

Mechanisms for Managing the South China Sea Tensions

There are already a number of mechanisms in place for managing the South China Sea tensions. While these mechanisms in some extent managed to prevent tensions from escalating into conflicts, most are perceived as having overlapping functions. Besides, there are legitimate complaints that gaps still exist and that a number of global and regional institutions have not yet fully or partly utilized. At the same time, international good practices in semi-closed seas have not been fully explored for potential application in the South China Sea. This session examines the current state of regional security structures in dealing with South China Sea affairs. It not only tries to identify the challenges and gaps but also goes as far as to discuss how best to use the existing regional and global institutions for managing this semi-closed sea, explore new possible ways and means to effectively deescalate tensions and manage spill-over effects on other areas.

The seventh session of the 8th International Conference on the South China Sea, titled Mechanisms for Managing the South China Sea Tensions, is chaired by Prof. Robert Beckman, Head, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, The National University of Singapore:

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Prof. Helmut Tuerk, Ambassador, Chairman of the Review Committee of the International Seabed Authority, former Judge and Vice - President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

“Global Institutions and Their Roles: International Tribunal for the Law of Sea (ITLOS), International Seabed Authority (ISA), Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelves (CLCS)”

Prof. Seokwoo Lee, Professor of International Law, Inha University Law School, and Director of Inha International Ocean Law Centre, Korea

“Experience in Managing Dispute and Promoting Cooperation in a Semi-Closed Sea”

Ms. Elina Noor, Director, Foreign Policy and Security Studies, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia

“Managing the South China Sea Spill-Overs: Cyber Security as New Space for Competition or Source for Cooperation”

Dr. Tran Truong Thuy, Senior Research Fellow, Bien Dong Maritime Institute, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

“Regional Security and Cooperation Structures in Dealing with South China Sea Issues:”

Conflicts, Overlaps and Possible New Mechanisms”

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