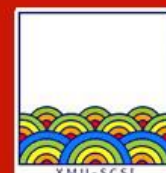




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The Philippines filed a case for compulsory arbitration over disputed territories of the South China Sea

On January 2nd, 2013, the Philippines submitted a case against China regarding territories in the South China Sea to an arbitration tribunal established on the basis of appendix 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Philippines requested compulsory arbitration. China firmly rejected the Philippines' request for arbitration and sent back the request and enclosed documents.

The director of Xiamen University's South China Sea Institute, Kuen-chen Fu, pointed out that all courts, in order to discover the truth and strive for justice, have an obligation to "pierce the veil of falseness shrouding an accusation" just as in corporate law courts have an obligation to "pierce the corporate veil." In 2006, well before the recent dispute, in accordance with article 298 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, China put forward a written statement declaring that it would not accept compulsory arbitration over ocean demarcation disputes, territorial disputes or military conflicts. France, South Korea, Thailand, and a dozen

other small nations have also put forward the similar statements.

Professor Kuen-chen Fu stressed that the stated reason for dispute given by the Philippines was out-and-out false and it is precisely disputes based on these reasons which the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea originally sought to avoid. Such arbitration proceedings will not resolve any problems and will only serve to create new ones.

It is understood that, the Philippines asked the arbitration tribunal to apply the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in deciding the dispute over the rights and obligations in the South China Sea and argued that rights claimed by China on the basis of U-shaped line violated United Nations Convention and as such were invalid. The Philippines also asked the arbitration tribunal to issue a clear statement that Cuarteron Reef and other areas belonging to the continental shelf illegally occupied by China are part of the Philippines, and announce that Mischief Reef and Fiery Cross Reef respectively belong to low-tide highlands and rocks, etc and as such should not entail navigation rights to the surrounding 200 nautical miles.

On April 25th, the chief judge of International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, Yanai Jung, designated five men as arbitrators. They are:

A Polish judge, Stanislaw Pawlak, representing China.

A German judge, Rudy Wolfrum, former chief judge of International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, representing the Philippines.

A Sri Lankan judge, Chris Pinto, presiding as arbitrator of the arbitration tribunal.

A French judge, Pierre Ke.

A Dutch judge, Alfred Sons.

Events

The Islands Sovereignty Issue Seminar was successfully held in Beijing on April 20, 2013. The state ocean administration marine institute for strategic studies hosted the seminar. The expert from Xiamen University South China Sea Institute was invited to attend the conference and make a statement.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/Refer.asp?RdType=87>

The Development of Fishery Equipment in South China Sea Seminar successfully held in Haikou on March 12, 2013. More than 30 representatives joined the discussion on the upgrading and reconstruction of fishery equipment in South China Sea.

<http://zbs.miit.gov.cn/n11293472/n11295142/n11299123/15283666.html>

SHI YAN 2 Research Vessel was engaged in the regular inspection of Xisha and Zhongsha areas in South China Sea, which started its journey from Guangzhou on March 8, 2013. The expedition attracted more than 20 explorers from South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, CAS and other research institutes to do collaboration voyage investigation.

http://www.scsio.cas.cn/xwzx/snyw/201304/t20130409_3816130.html

Strategic Research on the Development and Utilization of Fishery Resources in SCS Seminar held in Guangdong Ocean University on April 22.

http://www.cafs.ac.cn/show.asp?ResName=picgnxw*order=1071

Respond to the Legal Challenges in South China Sea Dispute Seminar held in Beijing branch of National Institute for South China Sea Studies. Experts and scholars from relevant universities in Beijing and other institutes attended the conference.

<http://www.nanhai.org.cn/showpic.asp?newsid=5786>

Upcoming Events

CIL Roundtable on the South China Sea, International Law and UNCLOS to be held on 27-28 June 2013 in Singapore.

