

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF SUBMARINE CABLES AND PIPELINES: MULTI-DIMENSIONAL PERSPECTIVES



CIL

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW
National University of Singapore

16 & 17 SEPTEMBER, 2025 (TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY)



Orchard Hotel, Singapore

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BACKGROUND

Submarine cables and pipelines traverse the ocean floor, connecting countries and continents and facilitating vital communication and energy services to states and their citizens. They have been described by the General Assembly as “vitaly important to the global economy and national security of all States.”

Since the attacks against the Nord Stream pipelines in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Denmark and Sweden in 2022, the vulnerability of submarine cables and pipelines to intentional damage has been thrust into the spotlight. A spate of media reports on damage to submarine fibre optic and power cables in Europe and Asia between 2022 and 2025 have exacerbated concerns about the risks to submarine cables and pipelines against a background of increasing geopolitical complexities, grey zone tactics and armed conflicts. These concerns centre on the potential ramifications for vital government functions, including disruption to essential services to populations and economic. Damage to submarine cables and pipelines may also cause harm to the marine environment and associated ecosystem services.

International law is a critical component of policies and strategies on the protection of submarine cables. Several areas of international law set out the ambit of states’ rights and obligations on different aspects of the protection of submarine cables and pipelines and also provide frameworks for state cooperation. International law also shapes how states, international and regional bodies regulate industry actors, who play a vital role in the protection of submarine cables and pipelines. However, international law typically articulate states’ rights and obligations in general terms, and operationalizing such rights and obligations in practice faces challenges. Moreover, many of these international legal frameworks were adopted at a time when the reliance on submarine cables and pipelines was not foreseen and may not fully address the constantly evolving challenges that confront the protection of submarine cables and pipelines.

OBJECTIVES

It is against this background that the Centre for International Law (CIL) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) is organising a 2-day conference on “International Law and the Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines: Multidimensional Perspectives” on 16 and 17 September 2025 at Orchard Hotel, Singapore. The Conference brings together international lawyers, government officials, policy makers and industry experts to examine the international law that applies to the protection of submarine cables and pipelines from intentional acts of damage by states and non-state actors, with a specific focus on the law of the sea, the law on the use of force, the law of armed conflict and legal frameworks on the protection of submarine cables and pipelines as critical infrastructure.

The Conference aims to deepen an understanding of existing international legal frameworks and to provide a forum for discussing practical solutions consistent with international law to effectively protect submarine cables and pipelines. The Conference will examine a range of issues including:

- Monitoring, detection and information sharing of threats to submarine cables and pipelines;
- National laws and regulations on the protection of submarine cables and pipelines;
- Enforcement and other prevention measures at sea to threatened or actual damage to submarine cables and pipelines
- State responsibility and liability for damage to submarine cables and pipelines
- Grey zone operations, armed conflict and the protection of submarine cables and pipelines
- Protection of submarine cables and pipelines as critical infrastructure
- The role of international and regional bodies on the protection of submarine cables and pipelines
- Recommendations for the strengthening of international law on the protection of submarine cables and pipelines

DAY 1 - SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 (TUESDAY)

All times in SGT

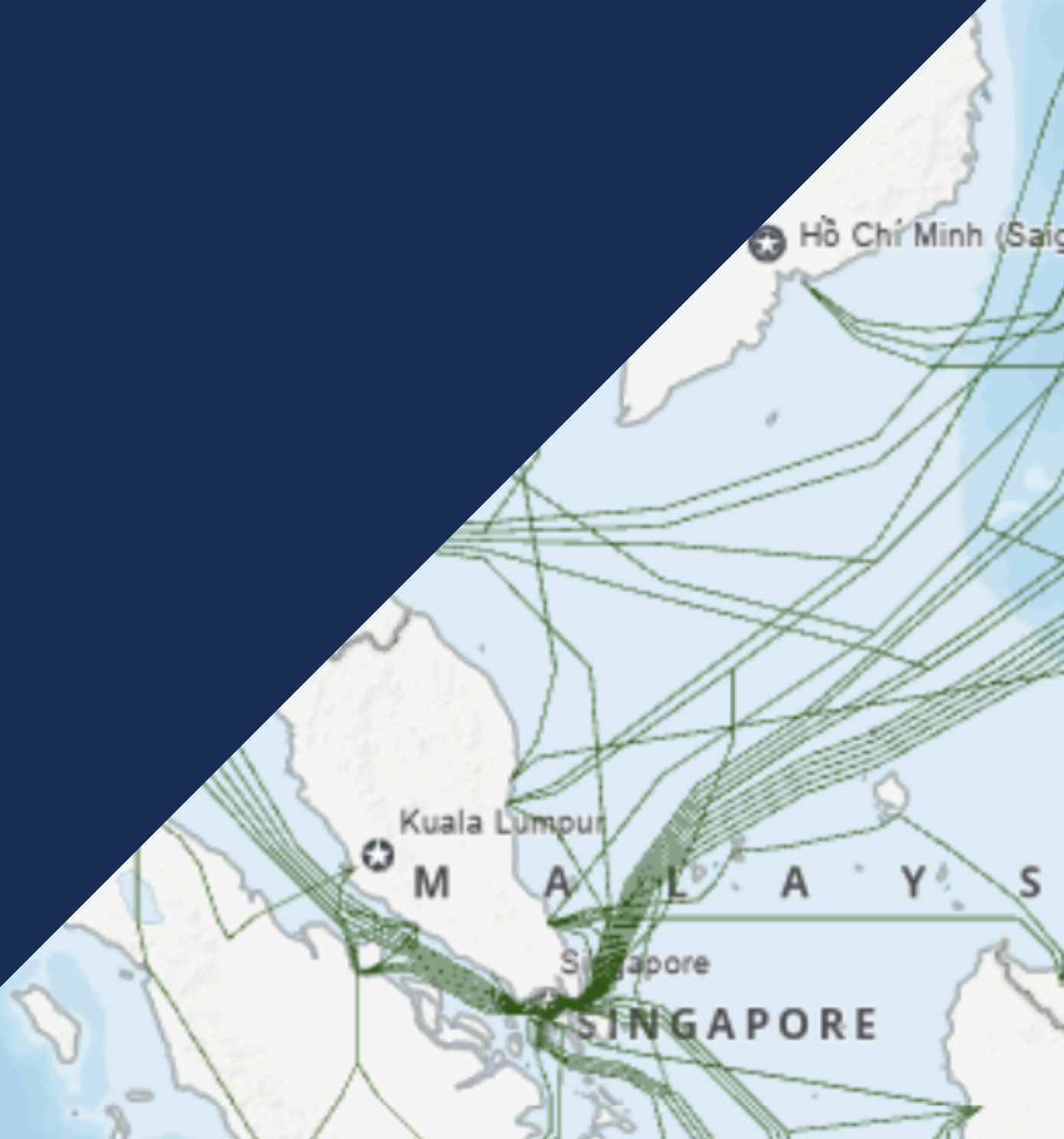
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:10	Welcome Remarks Dr. Nilufer Oral, Director, CIL
09:10 - 09:30	Keynote Address Mr. Lionel Yee, Deputy Attorney-General, AGC, Singapore
09:30 - 11:00	Session 1: Monitoring, Detection And Information Sharing
11:00 - 11:30	Break, Photo-Taking for Speakers and Moderators
11:30 - 13:00	Session 2: National Laws And Regulations
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Session 3: Enforcement And Other Prevention Measures At Sea
15:30 - 16:00	Break
16:30 - 17:30	Session 4: State Responsibility And Liability
17:30	Close of Day 1
18:00 - 20:00	Conference Dinner

