

The Origin of the South China Sea Disputes: Historical Perspectives

Most of the disputes in the South China Sea have existed for quite a while. This session examines the activities of claimants and stakeholders throughout history to trace the origin and evolution of the territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea. Who claims what in the South China Sea and since when? What were the factors driving the claimants' interests in offshore territories? How have major powers got involved in the South China Sea? How have the courses of their national development influenced the South China Sea coastal countries' maritime policies? How have maritime aspirations been incorporated into national narratives and geopolitical considerations to inform the policies of regional and extra-regional states in the South China Sea?

The first session of the 8th International Conference on the South China Sea, titled: "*The Origins of the South China Sea Disputes: Historical Perspectives*", is moderated by Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Vu Tung, President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

Dr. Ulises Granados, Coordinator of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Autonomous Technology Institute of Mexico

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Dr. Gerard Sasges, Assistant Professor, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

"Maritime Awareness in History"

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Dr. François-Xavier Bonnet, French Institute for Research on Contemporary Southeast Asia (Irasec)

"Patriotism, Nationalism and Geopolitics in History"

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Mr. Bill Hayton, Associate Fellow, Chatham House (the Royal Institute for International

Affairs), London, UK

“State and Non-State Stakeholders in the South China Sea in History”

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