

The political Economy of the South China Sea: Issues and Prospects

This session explores critical economic and environmental issues in the South China Sea. A range of factors have impacted on the political economy of the South China Sea, including the falling price of energy, the depletion of fish stocks, and substantial environmental degradation caused by human activities. Pertinent to the discussion on these issues are analyses of regional countries' development plans and foreign policy agendas, most notably China's Maritime Silk Road initiative. The session examines how the need for improved infrastructure, access to maritime resources and commons, and legal obligations to cooperation for environmental protection have affected the resolution and management of the existing disputes.

The fourth session of the 8th International Conference on the South China Sea, titled: "The political Economy of the South China Sea: Issues and Prospects", is moderated by Mr. Abhijit Singh, Senior Fellow and head of the Maritime Security Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in New Delhi, India

Dr. Teng Jianqun, Director of the Department for American Studies and Senior Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS)

“Economic Cooperation Initiatives: Implications for the South China Sea Disputes”

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Dr. Frank Umbach, Research Director, European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS), King's College London, United Kingdom

“Oil and Gas: Energy Price, Geopolitics and Implications for Resource Competition and SLOCs”

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Dr. Sébastien Colin, Researcher, Deputy Chief Editor, The French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, Hong Kong, China

“Food Security and Fishing: Industry, Driver, Instrument, and Source for Cooperation”

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Prof. Nguyen Chu Hoi, Former Deputy Administrator, Vietnam's Administration for Seas and

Islands, Professor of Marine Science and Governance Policy, Vietnam National University

“Environmental Issues: Legal Obligations and Cooperation Drivers”

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