DAY 2 - SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 (WEDNESDAY)

09:00 - 10:30	Session 5: Grey Zone Operations And Armed Conflicts
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:30	Session 6: Submarine Cables And Pipelines As Critical Infrastructure
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:00 - 15:00	Session 7: International And Regional Cooperation On The Protection Of Submarine Cables And Pipelines
15:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 17:00	Session 8: Strengthening The Legal Protection For Submarine Cables And Pipelines – The Way Forward
17:00 - 17:15	Closing Remarks Dr. Tara Davenport, Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy, CIL

SESSION INFORMATION

DAY 1



16 SEPTEMBER - OPENING

Opening Remarks

9.00 AM - 9.10 AM



Dr. Nilüfer ÖRAL
Director
Centre for International Law
Singapore

Keynote Address

9.10 AM - 9.30 AM



Mr. Lionel YEE
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney-General's Chambers
Singapore

16 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 1

Monitoring, Detection And Information Sharing

This session will provide an overview of the technologies and practices that are currently in place to monitor and detect threats to submarine cables and pipelines as well as mechanisms to facilitate information sharing on potential threats to submarine cables and pipelines between national agencies, cable and pipeline owner/operators and other relevant stakeholders. It will also explore how the legal framework in UNCLOS facilitates or poses obstacles to the monitoring, detection and information sharing of threats to submarine cables and pipelines.

9.30 AM - 11.00 AM	Moderator	
	Prof. Maria Gavouneli , Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece	
	Speakers and Topics	
	Mr. Andy Cowan , Vice President Business Development, FiberSense Ltd, Australia	Distributed Fiber Sensing – Security of Critical Infrastructure at Scale
	Mr. Shanaka Jayasekara , Head of Office, Programme Coordinator (UN Maritime Sanctions), UNODC, Malta	Use of MDA Technology as a Predictive and Forensic Capability in CUI Protection
	Prof. Warwick Gullett , Professor, School of Law, University of Wollongong, Australia	Monitoring threats of physical damage to submarine cables and pipelines: Questions for international law
Dr. Zhen Sun , Associate Professor (Research / Ocean Sustainability, Governance & Management), WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University, Sweden	Monitoring, detection and information sharing of threats to submarine cables and pipelines	

16 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 2

National Laws And Regulations

This session explores how states can strengthen national laws and regulations on the protection of submarine cables and pipelines, including a discussion on flag states' obligations under Article 113 of UNCLOS to criminalize breaking or injury of submarine cables and pipelines beyond territorial sovereignty; and coastal states' prescriptive jurisdiction over acts of damage to submarine cables and pipelines that occur beyond their territorial sea.

11.30 AM - 1.00 PM	Moderator	
	Prof. Dr. Alexander Proelss , Professor and Chair in the International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, Public International Law and Public Law, University of Hamburg	
	Speakers and Topics	
	Dr. Tara Davenport , Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore	Prescriptive Jurisdiction over Intentional Damage to Submarine Cables and Pipelines
	Amb. Marie Jacobsson , Member, International Advisory Panel, NUS Centre for International Law, and Associate Professor, University of Lund, Sweden	Threats to critical maritime infrastructure in the Baltic Sea region. Examples of measures taken by States in response.
	Dr. Kristi Land , Director General, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia	Estonia's perspective in protecting critical underwater infrastructure through national legislation
Dr. Su Wai Mon , Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore	Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines: The Legal and Regulatory Practices of ASEAN Member States	

16 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 3

Enforcement And Other Prevention Measures At Sea

This session discusses an important tool in the protection of submarine cables and pipelines from intentional damage, enforcement or other prevention measures at sea against vessels suspected of threatened or actual damage to submarine cables and pipelines. These measures involve varying degrees of interference with the navigation of a vessel including stopping, boarding, inspection, searches, escorting, detention and arrest of vessels and/or crew. This session explores the possible legal grounds in UNCLOS that would provide a legal basis for the exercise of such measures including by the flag state, the coastal state and other states that are holders of the freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines.

2.00 PM - 3.30 PM	Moderator	
	Emeritus Prof. Robert Beckman , Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore	
	Speakers and Topics	
	Ms. Sari Mäkelä , Senior Ministerial Adviser, Legal Service, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland	Finland's Recent Experiences with Subsea Infrastructure Incidents in the Baltic Sea
	Prof. Alfred H.A. Soons , Professor Emeritus of Public International Law, Utrecht University School of Law, The Netherlands	Coastal State enforcement jurisdiction over vessels suspected of damaging submarine cables and pipelines in its EEZ and on its continental shelf
	Prof. Atsuko Kanehara , Research Director, Canon Institute for Global Studies and Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan	Enforcement and Other Prevention Measures for Protection of Undersea Infrastructure: A Right to Protect Uses of Ocean
Dr. Efthymios Papastavridis , Assistant Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece	The protection of submarine cables in disputed maritime areas	

16 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 4

State Responsibility And Liability

This session explores what are the primary obligations of states in relation to the protection of submarine cables and pipelines and whether flag states of vessels can be held responsible for damage to submarine cables and pipelines caused by their vessels. Key hurdles include attributing the conduct to a state, invoking responsibility, identifying injured states, and associated evidentiary and jurisdictional challenges. The possibility of using UNCLOS Part XV dispute settlement mechanisms will also be explored.

4.00 PM - 5.30 PM	Moderator	
	Dr. Nilüfer Öral , Director, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore	
	Speakers and Topics	
	Mr. Rodman Bundy , Senior Partner, Squire Patton Boggs, Singapore	The Freedom to Lay Submarine Cables and Pipelines as a Basis for State Responsibility for Damage to Submarine Cables and Pipelines
	Dr. Youri van Logchem , Associate Professor of Law (Law of the Sea and Environmental Law), Norwegian Centre for Law of the Sea, UiT – Arctic University of Norway, Norway	Flag State Responsibility for Damage to Submarine Cables and Pipelines
	Dr. Danae Azaria , Associate Professor of International Law, UCL Faculty of Laws; Principal Investigator, ERC Grant on State Silence; Chair, ILA Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines under International Law	The State of Necessity and The Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines
Mr. Andrew Loewenstein , Partner, Foley Hoag	Implementing State Responsibility Through The Use of UNCLOS Part XV Dispute Settlement Mechanisms	

DAY 2



17 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 5

Grey Zone Operations And Armed Conflicts

This session explores the protection of submarine cables and pipelines through the lens of jus ad bellum and jus in bello. This includes an exploration of whether intentional damage to submarine cables and pipelines qualify as “armed attacks” under Article 51 and/or Article 2(4) of the UN Charter; as well as whether submarine cables and pipelines are legitimate military targets during armed conflict. This session will primarily include discussion on legal issues surrounding the protection of cables and pipelines in relation to armed conflicts and grey zone operations.

