Introduction to the Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal

The Asian-Pacific Law and Policy Journal (APLPJ) was founded in 1999 as the first fully functional web-based legal journal to provide a worldwide forum for the presentation and discussion of legal, policy-based, and socio-economic issues that arise in or impact that geographic regions of East Asia and Polynesia, as well as the individual nations of those regions, and Australia. APLPJ exploits the web format to accomplish its primary goals: disseminate research and information regarding issues of importance to the Journal’s geographic scope; promote discussion and awareness of those issues; and provide students at the William S. Richardson School Law an outlet for their scholastic interests and talents.

To achieve its goals, APLPJ provides Articles authored by legal scholars, economists, social scientists, and other professionals, as well as Practitioner Notes (concisely written recent legal developments intended for practitioners) authored by legal professionals. Further, third-year law students research and write Comments, while second-year law students research and write Case Notes or Recent Developments. Additionally, translators, writers, and students prepare Translations of Articles or of recently enacted laws or promulgated rules and regulations. With the breadth of knowledge and breadth of expertise that Articles, Practitioner Notes, Comments, Case Notes, Recent Developments, and Translations represent, APLPJ provides an effective forum to promote awareness, discussion, and research of legal, policy-related, and socio-economic topics that affect the Asian-Pacific region.

On behalf of APLPJ, I wish to acknowledge the efforts, dedication, and support of the inaugural staff and board, Professors Ronald C. Brown and Mark Levin, and in particular, Ken Schwartz, Executive Editor, without whose countless hours on the web and help in the day-to-day management of the Journal, this publication would not have been fully realized.

James C. Hitchingham
Editor-in-Chief, 1999-2000