

Autonomous Shipping, Cybersecurity Threats and International Law

by Mr Zaid Hamzah

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In the context of Industrial Revolution 4.0, the maritime industry is being disrupted. Like autonomous vehicles, autonomous ships are on the rise and are expected to become mainstream over the coming decades. Established shipping companies and innovative maritime technology start-ups are beginning to pilot smart autonomous ships, which are increasingly dependent on big data analytics and artificial intelligence. The increasing use of big data analytics and artificial intelligence has started to shape the national security agenda, and control of maritime routes is of geo-strategic significance. The rise of smart ships will fundamentally reshape the maritime industry and lead to greater risks of cyber attacks, which can come from state and non-state actors.

Mr Zaid Hamzah will discuss the following questions. What is the role of international law when nation states carry out cyber attacks in maritime conflicts? Are existing norms adequate to deal with potential cyber military conflicts at sea involving nation states? What kind of regulatory framework needs to evolve at the national jurisdiction-specific levels to help create a trusted and resilient international regime that can prevent maritime cyber conflicts? How should international maritime law evolve to deal with increasing geo-strategic cyber risks? How can regional organisations, such as ASEAN, and international bodies, like the International Telecommunication Union, prepare for the future of autonomous shipping?



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Mr Zaid Hamzah is an international technology lawyer specialising in transnational cybersecurity and technology law, intellectual property and legal analytics. He has over 30 years of professional experience in the legal, technology and government sectors, serving as Director at Microsoft, Chief Legal Officer at Telekom Malaysia and Senior Legal Advisor at Singtel's JV with Warner Bros and Sony Pictures. He has advised the Malaysian Government on digital evidence management and has been involved in strategic cybersecurity compliance and risk management advisory for major global corporations and companies in Singapore and Malaysia.

Prior to legal practice in the technology arena, Mr Hamzah was in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs for almost a decade, where he was responsible, among others, for international organisations including the UN.

Mr Hamzah is admitted as an Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore and Solicitor, England & Wales. He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the National University of Singapore and was awarded the Fulbright scholarship for his Master's in International Relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA. He is the author of nine books, including *E-Security Law and Strategy*. His research interests include legal data analytics and artificial intelligence in law, especially in the context of cybersecurity risks and strategic legal and regulatory compliance.

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