9.00 AM - 10.30 AM	Moderator	
	Ms. Jane Chan , Senior Fellow and Coordinator of Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, RSIS, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	
	Speakers and Topics	
	Dr. Samuel White , Senior Research Fellow – Peace & Security, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore	Prohibited Interventions and Submarine Cables
	Prof. Douglas Guilfoyle , Professor, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, UNSW Sydney, Australia	Rethinking the legal protection of submarine cables in armed conflict
	Prof. Rob McLaughlin , Professor, ANCORS, University of Wollongong, Australia	Could the Undersea Data Cable System be ‘Neutral’?
	Ms. Dita Liliansa , Research Fellow, Ocean Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore	The Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines in Armed Conflict: An Asian Perspective

17 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 6

Submarine Cables And Pipelines As Critical Infrastructure

This session analyses the protection of submarine cables and pipelines as critical infrastructure and to what extent various international terrorism conventions relevant to critical infrastructure, norms on responsible use of information communication technologies and cyber infrastructure, and the developing state practice on critical infrastructure legislation applies to submarine cables and pipelines.

11.00 AM - 12.30 PM	Moderator	
	Prof. Alfred H.A. Soons , Professor Emeritus of Public International Law, Utrecht University School of Law, The Netherlands	
	Speakers and Topics	
	Prof. Dr. Alexander Proelss , Professor and Chair in the International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, Public International Law and Public Law, University of Hamburg	Protection of Critical Offshore Infrastructure: International Legal Challenges
	Dr. Camino Kavanagh , Visiting Research Fellow, Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy School of Security Studies, Department of War Studies, King's College London, United Kingdom	From Policy to Practice – Subsea Telecommunications Cables as CI
	Ms. Asha Hemrajani , Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence in National Security (CENS), RSIS, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Protection of Submarine Cables as Critical Infrastructure: Singapore's Perspective
	Dr. Vu Hai Dang , Expert, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Vietnam	Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines as Critical Infrastructure: Vietnam's Practice

17 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 7

International And Regional Cooperation On The Protection Of Submarine Cables And Pipelines

International and regional bodies play a crucial role in fostering dialogue and cooperation, harmonizing legal frameworks, and promoting joint initiatives for infrastructure security. By leveraging collective expertise and resources, these organizations can enhance resilience and ensure the sustainable and secure management of undersea assets. This session will examine the role of international and regional bodies on the protection of submarine cables and pipelines, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as non-governmental bodies such as the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), and some of the challenges that pose obstacles to effective cooperation on protection of submarine infrastructure.

1.30 PM - 3.00 PM	Moderator	
	Ms. Loh Woon Sien , Senior Director, Infrastructure Planning & Market Development, Infocomm Media Development Authority	
	Speakers and Topics	
	Mr. Darren Griffiths , Executive Committee Member, International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC); Head of Marine Maintenance, OMS Group Sdn Bhd	Industry Perspectives on the Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines
	Emeritus Prof. Robert Beckman , Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, Singapore	International Organisations and the Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines
	Mr. Kenneth Wong , Senior Director / Senior State Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore	The Role of ASEAN in the Protection of Submarine Cables and Pipelines
Ms. Elina Noor , Senior Fellow, Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Singapore	Protecting Submarine Cables and Pipelines and Challenges for Regional Cooperation by Southeast Asian States	

17 SEPTEMBER - SESSION 8

Strengthening The Legal Protection For Submarine Cables And Pipelines – The Way Forward

The round-table discussion focuses on concrete recommendations, including the development of enhanced legal provisions within UNCLOS, the establishment of enforcement measures, and the creation of cooperative bodies to strengthen protection and governance of submarine cables and pipelines amidst evolving geopolitical threats.

3.30 PM - 5.00 PM	Moderator
	Dr. Danae AZARIA , Associate Professor of Public International Law, UCL Faculty of Laws; Principal Investigator, ERC Grant on State Silence; Chair, ILA Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines under International Law, United Kingdom
	Speakers
	Mr. Kent BRESSIE , Legal Advisor/ Partner, International Cable Protection Committee/ HWG LLP, United States of America
	Prof. Christian BUEGER , Professor, University of Copenhagen, Denmark/ Germany
	Amb. Rolf Einar FIFE , Special Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
	Ms. Daphne HONG , Solicitor General, Attorney-General's Chambers, Singapore
	Dr. Muhammad Taufan , Official, Directorate of Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lan Anh NGUYEN , Vice President, Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam

SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

BIOGRAPHIES

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Dr. Danae AZARIA

Associate Professor of Public International Law,
University College London;
Principal Investigator, ERC Grant on State Silence;
Chair, ILA Committee on Submarine Cables and
Pipelines under International Law
United Kingdom

Dr Danae Azaria is a general public international lawyer. She is Associate Professor at UCL's Faculty of Laws, and the Principal Investigator of the European Research Council grant (ID: 850706) on State Silence, which supports her research and her research team on the legal effects of the silence of States in international law-making, responsibility and dispute settlement. The grant has led to the publication of 25 research outputs to date, including the recent book: *State Silence Across International Law* (OUP 2025).

She is a laureate of the Guggenheim Prize in Public International Law (2017) for her monograph, *Treaties on Transit of Energy via Pipelines and Countermeasures* (OUP 2015). She is the Chair of the ILA Committee on Submarine Pipelines and Cables in international law; member of the ILA Committee on Consent to Military Action; and member of the Advisory Panel of Public International Law of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL). She is the Book Reviews Editor and member of the Editorial Board of the *British Yearbook of International Law*, and Managing Editor of the *American Journal of International Law Unbound*. She regularly holds Visiting Professorships and Fellowships, including as Visiting Scholar, Harvard Law School (2023); Senior Global Hauser Fellow, NYU Law School (2023-2024); Senior Humboldt Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2019-2021).

Dr Azaria is a qualified lawyer (Athens Bar, Greece) with significant practice in public international law. She regularly advises international organizations and governments on various issues of public international law, and in contentious proceedings before international courts and tribunals, such as the International Court of Justice, and arbitral tribunals. She is on the EU's list of potential Arbitrators and Experts on Trade and Sustainable Development in the EU's bilateral disputes under trade agreements with third States. She regularly trains government officials, including in the regional courses on international law of the United Nations.



