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## **China turns down Philippines' request for UN arbitration on South China Sea issue**

On 19 February 2013, China turned down a request by the Philippines to take a South China Sea territorial dispute to the United Nations arbitral tribunal. Philippines proclaimed on 22 January 2013 that the action was taken according to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a regular press briefing that the proposal was factually and legally incorrect. "The note and related notice not only violate the consensus enshrined in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), but are also factually flawed and contain false accusations," he said.

China signed the declaration in 2002 with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including the Philippines. The declaration states that disputes should be solved through friendly talks and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned.

Also, in August 2006, China made her written state-

ment according to Article 298 of the UNCLOS to refuse any third party adjudication procedures designed in the UNCLOS for maritime boundary delimitation issues, territorial disputes and military confrontations. France, Korea, Thailand and more than a dozen other States also made the same statement according to the UNCLOS.

## Events

**2012 Annual Academic Conference “South China Sea air-sea Interaction and Ocean Circulation and Vortex Evolution”** was held recently in Haikou. This conference is under the 973 plan project which was built in 2010 to support the South China Sea research. About 70 members of the project group attended the conference.

[http://www.scsio.cas.cn/xwzx/tpxw/201302/t20130223\\_3765083.html](http://www.scsio.cas.cn/xwzx/tpxw/201302/t20130223_3765083.html)

**“The Northern Part of South China Sea Epicontinental Structure Research” Seminar** was held on 10-12 January 2013. Over 50 Scholars from domestic and overseas institutes attended the seminar. This seminar was organized by the South China Sea institute, and coordinated by marginal sea geology key laboratory of China Academy of Science and China Association for Science and Technology.

[http://www.scsio.cas.cn/xwzx/snyw/201301/t20130118\\_3752845.html](http://www.scsio.cas.cn/xwzx/snyw/201301/t20130118_3752845.html)

**The 13th “Taiwan Quaternary” Seminar and the 3rd IMAGES/PAGES of West Pacific Paleooceanography International Seminar** were held on 21-24 January 2013. The seminar, themed “Taiwan Quaternary: Ocean Perspective from the Holocene to Anthropocene”, was designed to provide a platform for latest published research achievements and discussion for research orientation in future.

<http://marine.nsysu.edu.tw/files/13-1023-69707-1.php?Lang=zh-tw>

**International Conference on Climate Change in 2013** was held in Taipei on 15-17 January 2013. It was organized and sponsored by National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction and The Water Resources Agency (WRA) of Taiwan, and coordinated by Environment Change Center in Taiwan's Academia Sinica and Taiwan Central Weather Bureau. Specialists and scholars from Japan, UK, America, the Netherlands, Australia, South Korea and many other countries attended the conference and communicated in related topics.

<http://www.oc.ntu.edu.tw/?p=10508>

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**Peking University and Howard University China-US Relations Seminar**, with its theme of “Challenge and cooperation: How to deal with bilateral relations and meet global challenges”, was held in Beijing on January 15-16, 2013. It was jointly hosted by the Institute for China-US People-to-People communication research in Peking University, International Relations Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

<http://www.sis.pku.edu.cn/article.aspx?classid=16&cateid=18&id=1907>

**National Marine Work Conference** was held on January 10, 2013. In the conference, it was announced that the national island resources comprehensive survey for the second time will start at the first half year and be expected to be completed in December 2016.

[http://www.soa.gov.cn/xw/hyyw\\_90/201301/t20130110\\_23642.html](http://www.soa.gov.cn/xw/hyyw_90/201301/t20130110_23642.html)

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2013-01/10/c\\_114325435.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2013-01/10/c_114325435.htm)

**Oceanography Institute of Zhejiang University** was formally established on January 30, 2013.

[http://dose.zju.edu.cn/chinese/redir.php?catalog\\_id=5855&object\\_id=22610](http://dose.zju.edu.cn/chinese/redir.php?catalog_id=5855&object_id=22610)

**The 11th Meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (AGM 11)** was held at Maruay Garden Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 21-23 November 2012. The meeting marked a decade of existence of AG in the region (officially established on November 2001).

[http://www.enaca.org/modules/news/article.php?article\\_id=1959&title=eleveth-advisory-group-on-aquatic-animal-health](http://www.enaca.org/modules/news/article.php?article_id=1959&title=eleveth-advisory-group-on-aquatic-animal-health)

## Upcoming Events

**South China Sea: Central to Asia-Pacific Peace and Security** will be held at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore during 13-15 March 2013.

