

Shaping the Law of the Sea

The Role of Science and Subsidiary Bodies in Marine Environmental Decision-Making

Seminar by Mr Pradeep A Singh
3 September 2018, Monday, 2pm–4pm

This is a by-invitation-only event.

Synopsis

This talk examines the institutional arrangements of selected international organisations that operate in the marine environmental sphere. Specifically, it investigates the role and structure of the respective scientific/technical arms that typically take the form of a subsidiary/advisory body within the international organisations' set-up. This exercise reveals the extent to which scientific and technical bodies are able to participate in (and influence the direction of) law- and decision-making processes and what levels of deference are accorded to their expertise. The presentation will discuss the preliminary findings of this research project, which clearly indicate that scientific and technical advice is gaining increased attention particularly in cases where the protection of the marine environment is at the forefront of the discourse. It will primarily focus on the Legal and Technical Commission of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and its influence on the law- and decision-making processes pertaining to the regulation of deep seabed mining in the international seabed area.

Venue

Centre for International Law
NUS Bukit Timah Campus, 469A Bukit Timah Road
Tower Block #09-01, Singapore 259770

About the Speaker

Pradeep Arjan Singh is a doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Law, University of Bremen and Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (MARUM), Bremen. He is a member of the International Research Training Group INTERCOAST, an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Universities of Bremen (Germany) and Waikato (New Zealand) on coastal and marine environmental issues. The theme of his doctoral research centres on the intersection between public international law, the international law of the sea, international environmental law, and the law of international institutions. In particular, he investigates how scientific and technical advice shapes the law of the sea through the influence of subsidiary organs within international organisations. His research interest also includes the regulation of cross-sectoral and transboundary activities, particularly deep seabed mining, shipping and navigation, marine genetic resources, and marine scientific research. Over the last two years, he has published extensively on topics pertaining to deep seabed mining, ocean governance, and institutional arrangements in the realm of international marine environmental law. His academic qualifications include an LLB degree from the University of Malaya (Hons)(Dist), an LLM in Global Environment & Climate Change Law from the University of Edinburgh, and an LLM from Harvard Law School. He is the recipient of several academic awards and scholarships, including the prestigious UK-Chevening scholarship, and is an alumnus of the renowned Summer Academy at the International Foundation of the Law of the Sea. While he has developed an inclination towards academic research in recent years, his prior work experiences include serving his government, Malaysia, in the judicial and legal services and as a lawyer in a top-tier law firm based in Malaysia and Singapore, where he primarily worked on constitutional and administrative law issues.

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