

# CIL

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW  
National University of Singapore

NCLOS  
NORWEGIAN CENTRE  
FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

CIL-NCLOS DIALOGUE 2026

# REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY

*Challenges and Critical Pressure Points*



Tuesday, 24 November 2026

CONRAD ORCHARD HOTEL, SINGAPORE  
(BY INVITATION ONLY)

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## **CIL – NCLOS Dialogue 2026**

### **Regional Maritime Security – Challenges and Critical Pressure Points**

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2026**  
**Conrad Orchard Hotel, Singapore**

The principle of freedom of navigation—like international law more broadly—is under mounting pressure. Until recently, most of that pressure came from states such as Russia and China, restricting navigational rights in their own waters for security reasons. Today, however, the domino effect of global rivalry, wars, sanctions, and the search for loopholes—along with grey-zone tactics like sabotage—has increasingly led to similar pressures in the West (regional responses, such as in the Baltic Sea, as well as the US actions against “dark fleet” tankers, with the UK's backing). This raises a critical question: is the cure worse than the disease?

Against this backdrop, the seminar will explore challenges to regional maritime security, particularly with respect to the Arctic and to the South China Sea regions, within the broader context of critical pressure points on the architecture and substantive pillars of the law of the sea—such as high seas interceptions, freedom of the high seas, rules interpretation and diverging practices, the changing world order, and emerging sectoral marine governance regimes.

For small maritime states like Norway and Singapore, which rely heavily on the rule of law and, more specifically, on freedom of navigation, this trend presents significant economic and strategic risks. The discussion will explore global impacts on the international order and regional concerns, including Russia’s activities in the Arctic and China’s actions in the South China Sea. The US FON program has been key in supporting freedom of navigation worldwide and regionally - what are the ramifications of the US’s recent practice on this? Both Norway and Singapore share borders with regions where future developments will directly affect their interests, making their perspectives especially relevant to this debate.

PPROGRAMME

| Tuesday, 24 November, 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30-10:00                 | Welcome Address                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:00-11:30                | <p><b>Session 1 – Navigational rights under pressure</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <p><b>Transit passage under strain: Hormuz, Malacca and Singapore and the security of straits used for international navigation</b><br/><i>Speaker:</i> Tara Davenport</p> <p><b>From Exception to Template? The Northern Sea Route, Rent-Seeking, and the Erosion of the Maritime Commons</b><br/><i>Speaker:</i> Jan Jakub Solski</p> <p><b>False Flags, Uncertain Nationality and Freedom of Navigation: Rethinking Inter-State Registry Verification</b><br/><i>Speaker:</i> Bikashita Choudhury</p> |
| 11:30 –12:00               | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 12:00-13:00                | <p><b>Session 2 – Protection of critical underwater infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <p><b>Protection and Resilience of Critical Underwater Infrastructure in Southeast Asia: Challenges and the Way Forward</b><br/><i>Speaker:</i> Su Wai Mon</p> <p><b>[TBC]</b><br/><i>Speaker:</i> Robert Beckman</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 13:00-14:00                | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## PROGRAMME

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| <b>14:00-15:30</b> | <b>Session 3 - Maritime Security and Coastal State Rights and Interests</b><br><br><b>Moderator:</b><br><br><b>Presenters:</b><br><br><b>Securitizing Marine Scientific Research</b><br><i>Speaker:</i> Vito De Lucia<br><br><b>IUU Fishing as a Maritime Security Threat: Is the Cure Worse than the Disease?</b><br><i>Speaker:</i> Eva R van der Marel<br><br><b>[TBC]</b><br><i>Speaker:</i> Liu Nengye                                                            |
| <b>15:30-16:00</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>16:00-17:00</b> | <b>Session 4- New uses and emerging threats</b><br><br><b>Moderator:</b><br><br><b>Presenters:</b><br><br><b>Security of Floating Nuclear Power Plants: Coastal State Rights and Obligations in the Exclusive Economic Zone</b><br><i>Speaker:</i> Do Minh Chau (Carla)<br><br><b>The Role of Maritime Security in the Application of the Duty of Due Regard: the Case of Offshore Data Centres in South-East Asia</b><br><i>Speaker:</i> Carlos Antonio Cruz Carrillo |
| <b>18:00</b>       | <b>Dinner</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

All information is accurate as of 21 October 2026

## **SPEAKERS & MODERATORS**

(in alphabetical order by last name)

**Emeritus Professor Robert BECKMAN**, Senior Advisor, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

**Ms. Bikashita CHOUDHURY**, Research Associate, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

**Dr. Tara Maria DAVENPORT**, Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

**Dr. LIU Nengye**, Associate Professor, Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University

**Vito De LUCIA**, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

**Dr. Jan Jakub SOLSKI**, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

**Dr. SU Wai Mon**, Research Fellow, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

**Ms. Do Min Chau**, Research Associate, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

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