

Announcing the 4th Kobe PCRC Symposium on
**“Achieving Sustainability in Arctic Resource Development:
The Role of International Law”**

A CALL FOR ABSTRACTS BY **31 JULY 2018** (first round)

Date: 17-18 December 2018 (two full day conference)
Venue: Kobe University, Japan

Polar Cooperation Research Centre (PCRC), Kobe University, is happy to announce its 4th Arctic Legal Order symposium which will provide a cutting-edge forum for academic discussion on the role of international law in achieving sustainability in Arctic resource development, focusing on mineral resources. The organisers now accept abstracts for papers (details below). The official registration for the symposium will commence in October. Meanwhile, please follow the updates on PCRC official website:

< <http://www.research.kobe-u.ac.jp/gsics-pcrc/index.html> >

Objective: Non-Arctic actors, including Asian states and their multinational companies, are now preparing to engage and invest in the development of both “traditional” (oil, gas and other minerals) and “new” (e.g. tourism and biogenetic) resources in the Arctic. The question of their sustainability, taking into account their economic, social and environmental dimensions, has become a global problématique. At the same time, under the general principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources and unlike in the Antarctic where, under a special treaty regime, all mineral resource activities are prohibited, the legal developments to achieve sustainability specifically tailored for the Arctic context have been rather sporadic at the international level and dominated by domestic laws and politics.

In this context, the 4th PCRC symposium will re-examine *international* norms, procedures and institutions, both hard and soft in their nature, promoting sustainability of resource development in the Arctic, as well as providing foreseeability conducive for long-term engagement and investment from non-Arctic actors. In particular, the symposium will examine the real and potential role for Asian states, their multinational companies and their scientific communities in supporting and co-developing appropriate international norms, procedures and institutions promoting sustainable Arctic resource development.

Approach and Focus: The symposium will examine the international legal developments relating to sustainable resource development in the Arctic, addressing its economic, social and environmental dimensions in *a balanced and integrated manner*, as called for by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For that purpose, the symposium will examine, as case studies, mineral resource developments in Greenland and, conceivably, the Yamal area of the Russian Federation. In the specific context of the Arctic and in its certain particular localities, the symposium aims to answer how hydrocarbons and minerals

can be exploited in a manner that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable (i.e., the application of the principle of sustainable development). As one element of its social dimension, the concept of “sustainability” in this symposium includes equity, especially as regards Arctic indigenous peoples.

The focus on the selected case studies will contribute to a broader examination on the content, implementation and effectiveness of relevant *international* norms and procedures, including their role in informing domestic and local regulations. The symposium is interested not so much in describing the relevant international laws applicable to the issues at hand, as there are many, but rather in examining whether and how far the specific Arctic legal developments have been achieved. The application and implementation of relevant principles and rules of international law, such as the principles of sustainable development, self-determination, and free and prior informed consent (FPIC) are examined. The symposium will also analyse in how far obligations under relevant multilateral instruments, such as the Paris Agreement, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, trade and investment related treaties, and a broad array of human rights treaties have been applied and implemented in the specific context of the Arctic.

The symposium will also consider examples of “new” Arctic resources, such as tourism and biogenetic resources in order to assess the responsiveness of international legal developments in addressing emerging resource issues in the Arctic, in comparison with those relating to the extractive industries*. The symposium welcomes suggestions, through a call for papers, for those “new” resources in the Arctic that would be appropriate for examination in light of the objectives of the symposium.

A list of proposed themes and sub-topics for discussion in the symposium is provided as an Annex to this paper.

Format: A discussion-oriented symposium, with 30-minutes in-depth analysis on overarching themes by experts in the field as keynote/main speakers, followed by shorter presentations/comments from panel members, and one-hour or more free discussion with the participants.

Opportunities for early-career scholars: The PCRC strongly encourages early-career scholars to participate in our symposium, with the possibility to publish their papers as PCRC Working Papers and/or as contributions to a book project. The PCRC will be able to offer full/partial coverage of international travel and accommodation expenses for a limited number of early-career scholars from those whose abstracts have been accepted.

* The 2nd and 3rd PCRC symposia have already dealt with the issues relating to fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean. Some of those papers will appear in a forthcoming book: *Emerging Legal Orders in the Arctic: The Role of Non-Arctic Actors* (Shibata, Zou, Sellheim and Scopelliti eds., Routledge, 2019).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

In one Microsoft word file (no separate CV, please), please provide the following and send it to: < kobe_arctic_research [at] diamond.kobe-u.ac.jp > by 31 July 2018. The result will be notified at the latest by the end of August. There might be a second round of a call depending on the result of the first call.

- (1) Your full name, affiliation, current status, and contact details (e-mail address)
- (2) A short CV, with up to three (3) most relevant academic publications/achievements
- (3) Additional information justifying your status, if you are an early career researcher (including Ph.D. students; postdoctoral researchers within 5 years of obtaining Ph.D.; or 35 years or younger) requesting financial support from PCRC.
- (4) Title of your speech/presentation with an abstract up to 500 words. Please indicate clearly under which theme/sub-topic (see Annex below) your paper is presented.

ANNEX: PROPOSED THEMES AND SUB-TOPICS

Theme 1: The role of international law in achieving sustainability in Greenland mineral resource development

Keynote speech: **Rachael Lorna Johnstone** (confirmed) Professor, University of Akureyri;
Professor and Director, Arctic Oil and Gas Research Centre, University of Greenland

The impact of international law on Greenland natural resource governance

Panelist 1: **Minori Takahashi** (confirmed) Assistant Professor, Hokkaido University

TBA

Sub-topic A: Political and diplomatic dimension of achieving sustainability of Greenland mineral resource development

Sub-topic B: Greenlanders' perspective on the sustainability of mineral resource development

Sub-topic C: Scientific dimension of achieving sustainability of Greenland mineral resource development (scientists working in Greenland)

Theme 2: The role of international law in achieving sustainability of the Yamal oil and gas developments

Theme 3: Indigenous peoples' rights and knowledge in achieving sustainability of Arctic mineral resource development

Sub-topic A: Application of relevant principles and norms in the context of the Arctic, such as self-determination, free and prior informed consent, social licence to operate, etc.

Proposal for additional sub-topics

Theme 4: The contribution of Asian states and international institutions in supporting/developing international rules conducive for achieving sustainability of Arctic mineral resource development

Keynote speech: Arctic Economic Council representative: *TBC*

TBA

Sub-topic A: Contribution of Asian states

Sub-topic B: Contribution of other institutions, including Arctic Council and its Working Groups, United Nations institutions, Conference of the Parties (COPs), IMO, etc.

Theme 5: "New" Resources: Comparative case studies*

Sub-topic A: The role of international law in achieving conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in the Arctic and its possible implications to sustainable Arctic mineral resource development

Sub-topic B: The role of international law in sustainable tourism in the Arctic

Proposal for additional sub-topic

Theme 6: Emerging international law for achieving sustainability of Arctic resource developments, including its interplay with domestic laws

Sub-topic A: The role of international law promoting human/societal welfare *for the Arctic*

Sub-topic B: The role of international environmental law *for the Arctic*

Sub-topic C: The role of international economic law (including international investment law) *for the Arctic*

Proposal for additional sub-topics

END

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