

Melting the political ice? Recent developments in the Arctic

Conference
British Institute of International and Comparative Law
28 November 2008

The race to harness the resources of the Arctic has attracted significant attention in recent years. As the Arctic ice continues to melt, the prospects of increasing maritime, tourism and commercial activities in the Arctic area has highlighted disputes as to claims to territorial sovereignty. Actions by states, such as the planting of the Russian flag at the North Pole last year, have only heightened tensions, and have led to calls for a treaty regime, similar to that in the Antarctic, to regulate the northern polar region. This half-day conference will examine the territorial claims, and the implications of the disputes for environmental protection, maritime navigation, and commercial exploitation of natural resources.

PROGRAMME

- 9:00 Coffee and registration
- 9.30 – 9:45 Welcome and Opening remarks
Judge David Anderson, International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea
- 9:45 – 11:15 Panel 1: Territorial claims and political interests
Professor Paul Berkman, Fulbright Scholar, Head of the Arctic Ocean Geopolitics Programme, Cambridge University, 'Arctic State-Changes: Self-Interests or Common Interests?'
Professor Kaiyan Kaikobad, Professor of Public International Law, Brunel University, 'Territorial claims in the Arctic'
Professor Donald Rothwell, Professor of International Law, Australian National University, 'Towards an Arctic Treaty Regime'
Chair: **Ms Sarah Williams**, Dorset Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee
- 11:30 – 12:45 Panel 2: Natural resources and the environment
Professor Louise de La Fayette, Visiting Professor, Maritime Institute, University of Greenwich, 'Environmental Protection in the Arctic'
Mr Chris Carleton, Head, Law of the Sea, UK Hydrographic Office, 'The exploitation of the continental shelf in the Arctic'
Mr Daniel Owen, Fenners Chambers, Cambridge, The outer continental shelf in the Arctic: opportunities for marine environmental protection
Chair: **Ms Anne Sheehan**, Visiting Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- 12:45 – 1:00 Concluding remarks