



THE LAW OF THE BLUE ECONOMY: INTERNATIONAL AND SOUTH ASIAN PERSPECTIVES

The Second Biennial Conference of the **South Asia International Economic Law Network (SAIELN)** will be held in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India**, from **27 to 28 July 2019**.

The objective of SAIELN is to encourage and support the development of international economic law (IEL) in the South Asia region in cooperation with global partners. The network is a freestanding body associated with the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) and other IEL groups.

SAIELN was established in April 2017. The Second Biennial Conference will address **the Law of the Blue Economy from an international and South Asian perspective**. We are therefore seeking proposals for papers, panels and posters for the two-day SAIELN conference.

In addition, a business session devoted to the future operations of SAIELN will be organised.

CONFERENCE THEME

Oceans cover 71 per cent of the Earth and contain 97 per cent of Earth's water. The oceans also contain 99 per cent of Earth's living space. As the single largest natural asset, oceans are a source of boundless benefits for mankind. They serve as a vital medium for international trade of goods. Studies have estimated that about 80 per cent of world trade is carried by oceans. Like any natural resource, oceans can eternally serve humanity only if it is governed and managed sustainably through an effective governance programme.

The concept of Blue Economy is premised on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this concept is based on protection and the restoration of the ocean base, which provides livelihood and food to many in the world and sustainability of economic activities.

The World Bank defines Blue Economy as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of oceans ecosystems. It impacts human activities such as fisheries, transport, renewable energy, waste management, climate change and tourism. Of late, a large number of international organisations, as well as government, businesses and civil society groups, have raised concerns about the need to safeguard the marine wealth. In this regard, the UN Environment Executive Director Joyce Msuya recently observed that "by investing in

ocean-based sustainable development, we can safeguard the environment, propel the Blue Economy to new heights, and ensure that communities and business all thrive.”¹ In 2018, the Commonwealth nations adopted the Commonwealth Blue Charter, which affirmed a collective commitment to preserving and nurturing oceans.

What is the law of the Blue Economy?

In the international trade law arena, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has been at the forefront of protecting maritime wealth. The landmark rulings of the Appellate Body, for example, in the *US – Tuna* and *US – Shrimp* changed how trade rules interact with environmental protection. Currently, WTO Members are negotiating disciplines on fisheries subsidies to regulate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Similarly, the interplay between environment and international investment protection has gained importance in the last few years.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea also serves to be an important instrument for the regulation of the Blue Economy. There are currently a number of important discussions on possible amendments of the Montego Bay regime, which will directly impact developing economies. At the crossroad between domestic and international norms — and also under public and private law — the law of the Blue Economy presents numerous challenges in terms of harmonisation and implementation. This task is even more challenging for South Asia.

Considering the fact that some of the most vulnerable economies and Small Island Developing States are situated around the Indian Ocean region and South Asia, this conference aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from these States to examine and evaluate together the need for international economic law to recognise the importance sustainable.

For the purposes of this conference, South Asia includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Research papers, panels and posters on the following topics are particularly welcomed

- International Trade Law and Blue Economy
- International Investment Law and Blue Economy
- Blue Economy and International Disputes Settlement
- Sustainable Development and International Economic Law
- Fisheries, Food Security and Climate Change and interaction with IEL
- UNCLOS and the Blue Economy
- The Law of the Sea and the developing world, South Asian perspectives
- The Law of the Sea and International trade and International Investment Law
- And other areas of international law which has an impact on Blue Economy

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Applicants are required to make their submissions through this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/pMx536n5ihud6wk7A>

Paper and poster proposals should include a cover e-mail with full institutional affiliation and contact details of the proposer, and a **WORD** document with a paper

¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Protecting coral reefs, as we move towards a blue economy*, <https://www.unenvironment.org/zh-hans/node/24549> (Mar.10, 2019).

abstract of no longer than 500 words. The abstract should contain the title of the paper, along with a line indicating the subfield of IEL in which it falls.

Panel proposals should include in a **WORD** document the panel title, a short description of the topics covered during the panel, and suggested panellists (no more than 5 with moderators, commentators and discussants). This also includes concise information about the panellists and their specific contribution to the panel, as a presenter of a paper or as a participant serving in a different role. Suggested panellists must have been consulted by the organizer of the panel about the proposal. They must have confirmed their interest in serving on such a panel if it were to be selected and must have agreed to come in person to the conference. In assessing and selecting panel proposals, the organizers may take into account the diversity of speakers and the originality and topicality of the panel's topic and presentations. Only one panel proposal per person (panel organizer and speakers included) will be considered.

Based on past experience with similar conferences and the high number of panel proposals typically submitted, and considering the need to design a balanced conference program, the organizers reserve the right to accept panel proposals subject to conditions regarding the size and composition of the panel and the variety of topics covered during a single panel discussion.

In evaluating proposals, please note that priority will be given to unpublished papers/posters and works in progress. In your cover e-mail, please note whether the paper has already been published, or has been accepted for publication.

No individual can participate in multiple panels. Accordingly, if you submit a paper proposal and are listed also in a panel proposal, we will consider both proposals, but cannot accept both your paper proposal and your inclusion as part of a panel. Accordingly, if you are submitting individually and as part of a panel and both are accepted, we will require you to choose which presentation to give.

TIMELINES

The deadline for abstract submission is **15 May 2019**.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by **20 May 2019**.

Full papers (6,000-8,000 words) should be submitted by **15 July 2019**.

SAIELN YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD

A "SAIELN Young Scholar Award" will be awarded to the best paper written and presented at the Conference by a junior scholar. The winner of the award will be announced during the conference. The award entails a prize medal and a sum of 500 USD.

Only PhD candidates and recent graduates (those who obtained graduation or masters in 2017 or later) are eligible for this award. Upon request, the candidates will be required to submit proof of their eligibility. Co-authored papers are not eligible for this award.

LOGISTICS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

All conference participants, including speakers, must cover their own travel, accommodation and attendance costs, though the hosts will endeavour to suggest suitable accommodation based on attendees needs. The organisers shall provide for airport (Thiruvananthapuram International/Domestic Airport) pick-up and drop-off.

There is a conference fee of 50 USD per participant. The organisers shall intimate the selected participants about the payment of the fee.

OUTPUT AND DISSEMINATION

The SAIELN Organizing Committee expects to submit a book proposal in late 2019 to a top-tier international publisher for review, based on the quality of papers presented.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs, SAIELN
Prof. Dr. Leïla Choukroune; and
Prof. Dr. James J. Nedumpara

Joint Secretaries, SAIELN
Aditya Laddha; and
Sandeep Thomas Chandy



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