

## ***APLPJ* and Its Inaugural Year**

The *Asian-Pacific Law & 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 the 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 of Law an outlet for their scholastic interests and talents.

In our inaugural year, the *Journal* achieved its primary goals and more. Through active solicitation of articles and interactive editing with writers, *APLPJ* succeeded in bringing forth high-quality articles on a wide range of topics from all regions within the *Journal's* scope. Moreover, the website has proved to be an effective vehicle for broad dissemination of our content, drawing over three thousand visitors since its launch. To ensure even greater access to our authors' pieces, *APLPJ* concluded contracts with Lexis®-Nexis® and Westlaw® (American legal databases) to make the *Journal's* articles available in their databases and established link exchanges with prominent legal websites around the globe.

The coming year looks even more promising for *APLPJ*. First, the incoming Editorial Board is already working to help ensure that the *Journal* will publish articles representing each region in its upcoming issues. Second, the Winter 2001 issue (online in late January 2001) is already taking shape with articles on topics including women's rights in Malaysia and Indonesia, township and village enterprises in China, and the protection of cultural rights under the WTO. Finally, the *Journal* will continue to improve its website, to maximize its exposure on the web, and to establish more links with other relevant sites.

Before I depart law school and the *Journal*, I wish to acknowledge the efforts, dedication, and support of Professor Ronald C. Brown, who inspired and guided me, of the staff writers, who rose to the training requirements and other challenges that faced them as an incoming Board, and, in particular, of Ken Schwartz, Executive Editor, without whose insight, countless hours on the web, and help in the day-to-day management, the inaugural year of the *Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal* would not have not been fully realized.

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