Prof. Robert C. BECKMAN

Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy
Centre for International Law
Singapore

Prof Beckman is an international lawyer with a special interest in legal skills. For many years he taught Public International Law, International Legal Process and Introduction to Legal Method, and coached the NUS Jessup Moot team and other NUS international moot teams.

He was the founding Director of the Centre for International Law (CIL), a university-wide research institute that is closely affiliated to the Faculty of Law. He served as the Director from 2009 to July 2016. He now serves as the Head of CIL's programme Ocean Law and Policy.

Since joining CIL he has been joint editor of several books, has published journal articles and chapters in books, and has made numerous invited presentations at international conferences and workshops. He has lectured the prestigious Rhodes Academy of International Law since 2010, and is a member of its Board of Directors.

Prof Beckman served as the Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) from 2001 to 2006. He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) at the 2007 National Day Awards and the Long Service Medal at the 2013 National Day Awards. He has also received two awards from NUS – the Outstanding Educator Award in 2001, and the Staff Achievement Award in 1997.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Mr. Kent BRESSIE

Legal Advisor/ Partner
International Cable Protection
Committee/ HWG LLP
United States of America

Kent Bressie is Partner and Head of International Practice with the law firm HWG LLP in Washington DC and the Legal Adviser to the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC), the world's leading nongovernmental organization dedicated to submarine cable protection and resilience. Kent has worked extensively in the submarine cable sector for more than 30 years. His work includes: cable protection and the law of the sea; national security and foreign investment; telecoms licensing; corporate and commercial agreements for construction and maintenance, capacity sales, system supply, landings, and financing; environmental permitting; market access; and cable damage claims. He represents the ICPC before the International Seabed Authority and in implementation processes for the BBNJ Agreement. He currently serves as Co-Executive Secretary of the International Advisory Body on Submarine Cable Resilience, a joint initiative of the ICPC and the International Telecommunication Union, the U.N. agency for digital technologies. He previously served as a consultant to the World Bank for telecommunications development and trade. He is also a member of the International Law Association's Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines. He is a graduate of Stanford University, the University of Chicago Law School, and the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy.



Prof. Christian BUEGER

Professor
University of Copenhagen
Denmark/ Germany

Prof Christian Bueger is a professor of international relations at the University of Copenhagen and a research fellow at the United Nations Institute For Disarmament Research. He is the author of 'Understanding Maritime Security' (Oxford University Press, 2024, with Tim Edmunds). He has explored questions of maritime security, global governance and ocean politics in over 200 publications. His current main focus of research is critical maritime infrastructure protection and informal security governance. He is a regular speaker at international ocean events and in 2025 he was invited to brief the UN Security Council on maritime security. Further information including publications is available at www.bueger.info



Mr. Rodman BUNDY

Senior Partner
Squire Patton Boggs
Singapore

Rodman Bundy is a member of the International Dispute Resolution Practice Group and has more than 35 years of experience as counsel and advocate in high-profile public international law litigations and international commercial and investment arbitrations, including appearances before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal and various ad hoc, ICC and ICSID arbitral tribunals.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Ms. Jane CHAN

Senior Fellow
RSIS, Nanyang Technological University
Singapore

Jane CHAN is a Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. Her main research interests include maritime security issues in Southeast Asia, law and order at sea, regional maritime cooperation and confidence-building measures, and regional boundary delimitation and territorial disputes. She is an affiliated faculty at the Singapore Arm Forces (SAF)-NTU Academy (SNA).



Mr. Andy COWAN

Vice President Business Development
FiberSense Ltd
Australia

Andy drives business development, commercial opportunities and government relations at FiberSense within the Asia Pacific region. Andy brings an extensive background in trade and investment and strong leadership in the technology, defence and national security sectors. With over 15 years working at State and Federal Government levels, Andy has in-depth experience in government relations, foreign affairs and trade both within Australia and abroad.

Prior to joining FiberSense, Andy was the inaugural Investment Commissioner for the Northern Territory Government of Australia with responsibility for promotion and attraction of investment in the Territory and driving governments plan for a \$40 billion economy by 2030.

Preceding this role, Andy was the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation in the Northern Territory of Australia. Over a period of 8 years in these two roles, he had responsibility for defence and national security, regional economic development, international engagement, trade and investment, workforce development and small business portfolios.

He has over 2 decades of executive leadership experience in the public and private sectors. Andy has tertiary qualifications in science and education and is an Executive Fellow of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.



Dr. Tara Maria DAVENPORT

Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy
Centre for International Law
National University of Singapore

Dr. Tara Davenport is Deputy Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law, an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS) and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law (CIL) at NUS. She has an LLB from the London School of Economics, an LLM in Maritime Law from NUS, an LLM and JSD from Yale Law School. She received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2013 and the NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship in 2014.

She is a qualified Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore. Her current research interests are public international law, law of the sea and international dispute settlement. She has written on the South China Sea disputes, submarine cables and deep seabed mining. She is a member of the Legal Working Group on Liability for Environmental Harm from Activities in the Area convened by the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority. She is also the Rapporteur for the International Law Association Study Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Amb. Rolf Einar FIFE

Special Advisor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Norway

Member of the UN International Law Commission, the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the Institut de droit international. Director-général for legal affairs MFA 2002-2014, ambassador of Norway to France 2014-2019, to the EU 2019-2024.



Prof. Maria GAVOUNELI

Professor of International Law, Faculty
of Law, National & Kapodistrian
University of Athens, Greece

LL.M. (Cantab), Ph.D. (Cantab); Guggenheim Prize; Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur
Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law & Deputy Director, Athens Public International Law Center – Athens PIL; Director, Refugee & Migration Studies Hub – RMS Hub, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens
OECD Centre for Population Dynamics, inaugural Chair of the Expert Advisory Board
Fulbright Scholar – Greece at the University of California Berkeley (2018-2019); visiting professor and lecturer in several universities and research institutions around the world, including The Hague Academy of International Law, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), Tulane University (USA), the University of Edinburgh (Brodies Lecture), the University of Oxford, the University of Glasgow, the University of Manchester, Utrecht University, the University of Ankara, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, Université Paris 2 Panthéon Assas, the NUS Academy of International Law, Académie de la Mer – Monaco; published extensively on the law of the sea, energy and environmental law as well as migration issues.
(Global) President, International Law Association; President of the ILA – Hellenic Branch; Vice-president, Hellenic Society of International Law & International Relations; Member of the Board of Directors, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy – ELIAMEP
President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights
Member, National Foreign Policy Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hellenic Republic
Counsel, legal advisor and consultant in energy and environmental matters; arbitrator and STD expert under the EU trade agreements

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Mr. Darren GRIFFITHS

Head of Marine Maintenance,
OMS Group Sdn. Bhd
Executive Committee Member,
International Cable Protection
Committee

Darren currently holds the position of Head of Marine Maintenance within OMS Group leading the Marine Maintenance portfolio across the fleet, spanning the Atlantic, SE Asian, and Pacific regions. Having experience in both commercial and operational positions across his initial time working for Alcatel Submarine Networks, and now with OMS Group, Darren brings invaluable knowledge and experience of working and cultural relationships within the various regions and understands the difficulties the industry faces in each of these areas. Darren is driven to improve cable resilience, protection, and improved techniques to support efficient repair durations and resolutions for customers.