The conference will draw on the expertise of 15 leading scholars, experts and former practitioners from academia, research institutions, and think tanks from the U.S., China, Vietnam, Philippines, Singapore, and Australia.

<http://asiasociety.org/new-york/south-china-sea-central-asia-pacific-peace-and-security>

**36th Annual Marine/Offshore Industry Outlook Conference** to be held at Hilton Houston Westchase Hotel, 27-28 March 2013.

<http://www.mtshouston.org/outlook.cfm>

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**International Conference on Ship Recycling** will be held at World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden, 7-9 April 2013.

<http://wmu.se/events/shiprec-2013>

**Offshore Survey 13 Technical Conference** to be held in Southampton, UK, 10-11 April 2013.

This two day technical conference focuses on the sciences involved in hydrographic survey and marine geophysical investigation, looking at the acquisition and management of data collected from on, in and below the seabed, and from above and in the water column.

<http://www.oceanbusiness.com/en/conference/2013-programme/>

**The 5th Asian Maritime Law Conference** to be held in Swissotel Merchant Court, Singapore, 11-13 April 2013 .

[http://www.comitemaritime.org/Uploads/Events/5AMLC\\_6pp%20Final%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.comitemaritime.org/Uploads/Events/5AMLC_6pp%20Final%20(1).pdf)

**Interdependence in Southeast Asia - Limits and Opportunities** to be held at Webster University, Thailand, 26-27 April 2013.

[http://webster.ac.th/blogs/international-relations/?page\\_id=21](http://webster.ac.th/blogs/international-relations/?page_id=21)

**The Global Impact of EU Shipping Law and Policy** to be held at the Main Campus, Ozyegin University, Cekmekoy, 2-3 May 2013.

<http://www.comitemaritime.org/Uploads/Events/EMLO%20Istanbul%202013%20Flyer.pdf>

**International Conference on Marine Economy and Marine Power Construction** to be held at Zhejiang University,, China during 13-15 May 2013.

<http://rws.k.zju.edu.cn/index.php?c=Chinese&a=detail&catid=81&id=10249>

**Asian Premier Offshore and Deepwater Conference: Jointly Explore Oil & Gas in South China Sea** to be held in Shenzhen, China, 23-24 May 2013.

<http://www.cdmc.org.cn/dc/>

**37th Annual Larval Fish Conference** to be held in Miami, Florida, 2-6 June 2013.

<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/LFC2013/index.html>

**32nd International Conference on Ocean, Offshore and Arctic Engineering (OMAE2013)** to be held in Nantes, France, 9-14 June 2013.

<http://www.asmeconferences.org/omae2013/>

**Qingdao International Conference 2012 on Desalination and Water Reuse** to be held in Qingdao, China, 25-28 June, 2013.

<http://www.cda-apdwr2009.com/newsdetail.asp?unid=616>

**BIT's 3rd Annual World Congress of Marine Biotechnology 2013** to be held on September 20-22, 2013 in Hangzhou, China.

It will cover topics from recent breakthroughs in marine biotechnology, algal biotechnology, marine natural products and valuable materials, marine bioenergy and engineering, marine resources, environment bioremediation to applications of marine biotechnology, etc.

<http://www.bitconferences.com/wcmb2013/>

## Selected News

### **Mainland touts beefed-up South China Sea fishery patrols**

*China Post* 8 February, 2013

TAIPEI--No Chinese fishing boats operating legally in the South China Sea were detained by foreign powers in 2012, thanks to the increasing presence of China's fishery patrol boats there, the China News Service reported Thursday, citing a fishery official in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/china-taiwan-relations/2013/02/08/369958/Mainland-touts.htm>

### **Patrols in South China Sea to protect fishermen**

*China Daily* 25 February, 2013

China will launch routine fishery patrols around Nansha waters in South China Sea this year to better protect the legitimate interests of Chinese fishermen in the area, the Chinese fishery administration said on Sunday. Wu Zhuang, chief of the South China Sea Fishery Bureau under the Ministry of Agriculture, said promoting fishery patrols around the Nansha Islands on a regular basis is the main priority of fishery law enforcement this year.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-02/25/content\\_16252369.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-02/25/content_16252369.htm)

### **China says Philippines' U.N. request on seas complicates issue**

*REUTERS* 23 Jan. 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/23/china-philippines-idUSL4N0AS36H20130123>

