

## A Word from the Editor

The *Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies* has globalized Japanese studies from the Korean perspective for the last three years. This issue marks the fourth volume of the journal. As the Japanese proverb suggests, to continue is power (*tsuzukeru no ga chikara*).

This issue presents the special topic of national strategy under the Abe administration. Prime Minister Abe has displayed an unusual political quality in that he has served in the premiership for more than seven years, with the expectation that he will remain in the post for another three years until 2021. In addition to the longevity of his political leadership, his political will to transform Japan into a new country is distinct and unprecedented. This journal has selected four articles that reveal different aspects of Abe's attempts to transform Japan. Starting from his political strategy to strengthen the conservative political camp, these articles also deal with economic policy trials to resolve deflation, new ways of handling the industrial growth strategy, and liberalizing the energy market. Not every aspect of Abe's national strategy has been portrayed, but the four articles presented here show how Prime Minister Abe tried to change Japan in a new way.

The other four articles we have selected cover Asian interpretations of Japan-related phenomena. The Japan World Exposition in Osaka was appropriated by ethnic Koreans differently from the Japanese. The perception of the Yasukuni shrine has been transformed from an entertainment site to a commemorative space. The Afro-Asian writers reimagined Japan at the intersection of imperialism and nationalism. Korea's Chun Doo-hwan administration approached Japan from a distinct security-economy nexus. These articles collectively feature how Japan is perceived by the minorities in Japan as well as Japan's closest neighbor.

This journal offers distinct interpretations of Japan in that Japan is seen from an outsider's viewpoint. They are not necessarily minority views, but rather highlight undisclosed aspects of emotion and perception about contemporary Japan.

The *Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies* is preparing to present itself in an

upgraded manner from the next volume. I hope readers will continue to enjoy the journal.

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