Prof. Douglas GUILFOYLE

Professor of International Law and
Security
University of New South Wales
(Canberra)
Australia

Douglas Guilfoyle is Professor of International Law and Security at the University of New South Wales Canberra and is presently an Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2022-2025) working on the project 'Legal statecraft: small states and the law of the sea'. He is a Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and an editor of the Oxford University Press series, Elements of International Law. His principal areas of research are maritime security, the international law of the sea, and international and transnational criminal law. He has also written on the law of naval warfare, international courts and tribunals, and the history of international law.

His awards and visiting appointments include having been the Lieber Scholar at the United States Military Academy (West Point) (2024), a visiting Fellow at the Seapower Centre – Australia (2022-2024), a Visiting Legal Fellow at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2019-2020), and a British Academy Mid-Career Fellow (2012-2013). He was a Gates Cambridge Trust scholar and Chevening scholar during graduate study at the University of Cambridge. During his graduate study he was also elected a Bateman Scholar of Trinity Hall.

He was previously a Professor of Law at Monash University (2015-2018), and a Lecturer and later Reader in Law at University College London (2007-2015). He has worked as a judicial associate in the Australian Federal Court and the Australian Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and has practised as a commercial litigation solicitor in Sydney.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Prof. Warwick GULLETT

Professor of Law
School of Law and ANCORS
University of Wollongong
Australia

Warwick Gullett is Professor of Law and former Dean of Law at the University of Wollongong and former Deputy and Acting Director of the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong. His research interests focus on legal protection of the marine environment and the international law of the sea. He is the author of *Fisheries Law in Australia* (335pp, LexisNexis Butterworths, 2008), co-editor of *Asia-Pacific and the Implementation of the Law of the Sea: Regional Legislative and Policy Approaches to the Law of the Sea Convention* (230pp, Brill/Nijhoff, 2016) and co-editor of *Marine Resources Management* (359pp, LexisNexis Butterworths, 2011). Professor Gullett has served on the Editorial Committee of the *Environmental and Planning Law Journal* and the *Australasian Journal of Natural Resources Law and Policy*. He was Editor of the *Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs* for 2007-2010 and is currently Current Legal Developments Editor for the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Ocean Law and Policy*. He was formerly a (part-time) Chair Professor at the Faculty of Law, Xiamen University (2021-2024). Professor Gullett serves on a specialist study group of the International Law Association (concerning the legal regime for submarine cables and pipelines).

Professor Gullett has written extensively on laws regarding the marine environment, in particular focusing on fisheries law, marine protected areas, marine resource management and jurisdictional issues. His work has been cited by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal, NSW Land and Environment Court and the South Australian Environment Resources and Development Court. He has undertaken consultancy work for the UN's International Seabed Authority. He has supervised 13 PhD students to completion. Warwick completed his LLB at Monash University and PhD at the Australian National University



Ms. Daphne HONG

Solicitor General
Attorney-General's Chambers
Singapore

Daphne Hong is the Director-General of the International Affairs Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers. She started her legal career in 1991 as a judicial officer in the Singapore Judiciary, first in the State Courts as Magistrate and then District Judge, before joining the Supreme Court as Senior Assistant Registrar in 2004. As a judicial officer, she has dealt with the entire range of cases, spanning civil trials (including commercial cases), criminal trials and family law cases. She moved to the International Affairs Division in 2006, where she undertook international law advisory and negotiation work covering the entire range of international law issues. She was attached to Singapore's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York as its legal advisor from September to December 2009. From 2010 to 2015, her primary focus was on international economic law, encompassing trade and investment law and international intellectual property law. She was the lead counsel for the government in the negotiation of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. She also led the legal team in Singapore's intervention as a third party in the Tobacco Plain Packing dispute before the WTO.

She was appointed as Director-General of the International Affairs Division in August 2016. In this role, she is the Legal Adviser of Singapore and heads the legal department that advises the government on all international law matters, including international economic law, law of the sea, aviation law and human rights law. She also represents Singapore in international negotiations and dispute resolution. More recently, she was involved in the applications before the International Court of Justice involving, inter alia, sovereignty over the island, Pedra Branca.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Ms. Asha HEMRAJANI

Senior Fellow,
RSIS, Nanyang Technological University
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Asha Hemrajani is Senior Fellow at the Centre of Excellence in National Security (CENS) at RSIS. Her research covers digital infrastructure, emerging technologies, cybersecurity, information and data security, Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), Artificial Intelligence safety/security as well as the intersection of geopolitics and technologies in the spheres of national security, disinformation and terrorism.

Ms. Hemrajani's experience spans network engineering, strategy, regulatory in the mobile communications, domain names and cybersecurity sectors. She was formerly a member of the Board of Directors at ICANN, the global domain names regulator. She has a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a ModularMaster in Cybersecurity by Design.



Amb. Marie G. JACOBSSON

Director and Associate Professor
Dalhem International Law Ltd. and
Lund University
Sweden

Dr. Marie Jacobsson was the Principal Legal Adviser on International Law and Ambassador at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm, until her retirement on 1 June 2023. She had worked as an adviser on international law at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 1987. Prior to that she worked for the Swedish Defence Staff as analyst and adviser on security policy matters. She holds a doctoral degree in international law from Lund University, Sweden where she also is Associate Professor of International Law. Dr. Jacobsson was a Member of the United Nations International Law Commission 2007-2016 and ILC's Special Rapporteur for the topic Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts (PERAC) 2013-2016.

The focus of her work at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was on international peace and security and she has since her retirement continued to work as independent consultant on matters relating to international law and security.

She is Member of Permanent Court of Arbitration and designated arbitrator under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and Conciliator, Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE.

Dr. Jacobsson has several national and international assignments including as Chair of Stockholm Centre International Law and Justice (SCILJ) at Stockholm University, Member of the International Advisory Panel at the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore (CIL/NUS) and Member of the Geostrategic Council at the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and Member of the Board of Directors of the Åland Islands Peace Institute. She is an active Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences and of the Royal Society of Naval Sciences.

Alongside her work at the MFA, Dr Jacobsson has maintained a deep and on-going commitment to academic issues.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Mr. Shanaka JAYASEKARA

Head of Office in Malta
United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime (UNODC)
Malta/ Australia

Shanaka Jayasekara (AUSTRALIA) is the UNODC Head of Office in Malta and Programme Coordinator (UN Maritime Sanctions).

