

Introduction to the UJOLS 2018 Special Issue

Another year filled with events related to legal reforms and changes in Central Asia has passed since our very first publication of UJOLS academic journal. It is our great pleasure to introduce you to the Special Issue of Uzbek Journal of Legal Studies and we hope that the publication will share insightful knowledge with students and scholars interested in legal systems of Central Asian countries. Our Special Issue will address legal aspects of New Strategy for Development of Uzbekistan 2017-2021 announced by the new government of the Republic of Uzbekistan. New Development Strategy encompassed not only economic liberalisation measures, it also targeted wide-scale legal reforms beginning from court reforms to reconsideration of Uzbekistan's international treaties. In line with legal reforms in the most populated country of Central Asia, the UJOLS editorial team decided to select this topic for the 2018-year Special Issue.

We should also note that UJOLS team organized its inaugural international symposium at Graduate School of Law of Nagoya University on the 1st of December 2017. Well-known Japanese and foreign scholars, students from Uzbekistan currently doing their graduate studies in various Japanese universities as well as practising lawyers showed a huge interest and support for this initiative and we had very fruitful discussions on various topics.

UJOLS team also successfully organized Expert Opinion Competition among students and young scholars where two Ipad and an edited book published by Wolters Kluwers went to their winners. We once again congratulate winners for their achievement and express our sincerest gratitude to the writers of expert opinion excerpts. The Special Issue is to some extent a result of the Inaugural Symposium.

In addition to the developments above, UJOLS team launched UJOLS Weekly Legal News page on Facebook. Now readers can follow our weekly news page and get updates on important legal changes in Uzbekistan. Furthermore, a newly-launched column on 'Master Theses' enables graduate-level students from the region publish their dissertations on Uzbekistan's legal system in the UJOLS. We further encourage students to send their dissertations of appropriate quality in our Journal. Last but not least, using the help of our dedicated UJOLS team members we have also updated List of Legal Publications in Uzbekistan in 2018 and enriched the page with Useful Links on emerging new websites established by various institutions in Uzbekistan. Researchers and practitioners are welcome to explore these and other sources on our website (www.ujols.org) for their work and for further examination of legal studies in Central Asia.

Finally, as an editor I would like to thank all contributors of 2018 UJOLS Special Issue. Two excellent research articles from scholars of Canadian and Kazakhstani Universities expanded the coverage of our journal. All that remains to be said is a special thank-you to lecturer of Nanzan University, Umida Ashurova, designated associate professor of Nagoya University, Nargiza Amirova, assistant professor of Nagoya University, Dr. Aziz Ismatov, PhD candidates of Nagoya University Bunyod Ibragimov, Shaxlo Akhmedova, and Muso Rizoiev and also students from Uzbekistan studying at Nagoya University Graduate School of Law for lending their support organizing our Inaugural Symposium. Sharp comments and insightful questions from professors Katsuya Ichihashi and Fumito Satoh of Nagoya University, and professor Fujio Kawashima of Kobe University brought UJOLS Symposium into an unprecedented high academic level which UJOLS team is very grateful for. PhD Candidate of Kobe University, Husain Radjapov, in the midst of his very busy doctoral studies kindly took care of all technical issues of this publication, and I wish to express to him my warm thanks.

2018 year has just started with a new vigour in Central Asia where we expect further fast and positive legal developments. UJOLS team is excited to share forthcoming studies and up-to-date news on legal developments in Uzbekistan and Central Asia.

Alisher Umirdinov
UJOLS Executive Editor
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