Kobe University GSICS
Polar Cooperation Research Centre

2026 Strategic International Collaborative Research Grant Type C

33rd PCRC / GSICS International Law Seminar

Why Did South Korea Ratify the BBNJ Agreement So Quickly?

Domestic Drivers of a Middle Power's Rapid Ratification and Their Implications for Ocean and Polar Governance

～韓国によるBBNJ協定批准 考察～

Speaker : KIM Hyun Jung

Professor of Law, Yonsei University

December 15th

Tuesday, 13:20-14:50

Venue : GSICS 6th floor Simulation Room

This seminar is held in English.



This presentation examines why South Korea ratified the BBNJ Agreement before its financial and procedural rules were settled, and what its middle-power strategy of early participation means for the Southern Ocean and the Antarctic Treaty System.

KIM Hyun Jung is Professor of International Law at Yonsei University. Her research focuses on the law of the sea and Antarctic and ocean governance, including the BBNJ Agreement. She has advised the Korean Delegation to CCAMLR and holds a doctorate in law from Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. With Prof. Shibata, she is guest-editing a special issue on Antarctic governance for *The Polar Journal*.

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2026 Strategic International Collaborative Research Grant Type C

34th PCRC / GSICS International Law Seminar

The Liberal International Order in Transition:

The Future of International Law and the Role of Middle Powers.

～自由主義的国際秩序の変容～

国際法とミドルパワーの役割

Speaker : SEO Youngmin

Assistant Professor, Korea National Diplomatic Academy

December 15th

Tuesday, 15:10-16:40

Venue : GSICS 6th floor Simulation Room

This seminar is held in English.



This lecture examines how shifts in global power affect international law and explores the roles of middle powers, particularly Japan and South Korea, in sustaining and supporting the international legal order.

KIM Hyun Jung is Assistant Professor at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy. Before joining the Academy, he served as a Korean diplomat and as an invited professor at the Judicial Research and Training Institute of the Supreme Court of Korea. His research focuses on the law of the sea, international law and diplomacy, and the evolving international legal order.