The CIL Roundtable will bring together leading experts on the law of the sea to examine relevant principles under UNCLOS and provide objective and impartial analysis on how such principles apply to the South China Sea disputes. Professor Kuen-chen Fu, the director of South China Sea Institute in Xiamen University, has been invited to attend the conference.

<http://cil.nus.edu.sg/programmes-and-activities/upcoming-events/cil-roundtable-on-unclos-international-law-and-the-south-china-sea/>

Discussion on Legal Perspectives on the South China Sea Dispute to be held on 8 May in Guangdong Ocean University. Professor Kuen-chen Fu will give a report.

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn/ReferShow.asp?id=1048>

10th Annual Energy Ocean International to be held on 10-12 June 2013 in Warwick, Rhode Island.

<http://www.energyocean.com/attend/schedule/>

First International Conference of Fish and Shellfish Immunology to be held on 25-28 June 2013 in Vigo, Spain.

<http://vigoimmunology.com/2013/>

Second ‘International Symposium on Current Boundary Dynamics: Connections with open-oceans, coastal processes, biophysical interactions and responses to global climate change’ will be held on 8-9 July 2013 in Lijiang, Yunnan, China. The meeting aims to provide a forum for discussing recent progress and advancements.

<http://coadc.ouc.edu.cn/isbcd/>

World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods for Sustainable Fisheries to be held in Boston, USA on 15-19 July 2013.

<http://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/symposia/WCSAM-2013/Pages/default.aspx>

NPOMS-2 The Second Workshop of DBCP Capacity Building for the North Pacific Ocean and Its Marginal Seas with a Focus on Typhoons to be held on 15-19 July 2013 in Hangzhou, China.

http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=1278

Fifth International Conference of the Pan African Fish and Fisheries Association to be held on 18 – 22 Sep. 2013 in Bujumbura, Burundi.

<http://africhthy.org/content/fifth-international-conference-pan-african-fish-and-fisheries-association-paffa-5-cinqui%C3%A8me>

BIT's 2nd Annual World Congress of Ocean-2013 (WCO-2013) to be held on 23-25 September 2013 in Hangzhou, China.

The theme is the New Wave of the World Marine Economy. The conference seeks new outlooks and creative ideas from the international community to address ocean and coastal resource management issues in China.

<http://www.bitconferences.com/wco2013/default.asp>

IMDIS 2013: 2013 International Conference on Marine Data and Information Systems to be held in San Romano, Lucca, Italy on 23-25 September, 2013.

<http://imdis2013.seadatanet.org/>

Selected News

RCEP talks expected to begin next month

Sixteen Asian Pacific countries are set to begin talks next month on a free trade zone that would cover over half the world's population, according to a document obtained by the AFP yesterday. The start of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) are poised to go ahead despite bitter territorial rifts among planned members, including China, Japan and some Southeast Asian nations.

Bangkok Post, 24 Apr 2013

<http://bangkokpost.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Asia's largest deep-sea drilling platform complete

Asia's largest deep-sea oil and gas platform, the Liwan 3-1, was recently completed after 21 months of construction in the Qingdao's Huangdao Economic Development Zone. Based on China's independently developed technologies, the platform was built by Marine Oil Engineering Qingdao and will be delivered to an offshore oil and natural gas site in the South China Sea in early May.

China Daily, 25 Apr 2013

http://qingdao.chinadaily.com.cn/2013-04/25/content_16448439.htm

Taiwan held first-ever live-fire military exercises on Taiping Island

Coast Guard Administration personnel stationed on Taiping Island in the South China Sea conducted a drill using live-fire. The drill incorporated 40mm anti-aircraft guns and 120mm mortars, making the first use of such weaponry on the island, Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) Legislator Lin Yu-fang said.

People's Daily, 22 April 2013

<http://taiwan.huanqiu.com/roll/2013-04/3859240.html>

Southeast Asia to reach out to China on sea disputes

Southeast Asian nations stepped up efforts on Thursday to engage China in talks to resolve maritime tensions, agreeing to meet to try to reach common ground on disputed areas of the South China Sea ahead of planned discussions in Beijing later this year.

