

# EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Since publication of our last insights into current developments and research in the Asia-Pacific region, the earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand have been a reminder of the vulnerability of large areas in the Pacific Rim as well as of global impacts arising from their disturbance. The discussion of current and future issues in tourism in New Zealand in this issue takes into account the domestic implications of the Christchurch earthquake on February 22 as well as its impact on the development of inbound tourism to New Zealand.

Wider-ranging consequences of the Japan earthquake are visible in the efforts of some governments, including Germany's, that have taken a critical view of the generation and use of nuclear energy and plan to abolish its use in the foreseeable future. The necessary long-term consequence of turning to alternative energies is foreshadowed in, for example, the Solar Decathlon, a US-based competition that challenges student teams to design and operate solar houses. One of the competition entries is featured on the Photo Pages of this issue.

Consequences of disasters and change more generally and climate change specifically have recently given rise to what Anna Huebner describes as "Last chance tourism", the notion that certain destinations receive increased visitation as they are expected to vanish (e.g. low-lying Pacific Islands) or risk losing their unique characteristics (e.g. historic urban structures of rapidly growing cities).

On a personal note, we are delighted that the transformation of the Pacific News to a peer-reviewed academic journal has generated such a positive response. We appreciate your feedback and wish you, as always, an informative and enjoyable read.

Dr. Michael Waibel and Dr Julia N. Albrecht

## Pacific News

The Pacific News (PN), ISSN 1435-8360, is a peer-reviewed semi-annual publication published by the Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft fuer Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) in co-operation with the Department of Human Geography of Hamburg University, Germany. The PN provides an interdisciplinary platform for an academic discussion of social, cultural, environmental, political and economic issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to uphold scientific standards, the PN is implementing a peer-review process. Articles marked as „scientific papers“ have been peer-reviewed by two external reviewers. Articles marked as „research notes“ have been peer-reviewed by one external reviewer and a member of the editorial board. All other articles have been reviewed by the editorial board.

APSA-Members receive the Pacific News at no cost as a membership benefit.



The Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) was founded in 1987 at the Department of Geography of the University of Technology in Aachen. Activities include workshops, conferences, public lectures and poster exhibitions. The book series Pazifik Forum was initiated in 1990. In 1992, it was complemented by the publication of the semi-annual journal Pacific News. The latter has developed into the major activity of APSA in recent years.

The APSA sees itself as one of the largest scientific networks in Germany for academics and practitioners with an interest in the Asia-Pacific region as well as academic exchange.

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#### COVER PICTURE

**Skaters posing before the Lenin Statue in Hanoi**

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Public spaces in Vietnam have always been used for a great variety of leisure activities. The triangular square of the Lenin Statue opposite the flag tower of Hanoi citadel has recently become popular among teenagers for break dancing or skating. This picture was taken by a student of Geography of Hamburg University on Sunday, the 27th February 2011.

