



XIAMEN UNIVERSITY SOUTH CHINA SEA INSTITUTE
SOUTH CHINA SEA BULLETIN

A South China Sea Community News Feeder

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The South China Sea Institute Launched at XMU

The South China Sea Institute of Xiamen University was launched on Nov. 2, 2012 with Prof. Kuen-chen Fu being the first dean. Prof. Kuen-chen Fu is the State “One Thousand Elites Program” scholar of XMU and the chief expert of the research program on South China Sea issues sponsored by the National Social Science Fund. The plaque was unveiled by the Director-General of the International Cooperation Department of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), Mr. Zhang Zhanhai, together with XMU President Zhu Chongshi. A cooperation agreement was also signed between the State Oceanic Administration and XMU.

President Zhu delivered an enthusiastic speech at the unveiling ceremony. In 1946, XMU created the earliest oceanography faculty in China and started marine education and research. The Xiamen University Institute for Southeast Asian Studies established in 1956 has earned its reputation through decades of academic studies.

XMU established in 2001 China's first Center for Oceans Law Studies (later on renamed as XMU Center for Oceans Policy and Law) and inaugurated the first and the only ocean oriented academic journal of China, the China Oceans Law Review, in 2005. Both were initiated and constructed by Prof. Kuen-chen Fu. In 2009, the COLR evolved into a Chinese-English bilingual journal jointly sponsored by Xiamen University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Sun Yat-sen University (Taiwan), and has since been widely acknowledged in the international academic community.

President Zhu pointed that, at present, it is urgently demanded for China to establish a think tank on the South China Sea issues to provide theoretical supports and policy advices for the government. XMU best matches such demand in light of its rich experience in Southeast Asian studies, the oceanography studies and the research strength in the International Law and the Law of the Sea.

Mr. Zhang Zhanhai also expressed SOA's willingness to cooperate with XMU in talents cultivation and exchanges and communications on ocean-related laws and policies, at the ceremony.

Events

Experts discuss laws and policies on green joint development in the South China Sea at XMU

An international symposium themed "Blue South China Sea, Green Joint Development" was held on Nov 3rd and 4th at the South China Sea

Institute of Xiamen University. Over 50 prominent scholars from both home and abroad including Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, China Mainland and Taiwan area joined in the symposium and discussed the possible green joint development of the South China Sea with no, or very limited, environmental cost.

Professor S. Jayakumar, Singapore's former deputy Prime Minister who presently works in the Law School of National University of Singapore(NUS), gave a keynote speech entitled "International Law and the South China Sea: Claims and Joint Development". He pointed out that no party can benefit from the aggravated tension in the South China Sea and the international community should work out effective ways to pacify and finally solve South China Sea disputes. As a legal measure to solve border disputes, "Joint Development" especially fits the "temporary arrangement" concept established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. To begin with, confidence should be built between each party of the disputes in order to achieve joint developments.

Scholars such as Dr. Dai Minhan, Dean of the College of Ocean and Earth Sciences of Xiamen University, Ambassador HasjimDjalal of Indonesia, Prof. Gao shengti, Prof. Song yanhui of Taiwan, Prof. Jay Lazaro Batongbacal of Philippines, Prof. Lv Wenzheng and Prof. Mao Bin of China Mainland... etc, all gave excellent

the College of Ocean and Earth Sciences of Xiamen University, Ambassador HasjimDjalal of Insodesia, Prof. Gao Shengti, Prof. Song Yanhui of Chinese Taiwan, Prof. Jay Lazaro Batongbacal of Philippines, Prof. Lv Wenzheng and Prof. Mao Bin of China Mainland... etc, all gave excellent presentations in the symposium.

Focus on South China Sea Development, Seek Cooperation Opportunities

TSC Engineering and Technical Experts attended the 2012 South China Sea Deepwater Oil and Gas Drilling Equipment and Technology Seminar on 15th November 2012, the "2012 South China Sea Deepwater Oil and Gas Drilling Equipment and Technology Seminar" hosted by China Shipbuilding Industry Association, China Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation and China National Offshore Oil Corporation and co-sponsored by TSC Offshore Group and other sponsors was held in Radisson SAS Hotel in Beijing, China.

The theme of the seminar is "Deeply analyze South China Sea strategy, and investigate the opportunities for development of the industry".

