

# THOUGHTS ON MARITIME BOUNDARY DELIMITATIONS AND SOVEREIGNTY DISPUTES

**DATE:** APRIL 21 (FRIDAY), 2017; 16:00 - 20:00 (DINNER SERVED)

**VENUE:** FRASER PLACE CENTRAL SEOUL (2F)

## **SPEAKER:**

**DR. ROBERT W. SMITH**

INDEPENDENT GEOGRAPHIC CONSULTANT & EDUCATOR/LECTURER  
[GEOGRAPHER, U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, RETIRED]

## **HOSTED BY:**

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KOREA  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ASIA-KOREA (DILA-KOREA)

### **1975-2006: GEOGRAPHER, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

As the U.S. government expert on maritime boundary and jurisdictional issues, Dr. Smith assisted in the development and implementation of U.S. ocean policy. He was responsible for the technical and geographical aspects of negotiating U.S. bilateral maritime boundaries and establishing U.S. claims to marine jurisdiction. In this role, he coordinated the U.S. effort to develop technically accurate and precise boundaries and outer limits for the territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf. For the establishment of U.S. maritime limits, he assured that all U.S. claims were in accordance to the international law of the sea principles using modern charting techniques. He represented the U.S. Government at international meetings and conferences, including United Nations meetings, on subjects of my expertise.

His State Department career was spent in two offices: in the Office of The Geographer (1975-87) he served as the Chief of the International Boundary and Resource Division where he supervised several geographic analysts before becoming the Special Assistant of Ocean Affairs and Policy Planning. From 1987 to March 2006 he was the geographer for the Office of Oceans Affairs in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Throughout his State Department career he oversaw and was the principal author of the State Department's Limits in the Seas studies, in which analyses is given on the state practice of maritime claims and boundaries.

### **CURRENT: INDEPENDENT GEOGRAPHIC CONSULTANT, EDUCATOR, AND LECTURER**

Advise on all aspects of ocean policies and planning including developing strategies for exploring and exploiting offshore resources in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. Provide geographical and technical expertise for maritime boundary delimitation and arbitrations, offshore jurisdictional claims, sovereignty disputes, and the development of offshore energy resources. Write position papers to support policy decisions on the rational development and management of marine resources. Provide technical and geographical expert testimony in domestic and international courts. Teach the geographical aspects of the law of the sea and world regional and cultural geography. Lecture on current world topics such a piracy, the law of the sea, maritime disputes and strategic international waterways and regions, such as the Panama Canal, Suez Canal, Turkish Straits, the South China Sea, and Polar regions. Clients include the Governments of Bangladesh, Colombia, Guyana, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, British Gas-Asia, ExxonMobil, International Mapping Associates, the Rhodes Academy, U.S. Department of Justice, International Shipboard Education's Semester at Sea program, Azamara and Silversea Cruise Lines, and several international law firms.

*The Development of International Law in Asia-Korea* (DILA-KOREA) is a new academic entity which is responsible for *The Foundation for the Development of International Law in Asia* (DILA) along with the *Asian Yearbook of International Law* (AsianYbIL) and *Asia Pacific Ocean Law Institutions Alliance* (APOLIA).

### ***The Foundation for the Development of International Law in Asia (DILA)***

<http://www.dilafoundation.org/>

*The Foundation for the Development of International Law in Asia (DILA)* was established in 1989, at a time when its prime movers believed that economic and political developments in Asia had reached the stage at which they would welcome and benefit substantially from a mechanism to promote and facilitate exchanges among their international law scholars that had failed to develop during the colonial era.

DILA was established to promote the study of: (a) and analysis of topics and issues in the field of international law, in particular from an Asian perspective; and (b) dissemination of knowledge of international law in Asia; promotion of contacts and co-operation between persons and institutions actively dealing with questions of international law relating to Asia.

