

**12<sup>th</sup> ASIAN LAW INSTITUTE CONFERENCE**

# **A Hot Land in a Cold Place**

## **Opportunities and Challenges for Singapore in the Arctic**

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# Outline of Presentation

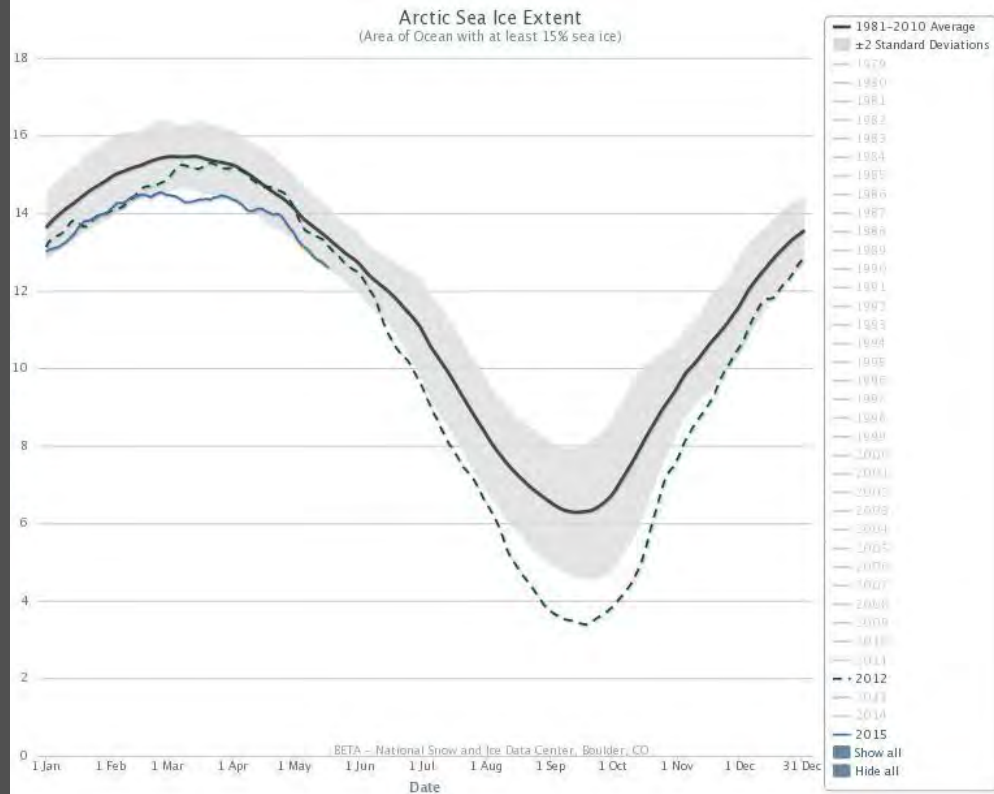
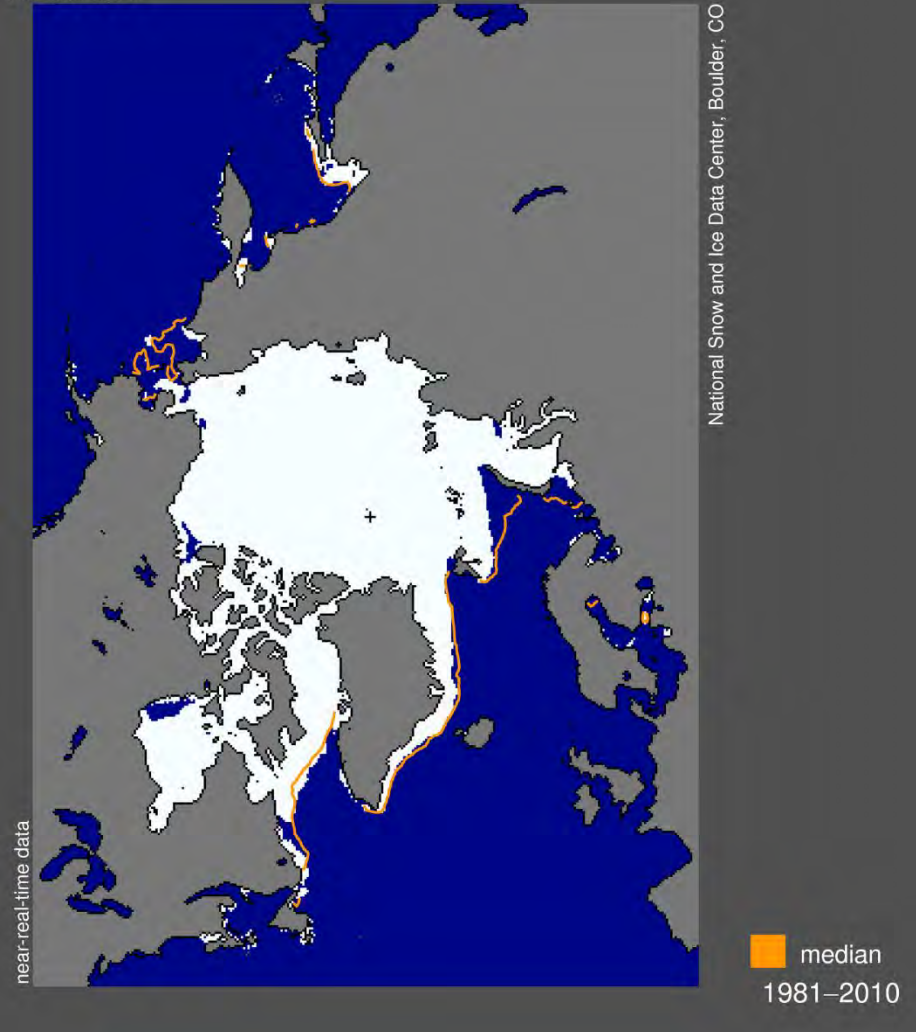
- **Basic Facts about the Arctic**
- **Arctic Governance**
- **Singapore and the Arctic**

