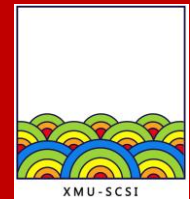




XIAMEN UNIVERSITY SOUTH CHINA SEA INSTITUTE SOUTH CHINA SEA BULLETIN

A South China Sea Community News Feeder

NO.8, 1 August 2015



Contents

<http://scsi.xmu.edu.cn>

The Maturing of China's Ocean Law and Policy: The case of Xiamen's South China Sea Institute shows the maturity in China's academic thinking on maritime issues

According to an article under the above title by Greg Austin carried on the July-13 issue of The Diplomat.com, in the discussion of China's intentions on its ocean frontier, little attention is paid to the evolution of the academic underpinnings of its policy, especially in the field of international law.

Since the turn of the century, there has been a growth industry in China for the study of maritime law and policy. For example, the Journal of the Ocean University of China was launched in 2002. This was a product of the Ocean University of China, an institution with a long history after 1959, which has been upgraded several times, most recently in 2002.

There are now several institutes specializing in the South China Sea. The most visible has been the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, set up as such in 2004, at its predecessor, the Hainan Research Institute of South China Sea, which was founded in 1996.

A more interesting organization may be the South China Sea Institute set up in 2012 in the Center for Oceans Law and Policy in Xiamen University. The rapid pick-up of direct links between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan in recent years has seen Xiamen boom. This

The Maturing of China's Ocean Law and Policy: The case of Xiamen's South China Sea Institute shows the maturity in China's academic thinking on maritime issues.

Page 1

EVENTS

The 10th Marco Polo- ZHENG He Academy of International Oceans Law and Policy was held from 5-31 July in Xiamen and Shanghai, China.

Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sino – Latin American Law of the Sea Symposium Xiamen 2015 to be held in Xiamen University, China, 5-6 November 2015.

Page 3

SELECTED NEWS

The Maturing of China's Ocean Law and Policy.

Page 4

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page 7

progress, and its strategic significance, can be captured in an anecdotal way by the emergence in 2005 of the China Oceans Law Review, a typical academic research publication. What makes this law and policy journal special is that it is a collaborative effort between two mainland university centers (the Xiamen University Center for Oceans Policy and Law, and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Center for Oceans Law and Policy), and centers from Taiwan (Sun Yat-sen University Institute of Marine Affairs), Hong Kong (the Polytechnic University C. Y. Tung International Center for Maritime Studies), and Macau (University of Macau Institute for Advanced Legal Studies). The journal is bi-lingual and is published in Hong Kong.

As might be expected from a more cosmopolitan enterprise, this journal reflects a certain maturing of the academic debate in China on matters of ocean policy and law. Several articles on the South China Sea are worth noting, including one by Shih-Ming Kao and Nathaniel S. Pearre (“Potential Alternatives to the Disputes in the South China Sea: An Analysis”, No.1, 2013, pp.262-290) and one by Zhao Wei (“Resolving Maritime Delimitation Disputes by Agreement: Practices of States Bordering the South China Sea and Their Implications for China”, No.1, 2013, pp.156-181).

In spite of the uncertainty created about possible new clashes in the South China Sea because of activities by claimants in the past five years, the maturing of Chinese views of ocean law is worth further study.

For more details please see:

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/07/the-maturing-of-chinas-ocean-law-and-policy/>

EVENTS

The 10th Marco Polo- ZHENG He Academy of International Oceans Law and Policy was held from 5-31 July in Xiamen and Shanghai, China.

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