

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Arctic, Antarctic changes generate Hobart legal review

The first meeting of law specialists held in the Southern Hemisphere to discuss the legal ramifications of changing political and environmental conditions in the Arctic and Antarctic begins in Hobart tomorrow.

Law experts from around the world will review new and emerging issues facing the international community in the polar regions.

Issues include resource access and management, tourism and shipping, the polar regions in the Asian century, Arctic shipping routes, the Antarctic Treaty and Southern Ocean whaling.

Hosted by the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic studies, the 7th Polar Law Symposium has attracted more than 80 academics, students and practitioners.

Japan's Professor Akiho Shibata of Kobe University will deliver the keynote address. Prof Shibata's principal research interests are international law-making processes, international environmental law and the Antarctic Treaty System. He served as a Legal Consultant of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2001 to 2011 and participated in several environmental treaty negotiations as a member of the Japanese delegation.

The symposium coincides with the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, also being held in Hobart this week.

Titles of Conference abstracts include –

- *The role of nationalism in the contemporary Antarctic*
- *The principles of territorial acquisition and how they apply to territorial claims in Antarctica*

- *The consequences of the ICJ Decision in the whaling case for Antarctica and the Antarctic Treaty System*
- *Charting a sustainable course for shipping in the polar regions?*
- *Impacts of government regulations over natural resources on sustainability of livelihoods in a changing climate: a case study from Russia's Arctic*
- *Strengthening wilderness protection in Antarctica through lessons learnt from the Arctic*
- *Human and fundamental rights of the Sámi*
- *The Antarctic Treaty System: future mathematical challenges*
- *Responsive Antarctic law-making in the Asian Century*
- *Arctic fisheries: social and legal concerns of climate change*
- *Governance of the Arctic Ocean Beyond National Jurisdiction: Cooperative Currents, Restless Sea*
- *Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty System, non-compliance and the problem of ice*

For more information, visit the Polar Law Symposium website at www.conferencedesign.com.au/polarlaw2014/index.html

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