owes its existence to the digital revolution. Indeed, the Internet ties the world closer together and fosters an increasingly inclusive global community. Thus, in the Information Age the telecommunications industry is more important than ever. This issue of *APLPJ* offers readers two articles on the regulation of telecommunications. Professors Milagros Rivera Sánchez and Ang Peng Hwa respond to the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) case study on Singapore. Their article reviews some of the key findings of the Singapore case study and discusses the extent to which the Information Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) can serve as a model of regulatory effectiveness for other countries. Professor Shin-yi Peng, in her second publication with the *APLPJ*, considers the challenges China faces as it attempts to remedy its “digital divide,” offering some suggestions on how China can provide its 1.3 billion people telecommunications service.

The proliferation of communications technology heralds an era of increased global interconnectedness. The challenges that accompany globalization have made headlines across the Asia-Pacific region. Professor Roda Mushkat examines the regional response to globalization, specifically within the environmental context.

Volume IV, Issue 1 also contains several insightful and valuable student-authored comments. The publication of Emily Larocque’s paper in this issue is the result of a collaboration between the University of Hawai‘i William S. Richardson School of Law’s Environmental Law Program, the Pacific Asian Legal Studies Program, and the *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal*. In her paper, Larocque explains and dissects the Honolulu Convention, an important new treaty governing the migratory fish stocks of the Pacific Ocean. Hannah Gutierrez has written a comment on the prospects for self-governance in Guam, specifically advocating that the current U.S. territory seek a status of free association with U.S. citizenship.

Professor James Alexander’s essay illustrates and explores how Japanese laws on obscenity attempt to balance notions of individual rights of expression and concerns for the greater public welfare. Alexander’s discussion centers on Nagisa Oshima’s 1976 film, *In the Realm of the Senses*.

Kent Anderson examines the system of Japanese criminal prosecution, and also gives readers some insight into why Japan loves Ally McBeal, but has not fully embraced Jack McCoy.

With the publication of Volume IV, Issue 1, *APLPJ* launches a new design. Our production editor, Jeff Goldman, has worked hard to make the site more user-friendly and we hope that you find the new format easier to navigate. As always, your questions, comments, or suggestions are welcomed.

Matthew Moneyhon

Editor-in-Chief, 2002-2003