



Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam



Foundation for East Sea Studies



Vietnam Lawyers' Association

## THE 8<sup>th</sup> SOUTH CHINA SEA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

November 13-15, 2016, Nha Trang City, Viet Nam

### TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

*(subject to be changed)*

**Venue:** InterContinental Nha Trang, 32-34 Tran Phu Street , Nha Trang City,  
Khanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam

*Sunday – November 13, 2016*

**All Day**      ***Arrival of International Participants***

6:30-9:00 PM

***Welcome Dinner (For International Participants),***  
hosted by ***Mr. Nguyen Van Quyen***, President of the Vietnamese  
Lawyers' Association

**Location:** ***InterContinental Nha Trang***

**DAY 1**

*Monday - November 14, 2016*

8:00-8:30 AM **Registration**

8:30-9:30 AM **OPENING SESSION**

**Moderator: Mr. Nguyen Van Quyen, President of the Vietnamese Lawyers' Association (VLA)**

- **Opening Remarks by Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Vu Tung**, President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
- **Welcome Remarks by Mr. Le Thanh Quang**, Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee of Khanh Hoa Province
- **Keynote Address by H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary General of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (TBC)  
**"ASEAN and the South China Sea"**

9.30-9.40AM Photo Session

9.40-10.00AM Coffee Break

10.00-11.45 AM **SESSION 1: The Origins of the South China Sea Disputes: Historical Perspectives**

**Moderator: TBD**

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?

**Speakers:**

- **Dr. Ulises Granados**, Coordinator of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Autonomous Technology Institute of Mexico (*confirmed*)  
*“The Evolution of the South China Sea Disputes”*
- **Dr. Gerard Sasges**, Assistant Professor, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore (*confirmed*)  
*“Maritime Awareness in History”*
- **Dr. François-Xavier Bonnet**, French Institute for Research on Contemporary Southeast Asia (Irasec) (*confirmed*)  
*“Patriotism, Nationalism and Geopolitics in History”*
- **Mr. Bill Hayton**, Associate Fellow, Chatham House (the Royal Institute for International Affairs), London, UK (*confirmed*)  
*“State and Non-State Stakeholders in the South China Sea in History”*

12.00-1.10 PM **Luncheon**

1.10-2.50 PM **SESSION 2: Whither the South China Sea Tensions?**

**Moderator: TBD**

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.

- **Dr. Ju Hai Long**, Executive Director of Center for South China Sea Studies; School of International Studies; Jinan University, China (*confirmed*)
- **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 (*confirmed*)
- **Mr. Evan Laksmana**, Researcher, Department of Politics and International Relations, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia (*confirmed*)
- **Mr. Richard Javad Heydarian**, Assistant Professor, De La Salle University, The Philippines (*confirmed*)

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

2.50-3.10 PM **Coffee Break**

**3.10-3.50 PM** **Keynote Speech**

- **H.E. Judge Vladimir Vladimirovich Golitsyn**, President and Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) (*confirmed*)  
*“Adjudication and Arbitration in Maritime Disputes and The Role of International Law”*

3.50-5.30 PM **SESSION 3: International Law and the South China Sea**

**Moderator: TBD**

This session assesses the utility of international law in managing and resolving the South China Sea disputes in the post-award context of the Philippines-China arbitration case at the Arbitration Tribunal set up under Annex VII of the UNCLOS. Arguably the long-awaited award that has surprised most, if not all, international observers has also changed the legal status quo in the South China Sea. What are the implications of the arbitration award for the South China Sea situation going forward? How might the Tribunal’s assessment of evidence, reasoning and conclusion in the Philippines-China case affect the claims of the parties directly involved as well as other claimants? Have the Tribunal’s rulings helped clarify the picture, define the rights and obligations of the parties concerned and create an opportunity for cooperation and if so, in what ways? Alternatively, have they created more legal gray-zones that could spur further escalation?

**Panelists:**

- **Dr. Nguyen Lan Anh**, Deputy Director, Bien Dong Maritime Institute, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (*confirmed*)  
*“The Arbitration Award and Legal Implications for the Claims of Parties in the South China Sea”*
- **Prof. Yann Huei Song**, Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan (*confirmed*)  
*“The Arbitration Award and Implications for the Activities of Parties in the South China Sea”*
- **Prof. Stein Tønnesson**, Research Professor, Peace Research

Institute Oslo (PRIO) (*confirmed*)

***“The Arbitration Award and Legal Implications for Dispute Management and Settlement in the South China Sea “***

- **Prof. Robert Beckman**, Head, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law, The National University of Singapore (NUS) (*confirmed*)

***“Clarifying Areas, Defining Rights, Obligations and Opportunity for Maritime Cooperation”***

## **DAY 2**

**Tuesday - November 15, 2016**

8:00-9:45 AM

### **SESSION 4: The political Economy of the South China Sea: Issues and Prospects**

**Moderator: TBD**

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.

