

# Security, Politics and Diplomacy of the South China Sea Disputes

As the South China Sea becomes a theatre for big power rivalry, there is a need to explore strategic policies of related powers and relations among them. It is worth investigating which factors have driven big powers' maritime strategies and how they have perceived one another's actions. What are these powers' goals in the South China Sea, greater security or greater power? Are there any misperceptions or security dilemmas between claimants and between big powers? In view of rising tensions in the South China Sea, it is important to study how ASEAN has handled the maritime affairs and how the South China Sea politics affected its claim to centrality in the politics of Asia and the Pacific.

The fifth session of the 8th International Conference on the South China Sea, titled: "*Security, Politics and Diplomacy*", is moderated by Dr. Ulises Granados, Coordinator of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Autonomous Technology Institute of Mexico

**Mr. Abhijit Singh**, Senior Fellow and head of the Maritime Security Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in New Delhi, India

*"The Search for Security and the Struggle for Power: Major and Middle Powers' Strategies and Interactions Amid Uncertainties"*

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**RADM Michael McDevitt (USN, Ret.)**, Senior Fellow, Strategic Studies Program, Center for Naval Analyses, USA

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