Shanaka has been with UNODC since 2013 and served in several field offices. Prior to his posting to Malta in 2025, Shanaka served as the Regional Programme Coordinator (South East Asia and the Pacific) for the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) based in Bangkok, Thailand from 2019 - 2015. He led a team of 26 staff members located in 8 offices across Southeast Asia and Pacific. The Southeast Asia portfolio delivered activities in 8 member states, while the Pacific portfolio delivered activities in 12 member states and 2 territories. During his tenure, UNODC facilitated the recommencement of preparatory meetings of the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACF), established the Pacific Heads of Police Maritime Units (HPMU), and MDA Talanoa of Pacific Regional Security Secretariats. He also spearheaded the induction of new technology with the installation of Terrestrial based Passive RF Sensors to detect vessels without AIS, delivery of the first Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) used by a coast guard agency in Southeast Asia and installation of Terrestrial AIS Receivers across remote Pacific islands.

Prior to that, Shanaka served as the Programme Coordinator (Indian Ocean Region) heading the Indian Ocean team of the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) based in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 2017-2019. The Indian Ocean team supported maritime law enforcement agencies of littoral states counter illicit activity at sea with engagement in 11 Indian Ocean states. The Southern Route Partnership (SRP) and the Trilateral Planning Cell (TPC) were key initiatives established in the region to counter heroin trafficking on the Southern Route.

Shanaka served as Programme Officer (Maritime Crime) in Nairobi, Kenya from 2015-2017 strengthening regional coordination of maritime law enforcement agencies counter heroin trafficking on the Southern Route.

Shanaka served as Programme Officer (Counter Piracy) in Seychelles from 2013-2015, supporting the Seychelles criminal justice system provide a fair and efficient juridical process for the prosecution of maritime pirates detained by foreign navies off the coast of Somalia.

Prior to joining UNODC, Shanaka was a Lecturer at the Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia.

Shanaka is a Chevening Scholar and has a Masters in International Security Studies from St. Andrew's University in Scotland, and a BCom (Politics and International Relations) from Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia.

Shanaka is married to Dilani and they have two sons, Rajiv and Sanjiv.



Dr. Camino KAVANAGH

Visiting Research Fellow
King's College London
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Dr. Camino Kavanagh, the lead researcher on this report, is a Research Fellow with UNIDIR's Security and Technology Programme, and a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Department of War Studies at King's College London. She also works as an international consultant on issues pertaining to cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, international security and conflict. Among other roles, Camino served as Advisor/Rapporteur for the 2019-2021 Open-ended Working Group and Group of Governmental

Experts on ICTs and International Security and for the 2016-2017 GGE on the same topic.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Prof. Atsuko KANEHARA

Research Director
Canon Institute for Global Studies,
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Graduate from Faculty of Law, the University of Tokyo

Expert on Public International Law.

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Senior Fellow for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Former Professor of International Law at Sophia University.

Past President of the Japanese Society of International Law.

Member of the Governing Board of IMO International Maritime Law Institute.

Advocate for the Government of Japan in “Southern Bluefin Tuna” Cases.

Counsel for the Government of Japan in “Whaling in the Antarctic” Case.

Past Policy Adviser for the Japan Coast Guard

Former Councilor of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy of Japan, Appointed by Prime Minister, Government of Japan

Member of the Committee on Submarine Cables and Pipelines under the International Law Association

She delivered lectures at The Hague Academy of International Law in 2017, entitled “Reassessment of the Acts of the State in the Law of State Responsibility—A Proposal of an Integrative Theoretical Framework of the Law of State Responsibility to Effectively Cope with the Internationally Harmful Acts of Non-State Actors,” which was published in *Recueils des cours*, Vol. 399 (2019).

Her principal recent publications in English are:

A. Kanehara and M. Yanagihara, Japan’s Territory under International Law, (Brill, September, 2024)

“The Houthi Rebels’ Attack against Japan-Related Vessel in the Red Sea: An Idea of ‘the Right to Protect Uses of Sea’”, https://cigs.canon/en/article/20241224_8535.html

“How to Ensure the Safety of the Japan Coast Guard While Maintaining Its Nature as A Police Organ When It Conducts Missions in Collaboration with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force under the Control Guidelines,” *Japan Review*, Vol 6, No. 2 (2024)

“Refining Japan’s Integrative Position on the Territorial Sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands,” *International Law Studies*, Vol. 97 (2021)

“The Use of Force in Maritime Security and the Use of Arms in Law Enforcement under the Current Wide Understanding of Maritime Security,” *Japan Review*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (2019).



Dr. Kristi LAND

Director General, Legal Department
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Kristi Land works for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2004. In the Ministry, she has held several legal postings and worked at the Estonian Embassy in Brussels covering Belgium, Luxemburg and Switzerland as well. Currently she is the Director General of the Legal Department. Her academic career started at the Law Faculty of the University of Tartu, Estonia and continued at the Walter-Schücking-Institute for International Law at the University of Kiel, Germany, where she obtained a doctoral degree in the year 2000.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Ms. Dita LILIANSA

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Dita Liliansa is a Research Fellow at the Ocean Law and Policy Programme of the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore (NUS), where she has been based since 2018. She is also a member of the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on the Protection of People at Sea, nominated by ILA Singapore. Her current research focuses on human rights at sea, the law of naval warfare, and emerging maritime security issues. She has published widely on ASEAN, fisheries, the marine environment, passage regimes, and Indonesia's foreign policy. In 2021, her article in the Asian Journal of International Law won Second Prize in the Asian Society of International Law (AsianSIL) Junior Scholar Award.

Beyond research, she regularly teaches in CIL's capacity-building programmes and delivers guest lectures at law schools in Singapore, Indonesia, and India.

Before joining CIL, she was a researcher and lecturer in Indonesia and did short stints at law firms in Jakarta and Bangkok. She holds a law degree (LLB) from the University of Indonesia and a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Washington, where she was a Fulbright Scholar. She was also a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Transnational Legal Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, from 2017 to 2018.



Mr. Andrew LOEWENSTEIN

Partner
Foley Hoag

Andrew Loewenstein focuses on public international law as well as investor-State arbitration and international commercial disputes. He has particular expertise advising governments, corporations, and non-governmental organizations on international legal matters.

Andrew's work involves international boundary disputes, the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, international investment law and investor-State disputes, international environmental law, and international human rights and humanitarian law.

Andrew frequently represents sovereign States before the International Court of Justice (the "World Court") in The Hague, the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), and U.S. domestic courts under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA). Andrew also represents clients in court actions relating to the enforcement of international arbitration agreements and awards under the New York Convention, enforcement of foreign court judgments, and in obtaining discovery in the United States in aid of foreign proceedings, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Ms. LOH Woon Sien

Senior Director
Infrastructure Planning & Market
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Ms Loh Woon Sien is the Senior Director of the Infrastructure Planning & Market Development (IPMD) group of the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA).

She leads the development of policy and regulations to drive the development of digital infrastructure and the telecommunication market in Singapore, covering domestic and international connectivity and market entry, competition and consumer matters. In advancing Singapore's global connectivity, Ms Loh chairs the ASEAN Working Group for Submarine Cables with IMDA leading efforts to promote and adopt best practices in submarine cable protection and repairs in the region.