#### **Speakers:**

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

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

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

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

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

*(confirmed)*

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

- **Prof. Nguyen Chu Hoi**, Former Deputy Administrator, Vietnam’s Administration for Seas and Islands, Professor of Marine Science and Governance Policy, Vietnam National University (*confirmed*)  
***“Environmental Issues: Legal Obligations and Cooperation Drivers”***

9:45-10:15  
AM

**Coffee Break**

10:15-12:00  
AM

***SESSION 5: Security, Politics and Diplomacy***

**Moderator: TBD**

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.

**Speakers:**

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

***“The Search for Security and the Struggle for Power: Major and Middle Powers’ Strategies and Interactions Amid Uncertainties”***

- **Prof. Shi Yinhong**, Director of the Center for American Studies, Institute of International Relations, Renmin University, China (*confirmed*)

***“China’s South China Sea Policy and Strategy: Continuation and Adjustments”***

- **Dr. Michael Auslin**, Resident scholar and the director of Japan studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), USA (*confirmed*)

***“Whither US’s Rebalancing: South China Sea and the Asia-***



***Pacific under the New US Administration***

- **Dr. Kavi Chongkittavon**, Senior Fellow, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (*confirmed*)

***“The South China Sea and ASEAN’s Unity-Diversity: Role, Expectation and Adaptation”***

12.00-1.00 PM **Luncheon**

1.00-2.30 PM **SESSION 6: Interactions and Coordination at Sea**

**Moderator: TBD**

This session focuses on the interactions and coordination between various forces operating in the South China Sea, including naval, air and law enforcement forces of claimant and user states of the sea. Speakers are asked to address operational and legal issues and rules of engagement (ROE), as well as questions on how to avoid and manage incidents and how to promote information sharing and cooperation in dealing with maritime threats in the South China Sea. They are also expected to explore ideas and suggestions on practical measures for regional stakeholders to utilize in order to avoid and manage incidents that might occur between their ships and aircrafts at sea.

**Speakers:**

- **Col. Arief Meidyanto**, Indonesian Coast Guard (Badan Keamanan Laut/BAKAMLA), Jakarta, Indonesia (*confirmed*)

***“Information Sharing in the South China Sea?”***

- **RAMD Azhari bin Abdul Aziz**, Former First Admiral of Royal Malaysian Navy; Political and Security Advisor at the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) Geneva (*confirmed*)

***“Operational and Legal Issues and Rules of Engagement”***

- **Vice Adm. Hideaki Kaneda**, Former Vice Admiral of the Japan’s Defence Force, Director of the Okazaki Institute, Tokyo, Japan (*confirmed*)

***“Management of Incidents at Sea”***

- **Maj. Gen. Nguyen Quang Dam**, Commander, Vietnamese Coast Guard (TBC)

***“Practical Cooperation in Dealing with Maritime Security Issues”***

2.30-3.00 PM **Coffee Break**

3.00-3.45 PM

**Fostering Cooperation in the South China Sea (*Special session for Representatives from SCS Young Leaders' Group*)**

Since 2015, this annual South China Sea Conference series has initiated the Young Leaders Program, which has attracted a dozen of bright young scholars and PhD candidates from many countries to come and discuss ways to foster cooperation in the South China Sea. Young Leaders Program has two main objectives: (i) getting fresh views from young scholars on how to manage disputes in the South China Sea; and (ii) engaging and building research interests of new generation of scholars on maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

Representative of the Young Leaders group will present the group's discussion and their views on how to manage disputes and promote cooperation in the South China Sea.

3.45-5.15 PM

**SESSION 7: Mechanisms for Managing the South China Sea Tensions**

**Moderator: TBD**

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.

**Speakers:**

- **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 (*confirmed*)  
*“ 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 (*confirmed*)



***“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 (*confirmed*)

***“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 (*confirmed*)

***“Regional Security and Cooperation Structures in Dealing with South China Sea Issues: Conflicts, Overlaps and Possible New Mechanisms”***

5.15-5.30 PM **Closing Remarks**

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**DAY 3** **Visit to Cam Ranh Naval Base**  
**(Optional)**

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