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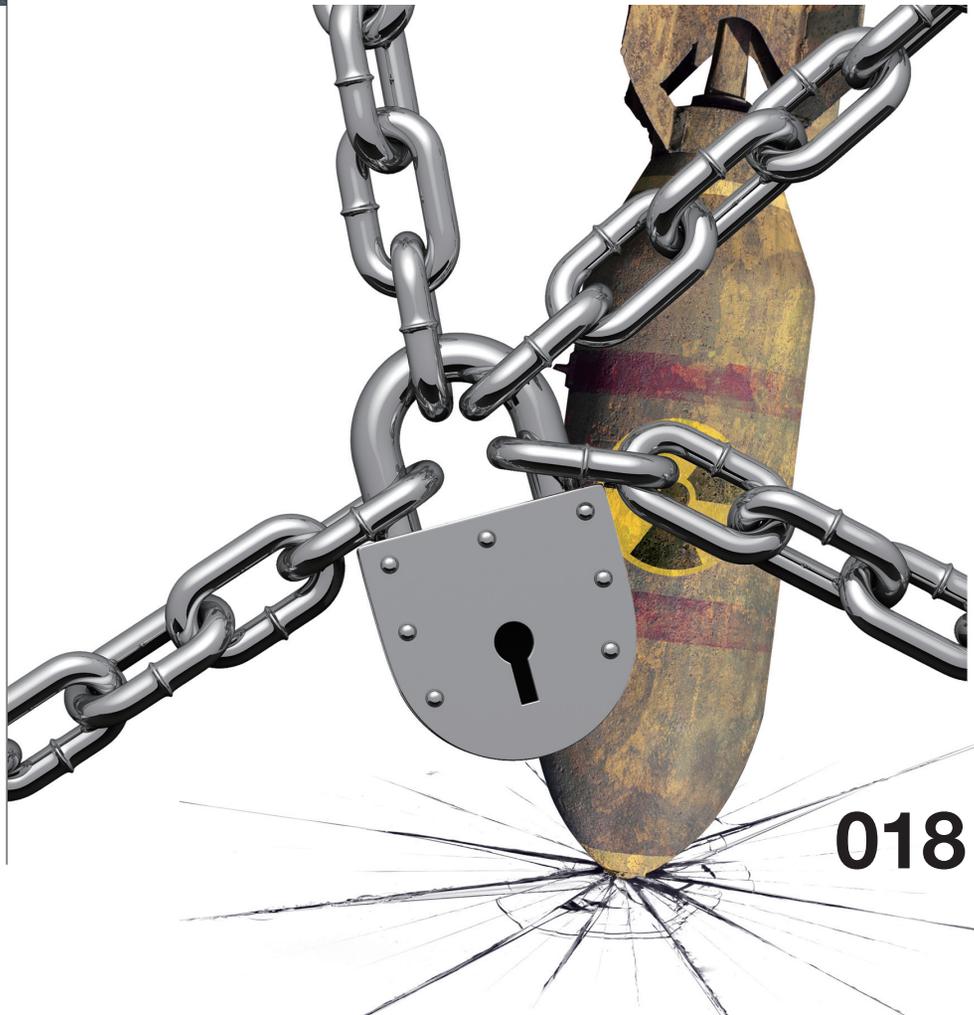
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Asiative is a quarterly journal published by the Korea National Strategy Institute (KNSI). The word Asiative is coined from a combination of the words Asian and alternative, creative, initiative. Asiative is committed to serving as a medium for achieving a peaceful Korean Peninsula and global community through discovery of alternative policies for Asia and the world from an Asian perspective.

The Korea National Strategy Institute (KNSI) is an independent, nonpartisan, and not-for-profit public research institution dedicated to developing policy recommendations on Korea's domestic politics and foreign relations, economy and trade, and social and cultural issues. The KNSI seeks to accomplish reconciliation and reunification between South and North Korea based on the principles of independence, democracy, and peace, thereby contributing to an enduring peace in East Asia and around the world.

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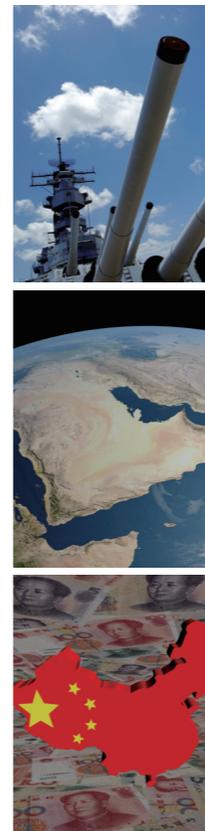
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The world has been mired in turmoil since the global financial crisis. The “20:80” society has inflicted great pain to people’s lives and has provoked the wrath of the general public as it turns out to be, in essence, closely interrelated with the “99:1” power balance in the financial sector. In Zuccotti Park, on the streets of Cairo, and now in every corner of streets around the globe, citizens are exploding with anger.

During the early years of modern history when it was unable to overcome a pre-modern order of Sino-centrism, Asia suffered most as the victim of the Orientalism of the Western world, but it has successfully and quickly closed the gap that was created during modern and contemporary history over the past 100 years. Nonetheless, Asia has yet to establish itself as a regional entity.

There have been various regional views—Asia Pacific, a regional view dominated by the American values, North East Asia, a regional view constructed by practical purposes, and ASEAN, sub-regional community of South East Asia—and these coexisting views are unable to be amalgamated into a single concrete solidarity. Discussions on the concept of East Asia has been active, but still the accumulated time and effort in the public discussion over the issue is simply insufficient to encompass the whole of Asia, including China, India or Japan—partly because of extreme differences among players in terms of cultural and economic aspects compared with the depth of their history.

The collapsed myth of Japan with the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant meltdown, the peculiar Chinese model that has yet to mature as an asset to the global community, and an extremely bipolarized India with a potentially giant future—all make it clear that there is a dire lack of common values and orientations shared among Asian people. This means there is no established road that leads to a “we-community” among Asians.

In this respect, Asiative is created to provide a forum for Asian people to access and discuss and share their views on Asian issues. The Korea National Strategy Institute has taken the first step in entering the relay race, and the next runners to take over the baton are all the ordinary people who love Asia, have interest in Asia, and are eager to take part in the task

of region-building in Asia.

The first issue of Asiative features the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in its Special Features section. Although the NSS meeting created by US President Obama’s initiative could play an important role as a stepping stone toward a widespread denuclearization movement, it is clear that the meeting limits itself in a boundary of the security of nuclear materials only. So, Asiative’s fundamental question upon the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit is: What do we really want—nuclear security or a nuclear-free world?

With KNSI based in Seoul being the publisher, Asiative discusses the issues that affect the Korean Peninsula in the lion’s portion of its pages for the moment. In Inside the Peninsula section, it presents a number of issues regarding South and North Korea to Asian and global people. This issue focuses on the discussion of the prospects of North Korea’s political and economic system in 2012. In addition, Asiative also offers in its In-depth Analysis, and Issues and Debates analytic views and suggestive outlooks on issues touching upon the US, China, Japan, Russia and the Middle East.

A new-born journal generally must feel its way before it can find its true niche both by its staff and its readers—in the content of its articles as well as its editing and arrangement. Asiative would greatly appreciate your kind and loving attention and feedback as it toddles its way toward the future with expectation of your continued support and encouragement. Your participation, inputs and feedbacks will surely help Asiative grow into a strong runner.

I sincerely expect that the year 2012 finds that together with Asiative, Asian people will embrace global issues to widen the scope of their perspectives and concerns.

Thank you.

Jung-Chul Lee/Editor in Chief
On behalf of the Editorial Committee