

# Introduction

The growing role of China is inevitable. Since 1978 China's economic growth and political ups and downs have drawn global attention. China overtook Japan as the second economy global economy, overtaking Germany as the leader in exports and overtook the United States as the biggest producer in the world. Along with great successes Chinese authorities faces new challenges and dilemmas. Thus, it goes without saying that in the Department of East Asian Studies at the Faculty of International and Political Studies at the University of Lodz we have recognized these important trends. The volume **The Quandaries of China's Domestic and Foreign Development** is dedicated to recent trends in China's domestic and foreign activities. The first paper written by two distinguished professors, Qi Wang (University of Southern Denmark) and Dongchao Min (Shanghai University), touches upon the very sensitive and up to date problem of women in corruption processes in Mainland China. Using a gender approach they analyze actual corruption cases, and not on cross-national corruption statistics. The second paper presented by Sun Jiabao (College of London) describes the dimensions of the *Hukou* system – the system of household registration in contemporary China. Within the next chapter, *China in the global perspective*, worldwide scholars present their own views and ideas on China's foreign relations. Dr Barbara Onnis of the University of Cagliari analyzes the new challenges for China's foreign policy principles of non-interference. She presents a case study of Professor Wang Yizhou's book "Creative Involvement". Next we have the paper written by the editor of this volume entitled *Modeling Identity – The Financial Crisis and China's International Status*. The editor tries to find the proper understanding of how the financial crisis affected China's global identity. Marta Riga (Corvinus University) presents two interesting cases regarding China's activities in Africa, with a comparative perspective of Nigeria and Zambia. Next we have two papers written by scholars affiliated with the Jagiellonian University: Dr Michał Lubina vastly presents his views on the China-Russia relationship and its asymmetry

and Dr Przemysław Furgacz on the real meaning of the American pivot to Asia. The last two papers in this section broach the topic regarding the relations between the European Union and East Asia, particularly with China. Dr Anna Wróbel (University of Warsaw) on the one hand discusses the issues of the European Union Trade Policy towards China, Japan and South Korea, and on the other, Dr Tomasz Kamiński (University of Łódź) analyzes the role of China in shaping the EU foreign policy strategy. The last section named *China in the Regional Perspective* is composed of six interesting papers. The first paper, written by scholars Dr Richard Turcsányi, Runya Qiaoan, Zdeněk Kříž from Masaryk University, analyzes the Chinese perception of Central Europe. Next Dr Patrycja Matusz-Protasiewicz and Joanna Rajca (University of Wrocław) present Poland's local perspective of Asian and Chinese Foreign Direct Investment. Next Professor Krzysztof Kozłowski (Warsaw School of Economics) writes about Central Asia in Chinese foreign policy strategy and Dr Marek Wasiński (University of Łódź) presents the disputes over Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands from an international law perspective. Vida Macikenaite of Keio University presents subject related to fishery industry and Diaoyu/Senkaku Island problem. The last two papers in the volume are dedicated to the issues of ASEAN and China relations. Joanna Dobkowska of the University of Warsaw analyzes the security issues between China and Southeast Asia and Jann Christoph von der Pütten from Tampere University discusses the possibility of China's factor in the split of ASEAN integration.

As an editor in chief I do believe that the presented papers are stimulating and will shape our perception of today's China.