

Whither the South China Sea Tensions?

2016 has witnessed significant changes to the status quo in the South China Sea region, strategically and legally speaking. This session takes stock of the rhetoric and actions of the claimants and other relevant stakeholders with a view to mapping out continuity and changes in these countries' policies and the dynamics of interactions between them that have shaped the current state of affairs as well as the possible contours of things in the future. Based on discussions of recent developments in the South China Sea, speakers are expected to identify general trends in the South China Sea situation in 2017 and beyond.

The second session of the 8th International Conference on the South China Sea, titled: "*Whither the South China Sea Tensions?*", is moderated by Prof. Stein Tonnesson.

Mr. Gregory Poling, Director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative and a fellow with the Southeast Asia Program at Center for Strategic and International Studies

"Preparing for the Next Stage of South China Sea Tensions"

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Mr. Evan Laksmana, Researcher, Department of Politics and International Relations, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia

"The Regional Security Environment in the South China Sea: A non-Claimant perspective"

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Mr. Richard Javad Heydarian, Assistant Professor, De La Salle University, The Philippines

"Philippine Foreign Policy under Duterte: A New Approach in the SCS"

Dr. Truong Minh Huy Vu, Director, Saigon Centre for International Studies (SCIS), University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

"Post-South China Sea Arbitration and the Politics of "Struggling Co-evolution"