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Letter from the Editor - Choe

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Guest Co-Editor Dr. Kwan Kyoo Choe

The second half of the 20th century, and up to the present, has created what could be called the “civilization of nuclear energy.” Proponents argue that nuclear science has not only led to the greatest military power the world has ever known, but also opened up the greatest energy and scientific resources in human history. Nuclear energy has given rise to the computer industry, aerospace technologies, (spaceships, satellites, global positioning systems, etc.), and Internet technology. These technologies are now considered the symbols of the ultra-modern era of civilization.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has led economic regionalism, primarily through the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Asia-Pacific Economy Cooperation. The United States has also led economic globalization by establishing the World Trade Organization.

However, it has also observed an increasing instability of regional security in various parts of the world, as well as the spread of terrorism. Historically, threats to nuclear and radioactive materials and facilities, from which potential risks have permeated civilian life, have been concomitant with unstable international relations after the Cold War. In this context, the United States initiated a series of Nuclear Security Summits (NSS). These summits have had three distinct characteristics. First, about 50 top leaders of the World have met together to deal with the nuclear security questions. They have approached the topic holistically, as opposed to using the traditional military concepts in connection with nuclear security, which were limited in scope. Second, top leaders of nuclear industries have also come together in conjunction with the NSS to discuss how to improve nuclear security as well as how to implement, within their own facilities, the decisions made by the NSS. Many of these efforts found their *raison d'être* after the Fukushima disaster. Third, sharp interest has been taken and prompt actions have been implemented by the international nuclear communities in education and training, with an emphasis on nuclear security culture, for attaining the goals of the NSS.

The University of Tennessee in the United States initiated the first *International Journal of Nuclear Security* (IJNS) in 2014. The first issue of IJNS was published with a focus on global changes in nuclear security and international relations. While the first issue of the journal dealt with general and comprehensive aspects of nuclear security, this second issue shares significant achievements, accomplishments, and methods that focus on the specific area of education and training in nuclear security.

The articles in this issue do not enter into great detail about technological and technical aspects of nuclear security; rather, they open up excellent reviews about these matters and about education and training in this field. This approach lays the foundation for follow-up research, providing valuable preliminary databases for eventual evaluation, and tools for understanding nuclear security cultures.

In organizing the second issue of IJNS, we have emphasized the geographical arrangement of papers and the diversity of activities in nuclear security education and training. The expert perspectives of our diverse international contributors to this issue of the journal have combined to give us concrete, fundamental, crucial insights. This input could eventually lead us to find more efficient and effective ways to strengthen global nuclear security.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IJNS editing staff, including all the graduate and undergraduate student volunteers at the University of Tennessee, for their passionate participation and contribution to this publication.

Dr. Kwan Kyoo Choe

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