(source:<http://www.4-traders.com/news/TS-C-Offshore-Group-Ltd-Focus-on-South-China-Sea-Development-Seek-Cooperation-Opportunities—15570237>)

The fourth international seminar on the “East Sea” opened in Ho Chi Minh City on November 19, drawing 200 domestic and international experts and scholars.

The event, themed “East Sea: Cooperation for Regional Security and Development”, takes place at a time when the international community celebrates the 30th anniversary of the signing of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 10th year since the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the “East Sea” (DOC).

(Source:<http://en.vietnamplus.vn/Home/HCM-City-hosts-fourth-intl-seminar-on-East-Sea/2011/29987.vnplus>)

“East Sea” cooperation discussed at seminar

A seminar is taking place in central Da Nang city on December 12-13 to discuss issues relating to cooperation in the East Sea .

Themed “East Sea Cooperation – History and Development”, the event drew more than 100 scientists and experts on the East Sea.

(source:<http://en.vietnamplus.vn/Home/East-Sea-cooperation-discussed-at-seminar/201212/30536.vnplus>)

6th Coastal Zone Asia-Pacific Conference held in Chiangmai, Thailand, 17-20 December 2012. The conference theme is: Oceans-to-Plates.

Upcoming Events

Symposium on “Navigation Safety and Maritime Security in the South China Sea”

A Symposium on navigational safety and maritime security in the South China Sea region, which is jointly organized by Xiamen University South China Sea Institute, XMU Center for Oceans Policy and Law, China Oceans Law Review, and the CMT International Center for Maritime Studies of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, will be held on 2-3 March 2013 on the beautiful campus of Xiamen University.

The symposium themes include: 1) Combating against pirates and terrorists on the South China Sea: Mechanism and impact assessment; 2) Coordination between China's duty and related legislation and institutions; 3) Demands for improvement of the arms equipment on China's ocean-going vessels (merchant vessels and fishing vessels) and corresponding issues on training and management; 4) Shipping safety on the Indian Ocean: Threats and legal protection; and 5) Submarine resources development: Impact on the shipping safety and countermeasures.

37th Annual Conference of the Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia "Maintaining Freedom of Navigation in Law of the Sea" to be held in Seoul, Korea, 1-3 May, 2013, in Seoul .

(Source: <http://www.virginia.edu/colp/annual-conference.html>)

Mekong Environmental Symposium

to be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 5-7 March 2013. The symposium theme is: to find a sustainable equilibrium between economic develop-

ment on the one hand, and the protection of natural resources on the other.

International Conference & Workshops, Transboundary water management across borders and interfaces: Present and future challenges

to be held in Aveiro, Portugal, 16-20 March 2013.

TransNav 2013: "Marine Navigation and Safety of Sea Transportation" to be held in Gdynia, Poland, 19-21 June 2013.

7th EuroSEAS Conference

The Board of EuroSEAS announces that the 7th EuroSEAS Conference will be held in Lisboa, Portugal, from the 2nd to the 5th July, 2013. The host institution will be the School of Social and Political Sciences of the Technical University of Lisboa (ISCSP/UTL).

35th International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research World Congress "the wise find pleasure in water"

to be held in Chengdu, China, 8-13 September 2013. Conference themes include: Water Engineering and Civilization; Hydro-Environment; Fluvial Hydraulics and River Management; Maritime Hydraulics and Coastal Engineering; Water Resources and Hydro-informatics; and Climate Change and Hazard Mitigation. 10 January 2012 is the extended deadline for submitting abstracts.

7th International Conference on Asian and Pacific Coasts to be held in Bali,

Indonesia, 24-26 September 2013. 31

December 2012 is the deadline for submitting abstracts. The conference theme is: to promote scientific advancement, technological progress, information exchange, and cooperation among engineers and researchers in coastal, port, and ocean engineering and other related fields.

3rd International Marine Protected Area Congress to be held in Marseille and Ajaccio, France, 21-27 October 2013.

10th International Conference on Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS 10) & The 11th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment (MEDCOAST 2013), Global Congress on Integrated Coastal Management: Lessons Learned to Address New Challenges to be held in Marmaris, Turkey, 30 October - 3 November 2013. 4 February 2013 is the deadline for submitting abstracts.