# Basic Facts of the Arctic

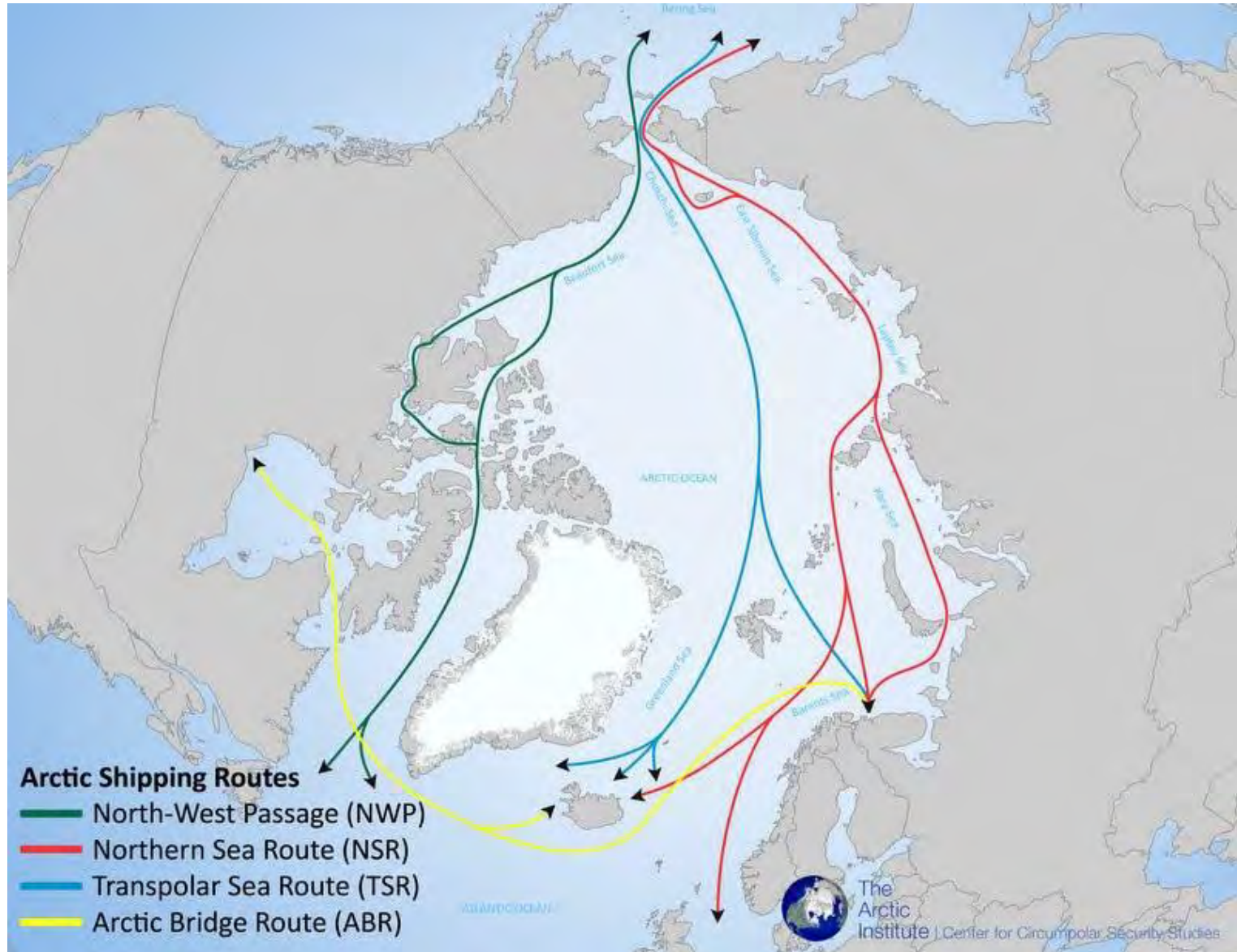


# Arctic Sea Ice Extent

Sea Ice Extent  
05/18/2015



# Arctic Shipping Routes





# Shipping Routes in Contrast



Shorter distance: around 3,900 to 4,500 nm in both cases

Source: [www.grida.no/graphicslib/detail/northern-sea-route-and-the-northwest-passage-compared-with-current-use](http://www.grida.no/graphicslib/detail/northern-sea-route-and-the-northwest-passage-compared-with-current-use)

# Arctic Governance

## Applicable International Law:

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

IMO Conventions: SOLAS, MARPOL, COLREGS, STCW, London Convention, SAR Convention, OPRRC, Polar Code

Environmental Treaties

Arctic-Specific Treaties: SAR Agreement, Pollution Prevention

## Soft law:

IMO Guidelines

Arctic Council Guidelines

# Arctic Council

## Organization

- 1996 Ottawa Declaration
- 8 Arctic States
- 6 Permanent Participants
- Secretariat in Tromsø, Norway

## Objectives

- Environmental Protection
- Sustainable Development

## Meetings

- Ministers Meetings (Biennially)
- Senior Arctic Officials Meetings (Semi-annually)

## Subsidiary Bodies

- 6 Six Working Groups
- 4 Task Forces



# Arctic Council Observers

## Observership

- Non-Arctic States
- Inter-Governmental & Inter-Parliamentary Organization
- Non-Government Organization

## Criteria

- Support the objectives of the AC
- Recognize Arctic State's sovereignty and rights
- Recognize the applicable legal framework
- Respect the interests of Arctic indigenous people
- Demonstrated willingness and capability to contribute to the work of the AC

## Role

- Observe the work of the Arctic Council
- Attend meetings at invitation
- Make contribution through Working Groups and other subsidiary bodies
- Propose project and make financial contributions

# Arctic Council Observers

## 12 States

- France
- Germany
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- China
- Italy
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- India

