

Event Report

Territory and Maritime Issues in East Asia and Their Origins

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Kambaikan Building, Muromachi Campus, Doshisha University



Hosted by the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIJA) and Doshisha University's Center for Study of South China Sea in Kyoto, this symposium brought together experts from many fields, including history, international law, and international politics.

The participants discussed the origin of several territorial and maritime issues, as well as policies that would help establish the rule of law, peace and economic prosperity in East Asia. Among some of the factors underlying the territorial and maritime issues that were discussed included:

- (i) historical and contemporary Chinese perceptions of national territories and borders
- (ii) commercial activities conducted before World War II on islands near Japan, including Takeshima, the Senkakus, and the Ogasawaras, and the incorporation of these islands into the country's territory by the Japanese government based on these activities
- (iii) the disposition of territories of Japan under the San Francisco Peace Treaty
- (iv) the stipulations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the postures of countries with respect to the Convention, as well as the decisions rendered by international tribunals on territorial acquisitions and maritime boundaries

How countries reacted to the decision in the South China Sea Arbitration Case (Philippines v. China) was also the subject of debate. The participants pointed out that while nations have agreed on the importance of respecting the stipulations of UNCLOS and the rule of law, the positions of some countries regarding disputes in the South China Sea and the delineation of

continental shelves in the East China Sea has not necessarily been in accordance with the principles of the Convention and precedent-setting legal cases. In this regard, a participant emphasized the importance of discussing and upholding ideals for solidifying the rule of law in an age of soft power competition.

<Program>

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2019

Venue: KMB211, Kambaikan Building, Muromachi Campus, Doshisha University

13:30-13:35 Opening Remarks by Yasunori NAKAYAMA (Director General (Acting), JIIA)

13:35-14:40 Keynote address "The South China Sea Arbitration and Beyond: China's Approach to the Law of the Sea and the Rule of Law"

Speaker:

Paul REICHLER, Esq. (Partner at Foley Hoag LLP and Lead Counsel for the Philippines in the South China Sea Arbitration Case)

Commentator:

Shigeki SAKAMOTO (Professor, Doshisha University)

Moderator:

Yasunori NAKAYAMA (Director General (Acting), JIIA)

14:50-16:55 Panel Discussion "Territory and Maritime Issues in East Asia and their Origins"

Speakers:

Takashi OKAMOTO (Professor, Kyoto Prefectural University)

Susumu TAKAI (Special Research Fellow, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation)

Hironobu SAKAI (Professor, Kyoto University)

Discussants:

Naoyuki AGAWA (Distinguished Visiting Professor, Doshisha University)

Koji MURATA (Professor, Doshisha University)

Moderator:

Ryo ASANO (Professor, Doshisha University)

16:55-17:00 Closing Remarks by Yasunori NAKAYAMA (Director General (Acting), JIIA)