PH, Vietnam set to hold joint bilateral cooperation meeting 2013

MANILA, Philippines (14 December 2012) – Officials from the Philippines and Vietnam met on Friday and talked about

preparations for the 7th Joint Commission Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) to be held next year, which would involve discussions on defense cooperation and maritime issues, among others.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said that Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy and newly-delegated Philippine ambassador to China Erlinda Basilio met with Vietnam's Vice Foreign Affairs Minister Pham Quang Vinh in Manila to talk about the preparations.

(Source:<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/59605/ph-vietnam-set-to-hold-joint-bilateral-cooperation-meeting-next-year>)

Selected News

China Publishes Map of Sansha, South China Sea Islands

Xinhua, 2012-11-23

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2012/11/23/2702s734766.htm>

China faces hostility on claim to Spratlys:

Beijing's smile has faded in region

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2012-11-26

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/57883/china-faces-hostility-on-claim-to-spratlys>

China shipbuilder to start projects in Sansha

Xinhua, 2012-11-27

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PH won't recognize new Chinese passport

Manila Times, 2012-11-29

<http://www.manilatimes.net/index.php/news/top-stories/36282-ph-won-t-recognize-new-chinese-passport>

Hainan border police given new powers

China Daily, 2012-11-28

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China's new passport not a problem

The Nation, 2012-11-29

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Global Times, 2012-11-29

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We need US help against China

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2012-11-30

<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/315945/we-need-us-help-against-china>

Chinese police plan to board vessels in disputed seas

Reuter 2012-11-30

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/30/china-seas-idUSL4N0991Z020121130>

ASEAN chief voices alarm at China plan to board ships in disputed waters

Reuter 2012-11-30

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/30/us-china-seas-idUSBRE8AT01B20121130>

Singapore concerned over China's South China Sea rule

Reuter 2012-11-30

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/03/us-china-sea-singapore-idUSBRE8B20H120121203>

New warship to be deployed in Spratlys

Manila Times, 2012-12-3

<http://www.manilatimes.net/index.php/news/top-stories/36581-new-warship-to-be-deployed-in-spratlys>

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2012-12-3

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Vietnam spokesman calls on China to stop "wrongful acts"

Reuter 2012-12-04

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/04/china-sea-idUSL4N09E0KM20121204>

India Dips A Toe into the South China Sea

Dispute – Analysis

Eurasia Review, 12-12-05

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/05122012-india-dips-a-toe-into-the-south-china-sea-dispute-analysis/>

China says Vietnam must stop S. China Sea oil work

Reuter 2012-12-06

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/06/china-sea-idUSB9E8LT01E20121206>

Vietnam stages anti-China rallies

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Philippines sees Japan as balance to China ambitions

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U.S. military to boost Philippines presence; China tells army to be prepared

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Sharing South China Sea cake can mean bigger slices for all

Global Times, 2012-12-12

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Sea spats prompt Indian thoughts on China

Deutsche Welle Radio, 2012-12-13

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China Post, 2012-12-14

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/china-taiwan-relations/2012/12/14/364071/Taipei-tells.htm>

Amid China tensions, Southeast Asia looks to India

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Global Times, 2012-12-27

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Taiwan plans oil, gas exploration in South China Sea

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China boom savaging coral reefs: study

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PH objects to China's maritime patrol

Manila Times, 2012-12-29

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South China Sea Coral declined by at least 80% over the past 30 years

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2012.01957.x/pdf>

Conservation Biology, Vol.00, No.00, 1-9, (2012)
Society of Conservation Biology

While China and other sovereign states in the region are experiencing unprecedented economic expansion, rapid population growth, and coastal development, three scientists from China and Australia analyzed the condition of coral reefs in China and the disputed territories of the South China Sea, and found that coral abundance has declined by at least 80% over the past 30 years on coastal fringing reefs along the Chinese mainland and adjoining Hainan Island.

On offshore atolls and archipelagos claimed by 6 countries in the South China Sea, coral cover has declined from an average of >60% to around 20% within the past 10–15 years.

Climate change has affected these reefs far less than coastal development, pollution, overfishing, and destructive fishing practices.

In the South China Sea, changes in policy and legal frameworks, refinement of governance structures, and cooperation among neighboring countries are urgently needed to develop cooperative management of contested offshore reefs.

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