### **Manila's action over South China Sea could risk aggravating disputes**

*South China Morning Post*, 26 January, 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1136191/manilas-action-over-south-china-sea-could-risk-aggravating-disputes>

### **Philippines to buy 12 South Korean fighter jets**

*The Star Malaysia* 30 Jan. 2013

<http://www.defensenews.com/article/20130130/DEFREG03/301300019/Philippines-Buy-12-S-Korean-Fighter-Jets>

### **'West Philippine Sea' put on new map**

*The Nation* 30 Jan 2013

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/aec/West-Philippine-Sea-put-on-new-map-30198970.html>

### **Navy enters territorial waters for patrol, training**

*The Star Malaysia* 2 Feb 2013

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-02/01/c\\_132144770.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-02/01/c_132144770.htm)

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### **Building the ASEAN Political-security Community**

*The Jakarta Post* 5 Feb 2013

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/02/05/building-asean-political-security-community.html>

### **Taiwanese students, teachers to visit Spratly Islands**

*The Philippine Star* 6 Feb. 2013

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/02/06/905363/taiwanese-students-teachers-visit-spratly-islands>

### **Caution on Tubbataha reactions**

*The Freeman* 7 Feb. 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

### **China's deep-sea oil rig under repair after leaks found**

REUTERS 8 Feb. 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/08/china-rig-offshore-idUSL4N0B85IV20130208>

### **Us-Indonesia Expand Defense Partnership**

*The Jewish Voice* 8 Feb. 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

### **Germany backs PH move to bring Spratlys row to UN**

*Philippine Daily Inquirer* 8 Feb 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

### **Phl-china dispute affects CIP project**

*The Freeman* 8 Feb 2013

<http://www.philstar.com/cebu-news/2013/02/08/906319/phl-china-dispute-affects-cip-project>

### **Navy to conduct holiday drills in western pacific**

*South China Morning Post* 9 Feb 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

### **South-East Asia and China: All change at ASEAN**

*Economist* 9Feb. 2013

<http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21571461-hopes-calmer-times-under-years-new-management-all-change-asean?zid=306&ah=1b164dbd43b0cb27ba0d4c3b12a5e227>

### **US agency sees huge oil, gas potential in Spratlys**

*The Philippine Star* 11 Feb. 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

### **Blunt Warning on China**

*The Washington Times Weekly* 11 Feb 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/feb/6/inside-the-ring-blunt-warning-on-china/?page=all>

### **Indonesia's foreign policy outlook: Challenges of 2013 and beyond**

*The Jakarta Post* 12 Feb 2013

[http://news.silobreaker.com/indonesias-foreign-policy-outlook-challenges-of-2013-and-beyond--analysis-5\\_2266597729440366634](http://news.silobreaker.com/indonesias-foreign-policy-outlook-challenges-of-2013-and-beyond--analysis-5_2266597729440366634)

### **Gov't grants exploration contracts to 11 firms**

*The Philippine Star* 12 Feb 2013

<http://www.philstar.com/business/2013/02/12/907648/govt-grants-exploration-contracts-11-firms>

### **China wages quiet war of maps over disputed islands**

Arab News 17 Feb 2013

<http://www.arabnews.com/china-wages-quiet-war-maps-over-disputed-islands>

### **Philex bags Palawan contracts**

The Philippine Star 18 Feb. 2013

<http://www.philstar.com/business/2013/02/18/910032/philex-bags-palawan-contracts>

### **Law and history support China's claims over the South China Sea**

Pakistan Observer 20 Feb 2013

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/indepth/2012-05/10/c\\_131580634.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/indepth/2012-05/10/c_131580634.htm)

### **Removal of globes means the world to Aquino**

South China Morning Post 20 Feb 2013

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

### **Joint tourism best way to ensure lasting peace in South China Sea**

Global Times 22 Feb. 2013

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/763302.shtml>

### **UN backs peaceful solution to PH-China sea row**

Philippine Daily Inquirer 22 Feb 2013

<http://ph.news.yahoo.com/un-backs-peaceful-solution-philippines-china-sea-row-061004977.html>

### **Philippines and Japan in maritime huddle**

Manila Times 24 Feb 2013

<http://www.manilatimes.net/~manilati/index.php/opinion/columnist1/42128-philippines-and-japan-in-maritime-huddle>

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