

Dili International Conference

Navigating Challenges:
Law of the Sea and
Maritime Dispute
Settlement

15 – 16 May 2025
Timor-Leste



Provisional Program

Draft as at 28 March 2025



Land and Maritime Boundary Office
Government of the Democratic Republic
of Timor-Leste

Day 1: Maritime Boundaries

8:00am – 8:30am Registration

Opening Remarks:

8:40am – 8:50am

H.E. President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Dr. José Ramos-Horta

Keynote address:

8:50am – 9:20am

H.E. President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), Judge Tomas Heidar

Coffee Break and Group Photo (9:20am – 9:50am)

9:50am – 11:20am

Panel 1: Recent Developments in Maritime Boundary Settlement

Speakers:

- Judge Jin-hyun Paik, Former President of ITLOS
- Garth Schofield, Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration
- Sir Michael Wood KCMG KC, Legal Counsel
- Rodman Bundy, Legal Counsel Squire Patton Boggs

Moderator: Professor Joanna Mossop, Victoria University of Wellington

Coffee Break (11:20am – 11:30am)

11:30am – 1:00pm

Panel 2: Maritime Boundary Dispute Settlements in the Indo-Pacific

Speakers:

- H.E. Lionel Yee, Deputy Attorney-General, Singapore
- Professor Eddy Pratomo, Senior Partner, Pratomo west and Partners [TBC]
- Lawrence Martin, Foley Hoag

Moderator: Gitanjali Bajaj, DLA Piper

Lunch Break (1:00 pm – 2:00 pm)

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Panel 3: Navigating National Decisions on choice of international dispute resolution avenues

Speakers:

- Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum, Conciliator in the Timor Sea Conciliation
- Elizabeth Exposto, Deputy Agent of Timor-Leste in the Timor Sea Conciliation
- Representative from Malaysia [TBC]
- Representative from France

Moderator: Dr Vasco Becker-Weinberg, University of Lisbon

Coffee Break (3:00pm – 3:15pm)

3:15pm – 5:15pm

Panel 4: Lessons Learned from the Timor Sea Conciliation

Speakers:

- H.E. Agio Pereira, Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Agent for Timor-Leste in the Timor Sea Conciliation
- Katrina Cooper, Australian Senior Diplomat, Co-agent for Australia in the Timor Sea Conciliation [TBC]
- H.E. Ambassador Peter Taksø-Jensen, Chairman of Conciliation Commission
- Martin Doe, Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration

Reflections from the Conciliators

- Judge Rudiger Wolfrum, Conciliators in the Timor Sea Conciliation
- Professor Donald McRae, Conciliators in the Timor Sea Conciliation
- Judge Abdul Koroma, Conciliators in the Timor Sea Conciliation
- Dr. Rosalie Balkin, Conciliators in the Timor Sea Conciliation [TBC]

Moderator: [TBC]

07:30pm

Welcome Dinner at Palácio Nobre de Lahane
hosted by the H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste

Day 2: Managing Maritime Disputes and the relevance of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in Maritime Delimitation

Opening Remarks:

9:00am – 9:10am

H.E. Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

9:10am – 10:40am

Panel 1: Management of Disputed Maritime Areas and Fostering Ocean Governance

Speakers:

- Dr Vasco Becker-Weinberg, University of Lisbon
- Professor Makoto Seta, Waseda University
- Professor Nguyen Lan Anh, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
- Dr Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood, University of St Andrews

Moderator: H.E. Dr Dionisio Babo Soares, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

Coffee Break (10: 40am – 11:00am)

11:00am – 12:30pm

Panel 2: Climate Change and Sea Level Rise in Maritime Delimitation

Speakers:

- H.E. Arnold Loughman, Attorney General of Vanuatu
- Dr Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Dr Tara Davenport, National University of Singapore, Centre of International Law

Moderator: Professor Margaret Young, University of Melbourne

Lunch Break (12:30pm – 1:30pm)

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Panel 3: ITLOS and ICJ Advisory Opinions on Climate Change

Speakers:

- H.E. Dr. Eselealofa 'Ese' Apinelu, former Attorney General of Tuvalu
- Dr Naporn Prompt Poppattanachai, University of Galway
- Emiretus Professor Donald Mcrae, University of Ottawa
- Justice Paula da Conceição Machatine Honwana, Judge of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

Moderator: Stephen Webb, DLA Piper

Coffee Break (3:00pm – 3:15pm)

3:15pm – 4:45pm

Panel 4: The High Sea Treaty and its Implications for Global Governance

Speakers:

- Professor Margaret Young, University of Melbourne
- Professor Joanna Mossop, Victoria University of Wellington
- Dr Xiangxin Xu, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Rose Kautoke, Senior Crown Counsel, Head of the Legal Advice and International Law Division, Attorney General's Office, Kingdom of Tonga

Moderator: Eran Sthoeger, Columbia University

Closing (4:45pm – 4:55pm)

4:45pm – 4:55pm

Wrap up:

Elizabeth Exposto, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, CEO of the Land and Maritime Boundary Office, Deputy Agent for Timor-Leste in the Timor Sea Conciliation