Prior to this, she was Director of Strategy and Corporate Planning in IMDA, overseeing the reviews of programme strategies, programme evaluations, enterprise risk management and data and economic analysis to support policy and programme development.



Ms. Sari MÄKELÄ

Senior Ministerial Adviser
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland

Sari Mäkelä is an experienced legal expert specializing in the law of the sea and public international law. She currently serves as Senior Ministerial Adviser at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, where she provides legal counsel on matters related to ocean governance. Her previous roles include Director of the Unit for Public International Law within the Ministry's Legal Service and Legal Adviser to Finland's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Throughout her career, she has represented Finland in a broad range of international negotiations and processes related to the law of the sea, including at the United Nations and within the European Union, and in bilateral relations. Her expertise also encompasses the domestic implementation of international treaty obligations and the preparation of legislation governing Finland's maritime zones. Recently, emerging maritime security challenges in the Baltic Sea have required increased attention and legal engagement.



Prof. Rob McLAUGHLIN

Professor
ANCORS, University of Wollongong
Australia

Prof Rob McLaughlin is Professor of International Law at the Australian National Centre for Oceans Resources and Security, Senior Fellow at the Stockton Centre for International Law at the US Naval War College, and Honorary Professor at the Australian National University. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, and of the Royal Historical Society. He holds a PhD from Cambridge University, and researches, publishes, and teaches in the areas of Law of Armed Conflict, Law of the Sea, Maritime Security and Enforcement Law, and Military Law. He sometimes consults for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ICRC, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Rob came to academia after a career in the Royal Australian Navy as a Seaman officer (surface vessels and submarines) and then as a Legal officer. His legal roles in the Navy and Defence included Fleet Legal Officer, Strategic Legal Adviser, Counsel Assisting the HMAS SYDNEY II Commission of Inquiry, Director Operations and International Law, Director Naval Legal Service, Assistant Inspector General ADF (as part of Justice Brereton's Afghanistan Special Force Inquiry), and (2020-2023) Chief Legal Officer to the Nuclear Powered Submarine Task Force and the Australian Submarine Agency. He holds the rank of Commodore.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Ms. Elina NOOR

Senior Fellow, Asia Program
Carnegie Endowment for International
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Singapore

Elina Noor is a senior fellow in the Asia Program at Carnegie where she focuses on developments in Southeast Asia, particularly the impact and implications of technology in reshaping power dynamics, governance, and nation-building in the region.

Previously, Elina was director of political-security affairs and deputy director of the Washington, D.C. office at the Asia Society Policy Institute. Prior to that, Elina was an associate professor at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu. She spent most of her career at the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia, where she last held the position of director, foreign policy and security studies. Elina was also formerly with the Brookings Institution's Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World.

Between 2017 and 2019, Elina was part of the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace. From 2021 to 2023, she served on the International Committee of the Red Cross Global Advisory Board on digital threats during conflict. She currently serves on the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

Elina read law at Oxford University. She obtained an LL.M (Public International Law) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, graduating with distinction at the top of her class. A recipient of the Perdana (Malaysian Prime Minister's) Fellowship, she also holds an MA in security studies from Georgetown University, where she was a Women in International Security Scholar.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lan Anh NGUYEN

Vice President
Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam

Dr. Nguyen Thi Lan Anh is the Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam (DAV) and concurrently serves as Dean of the International Law Faculty at DAV. She is also the Vice President of the Asian Society of International Law and an arbitrator nominated by Viet Nam under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

With over two decades of experience in international law, especially the law of the sea, Dr. Nguyen has held various academic and diplomatic positions, including Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Viet Nam in the United Kingdom. Her work focuses on maritime security, international dispute settlement, and regional legal cooperation.

She serves as a legal adviser to several expert groups within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and contributes to Vietnam's legal engagement in multilateral settings, including its term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (2020-2021).

Dr. Nguyen has published extensively on issues of international and maritime law with leading academic publishers and journals. She also lectures internationally in training programs for government, military, and legal professionals across the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Dr. Nilüfer ÖRAL

Director
Centre for International Law
Singapore

Nilufer Oral is Director of the Centre of International Law at the National University of Singapore. She is a member of the UN International Law Commission (ILC) and served as Chairperson of the 74th session of the ILC. She is a Co-chair of the ILC Study Group on sea-level rise in relation to international law. She is a Member of the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law and is an associate member of the Institut de Droit International. She was a legal advisor and climate change negotiator for Turkish MFA (2009-2016). She is currently a Member of the Committee of Legal Experts of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS). She served a member of Council of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and was Co-Chair of the Oceans Specialist Group of the World Commission of Environmental Law. She has extensive academic publications.



Dr. Efthymios (Akis) PAPANASTAVRIDIS

Assistant Professor of Law
National and Kapodistrian University of
Athens
Greece

In May 2025 Dr Efthymios (Akis) Papastavridis was appointed Assistant Professor of International Law at the Faculty of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). Previously he was teaching international law at the Faculty of Law, NKUA as a teaching associate both at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. In the period 2021-2024 Dr Papastavridis was the Principal Investigator of the Research Project 'EU Maritime Security post-2020' (EUMARSEC 2020+), hosted by the Athens PIL Center, Faculty of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (<https://www.eumarsec.law.uoa.gr/>).

Dr Papastavridis is also a visiting Lecturer at the Faculty of Law of University of Oxford since 2016. He currently teaches International Law of the Sea at the BCL/MJur Programme and he has previously taught International Law of Armed Conflict at the BCL/MJur Programme and Public International Law at the undergraduate level. He was an Oxford Martin Fellow at the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford during the period 2016-2022. Also, Dr Papastavridis is since 2019 legal consultant of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Global Maritime Crime Programme. In addition, since 2010 he has been working as a Research Fellow at the Academy of Athens, Bureau of International Relations, under the supervision of Professor Emmanuel Roucouas.

He was formerly Expert Counsellor on Public International Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece (2016-2019). In that capacity he participated in various international meetings (e.g., on Cyprus, the Prespa Agreement) and in bilateral talks on maritime delimitation. He was also Part-time Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Democritus University of Thrace (2010-2016) and Post-doctoral Fellow at the Faculty of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2012-2015).

Dr. Papastavridis has read law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and at University College London. In 2009 he was awarded a PhD in Public International Law from University College London

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Prof. Alexander PROELSS

Professor
University of Hamburg
Germany

Professor Dr. Alexander Proelss is the Chair in the International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, Public International Law and Public Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Hamburg, where he is also the Director of the Institute for the Law of the Sea and for Maritime Law (ISSR). Before joining the University of Hamburg in 2018, he was Professor for Public Law, in particular Public International Law and European Union Law, at the Universities of Trier (since 2010) and Kiel (since 2007). While international environmental law and the international law of the sea constitute the focal points of his research, he has also published extensively on issues of general international law, European Union law, and constitutional law. Alexander Proelss has been a member of several national and international research consortia and has advised State agencies, international organizations and private actors both in Germany and abroad at numerous occasions. He has held visiting professorships at leading foreign universities and regularly offers lectures and courses at international conferences and as part of foreign study programmes.



