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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All information is accurate as of 11 November 2026

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Regional Maritime Security – Challenges and Critical Pressure Points

Tuesday, 24 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.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 24 November 2026

9:30–10:00 — **Registration**

10:00–10:30 — **Welcome Address**

Dr Nilufer Oral, Director, Centre for International Law (CIL), National University of Singapore (NUS)

Dr Vito De Lucia, Director, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea (NCLOS), UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Ms Karine Erikstein, Deputy Head of Mission, Norwegian Embassy in Singapore

10:30–12:00 — SESSION 1

Navigational Rights Under Pressure

Moderator: **Dr Nilufer Oral**, Director, CIL, NUS

Through the Kremlin's Eyes: Threat Perception and Strategic Legalism in Russia's Arctic Policy
Speaker: **Dr Ekaterina Antsygina**, Researcher, NCLOS, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

From Exception to Template? The Northern Sea Route, Rent-Seeking, and the Erosion of the Maritime Commons
Speaker: **Dr Jan Jakub Solski**, Associate Professor, NCLOS, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Transit Passage Under Strain: Hormuz, Malacca and Singapore and the Security of Straits Used for International Navigation
Speaker: **Dr Tara Davenport**, Co-Head, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, CIL, NUS

12:00–13:00 — **Lunch**

13:00–14:00 — SESSION 2

Protection of Critical Underwater Infrastructure

Moderator: **Dr Jan Jakub Solski**, Associate Professor, NCLOS, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Protection of Cables: Lessons from European Practices
Speaker: **Emeritus Professor Robert Beckman**, Senior Advisor, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, CIL, NUS

Protection and Resilience of Critical Underwater Infrastructure in Southeast Asia: Challenges and the Way Forward
Speaker: **Dr Su Wai Mon**, Research Fellow, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, CIL, NUS

14:00–14:30 — **Coffee Break**

Tuesday, 24 November 2026

14:30–15:30

SESSION 3

Maritime Security and Coastal State Rights and Interests

Moderator: **Emeritus Professor Robert Beckman**, Senior Advisor, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, CIL, NUS

Securitizing Marine Scientific Research
Speaker: **Professor Dr Vito De Lucia**, Director, NCLOS, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

IUU Fishing as a Maritime Security Threat: Is the Cure Worse than the Disease?
Speaker: **Dr Eva R van der Marel**, Associate Professor, NCLOS, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

15:30–16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00–17:30

SESSION 4

New Uses and Emerging Threats

Moderator: **Dr Vito De Lucia**, Director, NCLOS, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

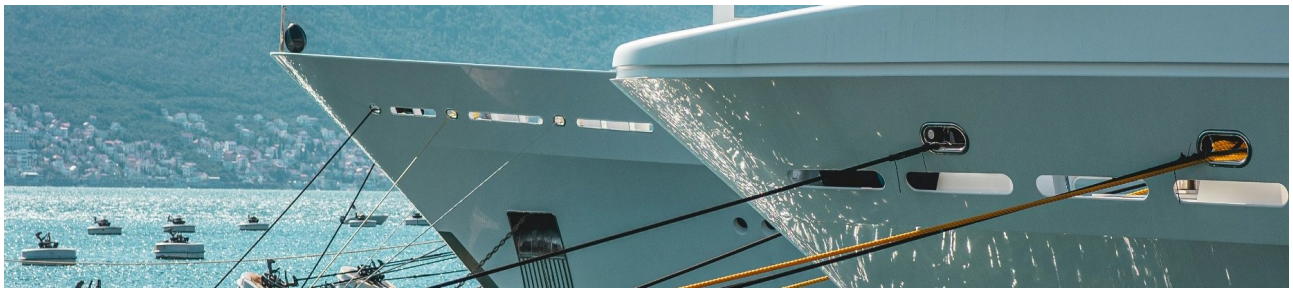
Security of Floating Nuclear Power Plants: Coastal State Rights and Obligations in the Exclusive Economic Zone
Speaker: **Ms Do Minh Chau**, Research Associate, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, CIL, NUS

The Role of Maritime Security in the Application of the Duty of Due Regard: The Case of Offshore Data Centres in Southeast Asia
Speaker: **Dr Carlos Antonio Cruz Carrillo**, Research Fellow, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, CIL, NUS

Neutral Coastal States in Armed Conflict at Sea: Rights, Obligations, and Maritime Jurisdiction
Speaker: **Dr Sun Zhen**, Co-Head, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, CIL, NUS

17:30–18:00 **Closing**

18:30 **Dinner**



SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

In alphabetical order by last name

Dr Ekaterina ANTSYGINA
Researcher, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

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

Dr Carlos Antonio CRUZ CARRILLO
Research Fellow, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

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

Professor Dr Vito DE LUCIA
Director, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Ms DO Minh Chau
Research Associate, Oceans Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Ms Karine ERIKSTEIN
Deputy Head of Mission, Norwegian Embassy in Singapore

Dr Nilufer ORAL
Director, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore

Dr Jan Jakub SOLSKI
Associate Professor, Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Dr SU Wai Mon
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