

# CIL - ICPC WORKSHOP ON THE PROTECTION OF SUBMARINE CABLES

**Novotel Hotel, 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) and 15<sup>th</sup> (Friday) of April 2011,  
Singapore**

Jointly Organized by:



## General Information

The Centre for International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) are jointly organizing a 1 ½ day **Workshop on the Protection of Submarine Cables** on the 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) and 15<sup>th</sup> (Friday) of April 2011, at Novotel Hotel (Clarke Quay), Singapore.

The Workshop will begin on the last day of the 2011 ICPC Annual Plenary held in Singapore from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2011. All ICPC Members attending the 2011 ICPC Plenary are invited to attend the Workshop.

## Objective of the Workshop

The objectives of the Workshop are to, first, educate Governments in the region about the problems in the protection of fibre optic submarine cables (submarine cables), and second, to discuss concrete measures that the cable industry, Governments and international organizations can take to protect submarine cables.

The Workshop hopes to continue the momentum generated by the 2009 CIL *Workshop on Submarine Cables and Law of the Sea*<sup>1</sup> as well as the *General Assembly Annual Omnibus Resolution on oceans and law of the sea* adopted by the UN on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010.<sup>2</sup> The Resolution, for the first time, called upon States to take measures to protect submarine cables which it described as “**critical communications infrastructure**” and as “**vitaly important to the global economy and the national security of all States.**”

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the 2009 CIL *Workshop on Submarine Cables and Law of the Sea*, please see the CIL Website available at <http://cil.nus.edu.sg/programmes-and-activities/past-events/workshop-on-submarine-cables-and-the-law-of-the-sea-on-14-15-december-2009/>.

<sup>2</sup> The text of the UN GA Resolution is available at the UNDOALOS Website at [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general\\_assembly/general\\_assembly\\_resolutions.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/general_assembly_resolutions.htm).

The Workshop will provide an excellent forum for Government officials, international law experts, relevant international organizations and the cable industry to exchange views on the measures necessary for the protection of such “critical communications infrastructure.”

## Organization of Workshop

There will be seven (7) Sessions with two (2) to four (4) presentations in each Session (with the exception of Session 7 which will consist of a panel discussion), covering the various issues.

Panelists will consist of international legal experts, representatives from international organizations, representatives from the cable industry and/or Government officials. Each Panelist will be given 10 to 15 minutes to present.

The topics for discussion will include:

1. Causes of submarine cable faults;
2. The international legal regime governing submarine cables;
3. Best practices for the repair of submarine cables;
4. National solutions for the protection of submarine cables including the advantages of adopting cable protection legislation;
5. Regional co-operation for the protection of submarine cables including the role of regional bodies such as APEC TEL and Regional Cable Protection Committees;
6. The global action needed for the protection of submarine cables including the need for a new instrument to protect submarine cables from acts of terrorism and piracy. The role of inter-governmental organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) will also be discussed, along with the possible contribution that the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) and the ICPC can make in relation to the protection of submarine cables.

After reviewing the Presentations and discussions during the Workshop, CIL and ICPC will prepare a set of draft Recommendations which will be the focus of the discussion in the last Session. Panelists for this Session will include representatives from ICPC, relevant international organizations as well as Government Officials who will give their comments on how best to move forward in the protection of submarine cables.

A more detailed Agenda can be found below.

## DRAFT AGENDA (as of 21 February 2011)

Time:	DAY ONE
13:00 – 13:30	<b>Registration for Workshop</b>
13:30 – 14:00	<b>Welcome Remarks by Robert Beckman, Director of CIL and Dean Veverka, Chairman of ICPC</b>
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Session 1: Background on Submarine Cables</b>
	This Session will discuss the causes of submarine cable faults including faults resulting from natural disasters and maritime activities such as shipping and fishing. It will also give an overview of the international law relating to submarine cables, namely the 1982 <i>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea</i> (UNCLOS) and the 1884 <i>International Convention on the Protection of Submarine Cables</i> .
15:30 – 15:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15:45 – 17:00	<b>Session 2: Repairing Submarine Cables</b>
	This Session will discuss the importance of speedy repairs to submarine cable faults and the problems faced by the cable industry in the repair of submarine cables. It will also examine best national practices as well as best regional practices for the repair of submarine cables.
17:00	<b>Close of Day One</b>
DAY TWO	
9:00 – 10:30	<b>Session 3: National Solutions for the Protection of Submarine Cables from Competing Activities</b>
	This Session will discuss the problems in the protection of submarine cables from competing activities sharing the seabed. It will also examine the steps taken by some Governments to protect submarine cables, including cable protection legislation.
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Session 4: Regional Co-operation for the Protection of Submarine Cables from Competing Activities</b>
	This Session will discuss the role of regional cable protection committees and other regional bodies such as APEC TEL in the protection of submarine cables.
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 14:30	<b>Session 5: Global Action for the Protection of Submarine Cables from Shipping Activities</b>
	This Session will discuss the role of IMO rules and regulations in the protection of submarine cables and the need to update certain aspects of these rules and regulations.
14:30 – 15:30	<b>Session 6: Global Action for the Protection of Submarine Cables from Terrorism and Piracy</b>
	This Session will discuss the measures that can be taken to protect submarine cables from damage caused by terrorists and pirates.
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:00 – 17:30	<b>Session 7: The Way Forward (Panel Discussion)</b>
	This Session will discuss draft recommendations on the protection of submarine cables prepared by CIL and ICPC.
17:30	<b>Close of Workshop</b>