## 9 Inter-Gov & Inter-Par Organizations

- IFRC
- IUCN
- NCM
- NEFCO
- NAMMCO
- SCPAR
- UN-ECE
- UNDP
- UNEP

## 11 Non-Gov Organizations

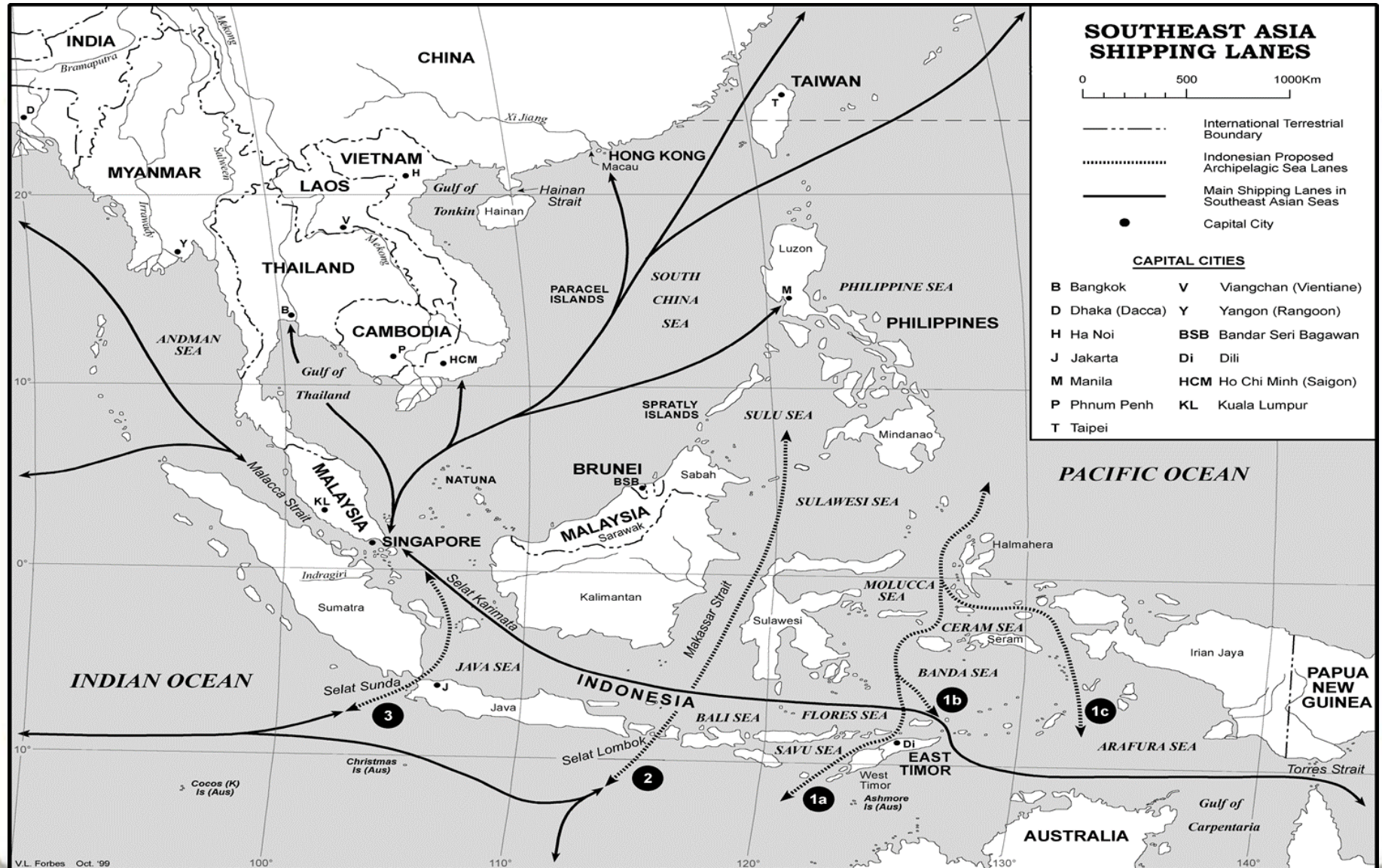
- ACOPS
- AINA
- AWRH
- CCU
- IASC
- IASSA
- IUCH
- IWGIA
- NF
- UArctic
- WWF

# Singapore and the Arctic





# Singapore



# Singapore's Interests in the Arctic

- **Environmental Protection**
- **Development of A Safe Arctic Region**
- **Sustainable Economic Development**
- **Development of Human Capital**

# Singapore's Engagement in the Arctic

- Participating at various Arctic forums and conferences;
- Conducting diplomatic-level visits and meetings;
- Attending Arctic Council meetings;
- Participating in the work of the AC Working Groups;
- Engaging in activities at the UN, IMO or other international bodies that shape the rules applicable to the Arctic;
- Initiating bilateral co-operation with Arctic States or Permanent Participants;



# The Way Forward

- Understand the situation in the Arctic in all its aspects and develop an Arctic Strategy;
- Engage in the work of various Arctic Council subsidiary bodies, propose and contribute to projects;
- Future co-operation areas may cover shipping, ship and rigger building, satellite position and survey, port facilities construction, and capacity training for search & rescue and oil pollution response, etc.;
- Develop international rules and standards to improve safe shipping in the Arctic;