



Research Forum Summary

2013 ILA-ASIL Asia-Pacific Research Forum

International Law and Dispute Resolution: Challenges in the Asia Pacific

May 15-16, 2013

Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

The 2013 International Law Association (ILA)-American Society of International Law (ASIL) Asia-Pacific Research Forum took place on May 15-16, 2013 in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China (ROC). The Research Forum was jointly organized by four academic institutions, including the ILA, the ASIL, the Chinese (Taiwan) Society of International Law (CSIL), and the Research Center for International Legal Studies of National Chengchi University (NCCU). Founded in 1958, the CSIL has been an ILA branch since 1961 and organized the ILA Biennial Conference in 1998 and the ILA Asia Pacific Regional Conferences in 1995 and 2011.

The theme of the 2013 ILA-ASIL Asia-Pacific Research Forum was “International Law and Dispute Resolution: Challenges in the Asia Pacific.” The Research Forum provided a platform for international law stakeholders to explore the full range of international and transnational legal issues concerning the Asia-Pacific region. The organizing committee issued the call for papers in November 2012 and selected half of more than 100 paper proposals for presentation in February 2013. Approximately 300 government officials, scholars and students from more than 20 countries participated in the Research Forum.

The welcome reception was held on the evening of May 15. His Excellency Simon Shen-Yeaw Ko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the ROC, and President Chun-i Chen of the CSIL welcomed Research Forum participants. President Seung Hwan Choi of the ILA-Korean Branch and the Korean Society of International Law and Professor Naoya Okuwaki, former President of the Japanese Society of International Law, expressed gratitude to the organizers for hosting the Research Forum.

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of May 16. Professor Torsten Stein, Treasurer of the ILA and President of the ILA-German Branch, Professor Edmund Sim, Co-chair of the ASIL Law in the Pacific Rim Region Interest Group, Professor Bih-jaw Lin, Vice President of NCCU, and President Chun-i Chen of the CSIL stressed the importance of exploring timely issues on international law and dispute resolution concerning the Asia Pacific.

In his keynote address, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China illustrated Taiwan's application of international law principles in peaceful resolution of disputes. First, President Ma explained the concept of "mutual non-recognition of sovereignty and mutual non-denial of governing authority" as the guidelines for dealing with Mainland China. Secondly, President Ma emphasized that while the Diaoyutai Islets constitute the ROC's inherent territory and Taiwan's continuous island, he proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative for handling relevant disputes. Finally, President Ma urged the government of the Philippines to respond responsibly to the *Guang Da Xing No. 28* incident, in which the indiscriminate shooting of a Philippine government vessel caused the death of a Taiwanese crewmember. Such excessive use of force in the two countries' overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones could not be justified under general international law or the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The roundtable session provided insight into territorial disputes and international law. Five panels then addressed topics related to the law of the sea, international human rights, the discipline of international law, international economic law and dispute resolution. The ILA Research Committee on Recognition and Non-recognition in International Law, chaired by Professor Wladyslaw Czaplinski, also convened a meeting.

At the closing ceremony, Professors Edmund Sim, Torsten Stein and Wladyslaw Czaplinski expressed appreciation for the organizers' efforts and invited Research Forum participants to attend the 2014 ILA-ASIL joint meeting in Washington, DC. In addition, Professor Chun-i Chen invited speakers and poster presenters to submit papers to the *Chinese (Taiwan) Yearbook of International Law and Affairs*. On May 17, the ILA and ASIL delegation met with President Ma in the Presidential Office Building.

Members of the 2013 ILA-ASIL Asia-Pacific Research Forum organizing committee wish to extend their sincere gratitude to ILA and ASIL colleagues for their support. Special acknowledgement goes to Lord Mance, Professors Marcel M T A Brus, Christine Chinkin and Torsten Stein, and Ms. Juliet Fussel of the ILA Headquarters, as well as ASIL President, Mr. Donald Donovan, ASIL Executive Director, Ms. Elizabeth Andersen, and Professors Edmund Sim and Meredith Lewis.

More information about the Research Forum can be obtained from its [official website](#). ILA and ASIL members may download the Research Forum brochure that includes the final program and paper abstracts. Inquiries or comments about the Research Forum can be directed to Professor Pasha Hsieh at ila@nccu.edu.tw.