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Note from the Editors

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NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of the *Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal* is dedicated to indigenous rights in an effort to encourage and proliferate legal scholarship in this important area. The recognition of indigenous rights is especially important to the Pacific Rim considering that the region has a longstanding history of discrimination against indigenous peoples. Though home to remarkable diversity, similar stories of colonization, war, natural disasters, and *inter alia*, economic, political, cultural, and environmental divisions, have shaped the region. This history provides a distinct vantage point from which to view the continued development of law and policy regarding indigenous rights.

Over the last decade, the world has seen the emergence of indigenous rights in international law, or perhaps better framed as the beginnings of international law recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples. This international support has prompted scholars and advocates to be cautiously optimistic for the future of this body of law. We share in this sense of hopefulness and look forward to continued progress in this field.

This issue explores the intersection of indigenous rights and the law within the context of the historical, social, and cultural circumstances of indigenous peoples. We sought out the articles for this issue through the collaborative efforts of our editors in consultation with experts in the field. We also selected authors that represent several Pacific Rim countries, recognizing that a thematic book on indigenous rights would be incomplete without inclusion of South America within the Journal's geographic focus. We hope that this collection is seen as a humble attempt on behalf of law students to support, expand, and diversify the legal discourse surrounding indigenous rights.