

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW

Distinguished Speaker Series

13 March 2015, Friday, 4.00PM – 5.30PM Seminar Room 4-1, Level 4, Block B, NUS Bukit Timah Campus, 469 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259756

Reflections on Sustainable Fishing of Highly Migratory and Straddling Fish Stocks under the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement and the Western Pacific Fisheries Commission

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Ambassador Satya Nandan

Ambassador Satya N. Nandan has had an illustrious career in the international arena, which spans several decades. He has represented Fiji before the United Nations, as Ambassador to several European States, and has led several intergovernmental organisations.

Ambassador Satya Nandan was an active participant in the negotiations for the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). He has served as the UN Under-Secretary-General for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the same (1983 – 1992).

In 1990, he initiated the informal negotiations on Part XI of UNCLOS, convened by the Secretary-General of the UN. These negotiations led to the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation on Part XI of UNCLOS. He then served as the Secretary-General of the the International Seabed Authority from 1996 – 2008.

Ambassador Nandan, as Chairman of the Conference, played a key role in the negotiations of the 1995 Fish Stocks Agreement. He also served as Chairman of the Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Multilateral High-Level Conference). Thereafter, he chaired the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission for two years.

He is currently a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Center for Oceans Law and Policy (COLP), University of Virginia School of Law.

INTRODUCTION

In the first of three public talks, Ambassador Satya Nandan will share his observations on the discussions that surrounded the design of today's international fisheries regime for living resources. As former rapporteur of the 2nd Committee of the conference on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Chairman of the conference that adopted the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Implementing Agreement), Ambassador Nandan is in an incomparable position to explain how the negotiations of UNCLOS led to the Implementing Agreement, how the latter improves the international fisheries regime, as well as to discuss remaining issues.

CIL

As former Chairman of the negotiations that led to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and current Chairman of the WCPFC, which was the first regional fisheries management organisation created after the Implementing Agreement, Ambassador Nandan is again in an incomparable position to explain how the WCPFC works to operationalise the 1995 Implementing Agreement in the Western and Central Pacific, detail the main difficulties encountered, discuss remaining obstacles to the full implementation of the Implementing Agreement and share the lessons learned in this process.

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ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (CIL)

The Centre for International Law (CIL) is based at the Bukit Timah campus of the National University of Singapore. CIL's mission is to enable Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region to play a more significant role in the promotion and development of international law and policy. The Centre's aim is to become the region's intellectual hub and thought leader for research on and teaching of international law and policy. The Director of CIL is Associate Professor Robert C Beckman. For more information, please visit the CIL website at www.cil.nus.edu.sg or email: cil.info@nus.edu.sg.