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**Introduction to the Oregon Review of
International Law's Fifth Symposium Issue:
China's Role in Regulating the Global
Information Economy†**

It is now 2011, and the world has never been more influenced by—and intertwined with—the Internet and the exchange of knowledge and information. Here in the United States, we are faced with daily reminders of how the Internet and advancing information technology markets have changed our lives and our position within the greater global market. We are constantly immersed in its direct and indirect effects as consumers, investors, and especially in an educational capacity. From our economy and healthcare system right down to the blogs we read on our iPhones, our growth and knowledge base is built on the free exchange of ideas and information. Without these technologically advanced products and the ideas of many free thinkers around the globe, we would not have the benefit of an instantaneous virtual knowledge exchange. While some might argue that this is more of a hindrance than a benefit, all would probably agree it has contributed to where we as humans are today in terms of science and technology, for better or worse.

China is no exception to the digital age, with its booming (and constantly evolving) economy. China has also risen to the top of the international leaderboard in the Internet and information technology arena. Its citizens consume mass quantities of domestic and global media and entertainment products. All of this has not gone unnoticed by the Chinese government. They have markedly tightened regulations related to the virtual exchange of information and

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knowledge via the Internet, wireless technology, and media. This tightening of regulations is facilitated by China's position as a leading information technology product exporter. But, at what point does innovation find itself hindered by these regulations and how does that affect the world and its consumers? At what point can a government control how and what information is shared? Further, how does a government prevent the negative aspects of digital advancement such as piracy and copyright infringement without severely curbing progress?

While scholarship traditionally focuses on the domestic effects of China's policies and standards, we need to examine the extraterritorial effects as they prove to be far reaching. Today, we will explore these topics and more to hopefully shed some light on the issues before us. To accomplish this, we invited a handful of top authorities on these issues to spread awareness of how China's position and policies have impacted economies and countries well beyond its own borders and what the future holds for China's development. We address the question: where might China go from here? The editors of the *Oregon Review of International Law* look forward to the discussion at hand, and look forward to reading and editing the articles based on the presentations here today. Additionally, we hope that this is just the beginning of our relationship with these scholars and the University of Oregon Confucius Institute. And finally, we would like to thank Professor Eric Priest for his generous help in planning this Symposium. It would not have been possible without his expertise and guidance.