

EDITORIAL

SUMMER 2004

The first few months of 2004 have been marked by many troublesome developments in East Asia. The impeachment of South Korea's president, lack of progress following the six-nation talks on the North Korean nuclear weapons program, the political turbulence after the hotly contested presidential election in Taiwan, and Beijing's recent ruling on the pace of democratic reform in Hong Kong have all heightened the sense of worry and concern within the region and in America. This fifth edition of the *Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs* highlights related concerns, with articles examining Beijing's push for Article 23 legislation this past summer, the human rights crisis in North Korea, and the extension of the war on terrorism into the Philippines. With additional pieces on Beijing's 2008 Olympics and China's transitional economy, the *Journal* also continues to examine the profound transformations affecting the region. Finally, the *Journal* ventures into new territories, with articles from the disciplines of demography, landscape design, and women's studies.



In "Article 23: Moving from 'Two Systems' to 'One Country'?" **Vicky Hwang** argues that Beijing did not significantly alter its Hong Kong policy when it pushed for the passage of Article 23 legislation during the summer of 2003. Analyzing reports and editorials in pro-China Hong Kong newspapers, Hwang argues that Beijing's desire to enact the Article 23 measures reflected China's longstanding insistence on maintaining ultimate sovereignty over the territory. At the same time, China's leaders also sought to project the image of a Hong Kong possessing a significant degree of self-autonomy, insisting that it was the prerogative of the territory's own leaders to initiate laws on security matters. Meanwhile, in "Social Organization of Markets in China's Transformational Economy: The Case of the Auto Components Sourcing Network," **Khan Pyo Lee** argues that post-communist exchange relations do not necessarily correspond with the concept of the market as conceived by neoclassical economists. Indeed, as exemplified by the market for parts and components of automobiles in China, these relations tend to be governed by coordinating mechanisms based on past organizational affiliations and not simply by the impersonal mechanism of price alone.

Looking forward to 2008, **Ryan Ong** evaluates the implications and effects of a Chinese Olympic Games in "New Beijing, Great Olympics: Beijing and its Unfolding Olympic Legacy." Ong traces Beijing's Olympics ambitions from the late 1980s and details the city's intensive preparations both before and after its

winning bid was announced in 2001. Aside from the massive physical transformation of Beijing's urban landscape, Ong questions whether the Olympics will also bring about political changes; he looks to previous Games in Mexico City and Seoul for answers. Beijing will most probably see some political activity in 2008, Ong concludes, but the central government can avoid the remote possibility of significant disruption by continuing its active engagement of the public in the Olympics planning process. **Simona Bignami-Van Assche** addresses a radically different concern of the Chinese government in her article, "A Different Perspective on the Imbalance of Reported Sex Ratios at Birth in Rural China." Using pregnancy histories and vital registration data from the first half of the 1990s, Bignami-Van Assche considers common explanations for the difference between true and reported sex ratios at birth: female infanticide, sex-selective abortion, and the underreporting of girls. Ultimately, she suggests another explanation – the Chinese family planning policy context and its influence on individual and administrative reporting.



JAPAN

In "Untapped Human Resources: Women's Political Role in the Revival of the Japanese Economy," **Robin Orlansky** examines Japanese political reforms that have aimed to improve the position of women in society and mend related socio-economic problems. She specifically looks at why these reforms have faced significant obstacles – despite a recognized need to tackle targeted multiple problems simultaneously – and examines possible options to promote women's rights in Japan. Meanwhile, in "The Japanese Garden for the Mind: The 'Bliss' of Paradise Transcended," **Camelia Nakagawara** takes the reader on a historical and philosophical tour of Japanese gardens, as they evolved from the Heian through the Muromachi periods. Nakagawara grounds the changes in the composition, structure, and meaning of gardens in the context of religious, economic, and political transformations that Japan experienced during that time period.



KOREA

The international community's silence on North Korean human rights issues, **David S. Lee** argues, has been deafening. "North Korean Human Rights: A Story of Apathy, Victims, and International Law" discusses the little-known plight of those who attempt escape from the world's last Stalinist state. Drawing on interviews with refugees and human rights activists, Lee describes the tremendous challenges of successful escape to China and the horrific consequences of failure. Repatriated refugees sent to North Korean prison camps must endure brutal conditions and intensive labor while facing the sham justice meted out by guards and security agents. Life for those who escape to China is also fraught with difficulty: refugees must avoid being discovered by

Chinese agents as they make their way through an “underground railroad” to third countries. Despite the United Nations’ ineffectiveness and chronic apathy amongst many South Koreans, Lee holds out hope that recent legislation has signaled Seoul’s growing awareness and activism in resolving the North’s human rights situation.



Finally, **George Baylon Radics** explores current developments in US-Philippines relations in “Terrorism in Southeast Asia: Balikatan Exercises in the Philippines and the US ‘War against Terrorism.’” Using the 2002 Balikatan Exercises on Basilan as an example, Radics argues that Washington is slowly reestablishing its military presence on the islands. The fight against terrorism has given the United States both a pressing need and a good excuse to negotiate agreements with the Philippine government and re-deploy troops. Despite strong public and congressional opposition, the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has welcomed efforts to step up military-to-military relations. Such developments threaten to infringe on national sovereignty and negatively affect average Filipinos: Radics cites the continuing violence in Mindanao and alleged human rights violations committed during the Exercises. Radics concludes that the Balikatan Exercises and the increased US military presence are symptomatic of the neo-colonial relationship that exists between the United States and the Philippines.

Correction: In the Current Events article “US Relocates Troops on Korean Peninsula” published in our previous edition (Winter 2004), we had incorrectly stated that Seoul was the home of the 8th Division of the US Army. It is actually the 8th United States Army that is based in the South Korean capital. The *Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs* regrets the error.