Prof. Alfred SOONS

Professor Emeritus of Public
International Law
Utrecht University
The Netherlands

Prof. Fred Soons studied law at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, followed by postgraduate studies in international law at the University of Washington (Seattle, USA) and Cambridge University (UK). He obtained a PhD-degree at Utrecht University in 1982 with a thesis on the international legal regime of marine scientific research.

After having served from 1976 in various legal and policy positions as a civil servant at the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Water Management and Public Works he became professor of public international law and director of the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS) at Utrecht University in 1987. During 1995-1998 he was dean of the Faculty of Law. He retired from the university in 2014. Between 2006 and 2018 he also served as adjunct professor of international law at the University of Curacao.

He was, inter alia, president of the Netherlands Society of International Law, Director of Studies of the International Law Association (ILA), member and chairman of the Jury for the Hague Prize for International Law, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Netherlands Defense Academy, and member and chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee on Public International Law of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2015 he served on the Evaluation Commission on the constitutional status of the Caribbean islands of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius

Currently he serves, inter alia, as member of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/ABE-LOS).

As counsel and arbitrator he is and has been involved in international litigation at the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and inter-State arbitral tribunals. He is a member of the Institut de droit international.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Dr. Zhen SUN

Associate Professor (Research/ OSGM)
World Maritime University
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Dr. Zhen Sun is an Associate Professor (Research/Ocean Sustainability, Governance & Management) at the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden. Her main research interests include the law of the sea, international regulation of shipping, gender equality in ocean governance, climate actions and the protection of the marine environment.

At WMU, Zhen plays an active role in launching and executing several high-level research programmes, including currently serving as Co-Principal Investigator (PI) for two externally funded interdisciplinary research programmes. She contributes to delivering the MSc Ocean Sustainability, Governance & Management (OSGM) specialization and the PhD Programme in Maritime Affairs through substantial teaching and supervision commitments.

Before joining WMU, Zhen was a Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore. She was a member of the CIL Ocean Law and Policy team, where she worked on various subjects related to the law of the sea. Zhen was the researcher-in-charge for several research projects and capacity-building activities at CIL, including projects funded by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

Zhen has contributed to the editorial work of several book projects and special issues, and published many book chapters and journal articles on various topics related to the law of the sea and ocean governance. Her monograph, *Finding a Balance in the Exclusive Economic Zone: Conflict and Stability in the Law of the Sea*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2025. Zhen received a Bachelor of Laws Degree from Hainan University and an LLM in International Law from China University of Political Science and Law in China. She continued her education in the United Kingdom, receiving an LLM in Public International Law (with distinction) from the University of Edinburgh and a PhD from the University of Cambridge.



Dr. MUHAMMAD Taufan

Official, Directorate of Legal Affairs and
Territorial Treaties, the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

Dr. Muhammad Taufan is Coordinator for Maritime Boundary and Air Law at Directorate of Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. His responsibility around on maritime boundary delimitation, ocean affairs, and air and space law issues. Currently he holds Minister Counsellor rank of diplomatic at the Ministry. Previously, he was the UN General Assembly's 6th committee (legal) expert from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN in New York between 2019 and 2022. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy from Flinders University, Australia; Master of Law from IMO-International Maritime Law Institute, Malta; and Bachelor of Laws from Diponegoro University, Indonesia. In 2021, Taufan was elected by the Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (SPLOS) as the 31st Vice President of SPLOS. He also served as Vice-Chair of the ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean, UNGA (2021- 2022), and coordinator of the draft resolution on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disaster (PPED), 6th committee UNGA (2020-2022).

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Dr. Youri VAN LOGCHEM

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Dr Youri van Logchem (LLB, LLM, PhD, FHEA) is an Associate Professor of Law (Law of the Sea & Environmental Law) at the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway where he is also the Academic Director of the LLM in Law of the Sea. Before that, he was a senior lecturer at the Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law at Swansea University and a PhD fellow at the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS), at Utrecht University. Youri has published widely on law of the sea issues, including a monograph entitled “The Rights and Obligations of States in Disputed Maritime Areas” (Cambridge University Press, 2021). His work has been cited before international courts and tribunals. Youri has also received awards for academic achievements, including the Rhodes Academy Submarine Cables Award.



Dr. SU Wai Mon

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Dr. Su Wai Mon is a Research Fellow in Oceans Law & Policy at the Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore. She holds a PhD in maritime security and law enforcement and is a Blue Security Fellow with the La Trobe Asia Blue Security Programme at La Trobe University, Australia. She is also a member of the International Law Association (Singapore branch).

Prior to joining CIL, Su was a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Malaya, where she taught public international law. Her research has been supported by Malaysia’s Ministry of Higher Education, with funded projects focusing on submarine cable protection and maritime cybersecurity.

Su is frequently invited to participate in Track 1.5 Dialogues on ASEAN maritime security, where she speaks on issues relating to submarine cable protection and maritime cybersecurity as well as broader maritime security issues including cooperative mechanisms on maritime law enforcement.

She works closely with maritime stakeholders, policymakers, and security practitioners across the region to address practical challenges in maritime governance. Her research interests include submarine cable governance, cybersecurity in the maritime domain, and the role of emerging technologies in maritime security.



Dr. Samuel WHITE

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Dr Samuel White is the Senior Research Fellow for Peace & Security at National University of Singapore’s Centre for International Law. Prior to joining academia, Dr White served in the military for 13 years in a range of strategic, operational and tactical level postings.

SPEAKER AND MODERATOR BIOS



Dr. VU Hai Dang

Expert,
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Dr. Vu Hai Dang is an Expert at the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam. His area of expertise includes international law, law of the sea, and international environmental law with a geographical focus on Southeast Asia and the South China Sea. He has experience working in the fields of private practice, civil service, diplomacy, and academia.



Mr. Kenneth WONG

Senior Director / Senior State Counsel
Attorney-General's Chambers
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Kenneth advises and represents the Singapore Government on a broad range of public international law issues. In the areas of law of the sea and environmental law, he was part of the Singapore national delegation to the Intergovernmental Conference that concluded the negotiations on the BBNJ Agreement and is part of the Singapore delegation to the BBNJ Preparatory Commission for the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement. He also worked on the ICJ advisory proceedings on States' obligations in respect of climate change. In the area of international economic law, he advises on Singapore's negotiation of trade and investment agreements, including Green Economy and Digital Economy Agreements.



Mr. Lionel YEE

Deputy Attorney General
Attorney-General's Chambers
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Mr Lionel Yee Woon Chin, is the Deputy Attorney-General of Singapore. Prior to his current position, he served as the Director General of the AGC's International Affairs Division, in which he provided advice to Singapore government agencies on public international law matters. Lionel is actively involved in the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

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