International Conference on Regional Cooperation for the Protection of the Marine Environment

15-16 January 2019, Singapore

Chatham House Rule Applies

Draft as of 11 January 2019
BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Protection of the marine environment in Southeast Asia faces particular challenges, some of which may be more effectively resolved through the cooperative efforts of states in the region. This conference will investigate cooperative efforts by the numerous existing regional bodies and possible ways forward to improve the state of the marine environment in the region.

In order to explore this idea, there is a need to discuss the legal background, including the international and regional frameworks, and the institutional background in the region. An exploration of governance models from other regions, including the Mediterranean, the Arctic, the Baltic, the Caribbean, as well as a closer look at the OSPAR Convention and the Coral Triangle Initiative, may also provide insight into possible avenues in this region. It is also necessary to discuss the challenges and prospects in the region and key issues in marine pollution and environmental protection.

Thus, this conference will bring together experts in this area to discuss the current international and regional arrangements, and possible governance models and best practices from other regions. There will also be the opportunity to discuss plastics and ship source pollution as key marine environmental issues in Southeast Asia. The particular challenges and prospects in the region will also be explored, including legal and political issues, the role of science, and financial assistance. The final discussion will centre on the way forward and prospects for enhanced cooperation within ASEAN.

This conference is supported by the

K.G. IEBSEN CENTRE FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
**PROGRAMME** *(Chatham House Rule Applies)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Registration and coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00-9:10</td>
<td>Opening Address</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lucy Reed, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:10-09:30</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>Tommy Koh, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Panel 1 / 09:30–11:15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background and Legal Framework</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
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<td><strong>Robert Beckman</strong>, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore</td>
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**Session 1**

**Legal Background: International Framework**

**Speaker**

**Aldo Chircop**, Dalhousie University

- Overview of the current legal framework regarding protection of the marine environment and regional cooperation
- Level of adoption of the international legal framework and gaps (e.g. LC/LP)
- Relationship between international framework and regional cooperative mechanisms (e.g. CMS which is timidly adopted as compared with the IOSEA MoU)
- Challenges arising at international level

**Session 2**

**Legal Background: Regional Legal Framework**

**Speaker**

**Nilüfer Oral**, Istanbul Bilgi University

- Overview of development of regional cooperation in marine environmental protection and current regional mechanisms: Law of the Sea and regional seas, historical development

**Q & A Session**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:15</td>
<td>Coffee Break &amp; Panellist Group Photograph</td>
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Panel 2 / 11:15-13:00

Institutional Background
Moderator
Denise Cheong, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

**Session 1**

**ASEAN and ASEAN-related Bodies**

Speakers

*Soparatana Jarusombat*, Thammasat University

- Discussion of institutional background in ASEAN and ASEAN+
- Overview of bodies and cooperative mechanisms in Southeast Asia included in CIL map of ASEAN bodies involved in the protection of the marine environment

*Dita Liliansa*, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

- Overview of cooperative measures adopted by ASEAN bodies for the protection of the marine environment
- Type, form and subject of such measures
- Discussion of the extent to which they can implement international law on the protection of the marine environment

**Session 2**

**Other Global and Regional Bodies and initiatives**

Speaker

*Youna Lyons*, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

- Description of the regional bodies in the context of the regional implementation of the international legal framework
- Discussion of role of COBSEA, PEMSEA, APEC etc.

**Q & A Session**

13:00–14:00  Lunch
### Session 1

**The Mediterranean Model**

**Speaker**

*Irini Papanicolopulu*, University of Milano-Bicocca

- Description of institutional arrangements, membership and history
- Description of legal instruments, membership and history
- Overview of funding mechanisms
- Discussion of challenges faced and overall impact of mechanism
- Identification of possible relevant best practices

### Session 2

**The Arctic Model**

**Speaker**

*Elise Johansen*, K G Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

- Description of institutional arrangements, membership and history
- Description of legal instruments, membership and history
- Overview of funding mechanisms
- Discussion of challenges faced and overall impact of mechanism
- Identification of possible relevant best practices

### Commentator

**Speaker**

*Ingvild Jakobsen*, K G Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

### Q & A Session

15:30–16:00  |  Coffee Break
Panel 4 / 16:00-17:30
Governance Models (2)
Moderator
Aldo Chircop, Dalhousie University