DILA is concerned with reporting and analyzing developments in the field of international law relating to the region, and not primarily with efforts to distinguish particular attitudes, policies or practices as predominately or essentially "Asian". If they are shown to exist, it would be an interesting by-product of DILA's essential function, which is to bring about an exchange of views in the expectation that the process would reveal areas of common interest and concern among the State of Asia, and even more importantly, demonstrate that those areas of interest and concern are, in fact, shared by the international community as a whole.

Professor Seokwoo LEE of Inha University Law School, Korea, is currently Chairman of DILA.

### ***The Asian Yearbook of International Law (AsianYbIL)***

<http://www.brill.com/publications/asian-yearbook-international-law>

Launched in 1991, *The Asian Yearbook of International Law (AsianYbIL)* is a major internationally-refereed yearbook dedicated to international legal issues as seen primarily from an Asian perspective. It is published by Brill under the auspices of the Foundation for the Development of International Law in Asia (DILA). When it was launched, the Yearbook was the first publication of its kind, edited by a team of leading international law scholars from across Asia. It provides a forum for the publication of articles in the field of international law, and other Asian international legal topics.

The objects of the Yearbook are two-fold. First, to promote research, study and writing in the field of international law in Asia; and second, to provide an intellectual platform for the discussion and dissemination of Asian views and practices on contemporary international legal issues. Each volume of the Yearbook contains articles and shorter notes, a section on State Practice, an overview of the Asian states' participation in multilateral treaties and succinct analysis of recent international legal developments in Asia, as well as book reviews. We believe this publication to be of importance and use to anyone working on international law and in Asian studies.

In keeping with DILA's commitment to encouraging scholarship in international law as well as in disseminating such scholarship, its Governing Board decided to make the Yearbook open access from 2010 (volume 16) onwards and will be available through Brill's open access format.

Professor Seokwoo LEE of Inha University Law School, Korea and Professor Hee Eun LEE of Handong International Law School, Korea, are the Co-Editors-in-Chief of the Yearbook commencing with the 2015 edition (volume 21).

### ***Asia Pacific Ocean Law Institutions Alliance (APOLIA)***

<http://www.brill.com/products/series/maritime-cooperation-east-asia>  
<http://www.brill.com/products/journal/asia-pacific-journal-ocean-law-and-policy>

In 2012, Professor ZOU Keyuan of Lancashire Law School, UK and Professor Seokwoo LEE of Inha University Law School, Korea, began to discuss the creation of a new academic organization that would focus its attention on ocean law and policy issues in the Asia-Pacific. The organization was named the *Asia Pacific Ocean Law Institutions Alliance (APOLIA)* and would be a hybrid organization that would include both institutional and individual participation and associations. After the first official meeting in Incheon, Korea, in 2013, the organizers invited Professors Clive SCHOFIELD and Warwick GULLET of Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) of the University of Wollongong, Australia to join as co-founders. APOLIA has moved forward to establish a book series with highly respected publisher Brill entitled *Maritime Cooperation in East Asia (MCEA)* with general editors Professor Seokwoo LEE and Professor ZOU Keyuan.

Another important fruit of APOLIA's endeavors is an exciting new initiative: The *Asia-Pacific Journal of Ocean Law and Policy (APJOLP)*. The launch of this new, scholarly, peer-reviewed journal recognises the increasing importance of ocean spaces to the Asia-Pacific – the most dynamic region globally. Not only are the maritime spaces of the Asia-Pacific of great and growing significance to the states of the region but they are also increasingly contested and under threat. This gives rise to escalating oceans governance challenges and the core objective of the journal is to provide a scholarly forum where these issues can be discussed and analysed.

The journal will be published with Brill from 2016 and initially at least on a bi-annual basis. Each issue of the journal will include 3-4 scholarly articles together with state practice and current legal developments sections. Professor Seokwoo LEE and Professor Clive SCHOFIELD will serve as Co-Editors-in-Chief, the state practice section of the journal will be edited by Professor Anastasia TELESETSKY of the University of Idaho, USA, and the current legal developments section will be the responsibility of Professor Warwick GULLETT of the University of Wollongong, Australia.