Bandar Seri Begawan, BruneiReuters, 25 Apr 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/25/us-asean-china-idUSBRE93008P20130425>

China to let tourists visit disputed South China Sea islets

China will this month start allowing tourists to visit the Paracel Islands, one of a group of disputed islets and reefs in the South China Sea, state news agency Xinhua said, a move likely to irk rival claimant Vietnam.

Bandar Seri Begawan, BruneiReuters, 7 Apr 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/07/us-china-seas-tourism-idUSBRE93601720130407>

Philippines may allow U.S. greater military access

Bandar Seri Begawan, BruneiReuters, 5 Apr 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/05/us-philippines-usa-military-idUSBRE93407620130405>

Manila slams Beijing at launch of drills with US

South China Morning Post, 6 Apr 2013

<http://epaper.scmp.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

Xi: South China Sea will be made safer for fishermen

The Straits Times, 11 Apr 2013

<http://www.stasiareport.com/premium/asia/story/xi-south-china-sea-will-be-made-safer-fishermen-20130411>

China reaffirms cooperation on South China Seas issues

Bangkok Post, 8 Apr 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/344417/china-reaffirms-cooperation>

Taiwan plans to expand pier in disputed islands

Agence France-Presse in Taipei, 7 April, 2013

<http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130407/DEFREG03/304070009/Taiwan-Plans-Expand-Pier-Disputed-Islands>

China reiterates intention to resolve territorial disputes via bilateral negotiations

Global Times – Weekend, 27 Apr 2013

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/777850.shtml#.UX0cVrK1vy0>

Obama thanks Singapore PM for military cooperation

Associated Press, 2 Apr, 2013

<http://news.yahoo.com/obama-thanks-singapore-pm-military-cooperation-204444488--politics.html>

China's deep-sea center 'open to the whole world' Center

China Daily, 13 Apr 2013

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-04/13/content_16398118.htm

Chinese fishing boat runs aground in Philippines reef

Agence France-Presse in Manila, 9 April 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1210642/chinese-fishing-boat-runs-aground-philippine-s-reef>

Philippines Charges Chinese Fishermen over Reef Crash

China.org.cn, 11 April 2013

http://www.china.org.cn/world/2013-04/11/content_28515450.htm

Jiaolong submarine starts scientific missions in June

Xinhua News Agency, 25 March 2013

<http://english.sina.com/china/2013/0324/574983.html>

Australia, Indonesia boost security, defense ties

The Jakarta Post, 4 April 2013

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/04/04/australia-indonesia-boost-security-defense-ties.html>

Tsunami in Song Dynasty nearly causes species extinction in Dongdao Island of Paracel Islands

Wen Wei Po, 16 April 2013

<http://history.huanqiu.com/kaogu/2013-04/3835431.html>

Japan, Vietnam to hold maritime security talks in May

The Japan Times, 15 April 2013

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/04/15/national/japan-vietnam-to-hold-maritime-security-talks-in-may/#.UX0sxhDvvwE>

The first multilingual broadcast serving the South China Sea begins broadcasting

China Ocean News, 11 April 2013

<http://epaper.oceanol.com/shtml/zghyb/20130411/86560.shtml>

Asean and China to hold talks on South China Sea

The Straits Times, 12 Apr 2013

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hnJbeGbzJY5GKQU4GawiUKf35kbQ?docId=CNG.700353cb4990b57f5c79c2801179903c.101&buffer_share=855bc

Sabah not on Asean agenda

Philippine Daily Inquirer, 18 Apr 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

Warship berths in Singapore as US focus shifts to Asia

South China Morning Post, 19 Apr 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1217756/us-warship-arrives-singapore-eight-month-regional-deployment>

China to Japan: Stay off disputed islands

The Asian Age, 17 Apr 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

Chinese fish 'poachers' face prison

Bangkok Post, 12 Apr 2013

<http://bangkokpost.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

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