**Session 1**
The Coral Triangle Initiative

**Speaker**
Sharifah Nora, Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Secretariat

- Description of institutional arrangements, membership and history
- Discussion of challenges faced and overall impact of mechanism
- Identification of possible relevant best practices

**Session 2**
The Caribbean Model

**Speaker**
Michelle Scobie, Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine

- Description of institutional arrangements, membership and history
- Discussion of challenges faced and overall impact of mechanism
- Identification of possible relevant best practices

**Commentator**

**Speaker**
Nengye Liu, University of Adelaide

**Q & A Session**

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<tr>
<th>17:45</th>
<th><strong>Workshop Barbecue Buffet Dinner</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td>The Best Brew, Level 1, Four Points by Sheraton</td>
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<td>No pork or lard is used in the food but there will be two-hour free flow of alcoholic drinks.</td>
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**WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2019**

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<tr>
<td>08:30–09:00</td>
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<td>09:00–10:30</td>
<td>Panel 5 / Key Issues (1)</td>
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<td>Moderator: J Ashley Roach, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00–10:30</td>
<td>Session 1: Ship Source Pollution: Current State of Play in Southeast Asia</td>
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<td>Speaker: Robert Beckman, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Overview of current state of play in Southeast Asia regarding ship source pollution</td>
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<td>- Overview of international legal regime and gaps in adoption</td>
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<td>- Overview of regional initiatives</td>
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<td>- Implementation challenges and Port State Control</td>
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<td>- Prospects of regional plan for reception facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30–11:00</td>
<td>Session 2: Panel on Ship Source Pollution: Possible Models</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Speakers: Brenda Pimentel, Phil. Maritime Research Studies and Services, Inc.</td>
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<td>Cheryl Rita Kaur, Maritime Institute of Malaysia, and Mohd Fairoz Rozali, Marine Department, Ministry of Transport, Malaysia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Panel discussion on possible models for future development of ship source pollution regime with focus on regional cooperation</td>
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<td>- Overview of MEPSEA and other regional mechanisms</td>
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<td>- Discussion of funding possibilities</td>
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<td>10:30–11:00</td>
<td>Q &amp; A Session</td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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**Session 1**

**Plastics and Land-based Pollution: Current State of Play in Southeast Asia**

**Speaker**

Karen Raubenheimer, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, University of Wollongong

- Overview of current state of play in Southeast Asia regarding plastics and land-based pollution, making reference to legal regime, implementation challenges...

**Session 2**

**Panel on Plastics and Land-based Pollution: Possible models**

**Speakers**

Daud Hassan, International Centre for Ocean Governance (ICOG), Western Sydney University

Linda Finska, K G Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

- Panel discussion on possible models for future development of land-based pollution regime with focus on regional cooperation

**Q & A Session**

13:00–14:00 Lunch
### Session 1
**Legal and Political Challenges and Prospects**

**Speaker**
- **Jay Batongbacal**, Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, University of the Philippines
- **Muhammad Taufan**, Directorate of Legal and Territorial Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

### Session 2
**The Role of Science**

**Speaker**
- **Chou Loke Ming**, Tropical Marine Science Institute, National University of Singapore

- Discussion of marine science and specific challenges to be addressed in marine environmental protection in this region

### Session 3
**Funding sources and donors**

**Speaker**
- **Torsten Thiele**, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

- Discussion of financial assistance programmes in place, donor landscape and relevant issues

### Session 4
**Role of NGOs**

**Speaker**
- **Sharifah Nora**, Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Secretariat

- Discussion of potential role of NGOs and challenges faced

### Q & A Session

15:30–16:00 | Coffee Break
Panel 8 / 16:00-17:30
Final Discussion - The Way Forward:
Prospects for Enhanced Cooperation within ASEAN
Moderator
Mrs Mary Seet-Cheng, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Treaty, a new body or strengthening existing bodies?

**Speakers TBC**
- Wisdom of ‘pollution first’ approach?
- Importance of institutional development, such as regional activity centres
- Difficulties linked to donor funding for institutional development
- Definition of ‘the region’?
- Necessity of a legally binding treaty?
- Reevaluation of the potential strengths of the ‘ASEAN way’

17:30 Conference close