



## ORAL PRESENTATION

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### South China Sea: The Problem of Politics

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All around the southern fringe of the South China Sea, governments and oil companies are coming under pressure from China. This presentation will explain what's going on and why. Even though China comprehensively lost an international arbitration case brought by the Philippines, it continues to block several major oil and gas developments off other countries' coasts by diplomatic and other forms of pressure. Recent seismic surveys and drilling have confirmed the presence of sizeable hydrocarbon prospects in disputed waters around the southern South China Sea. By any mainstream interpretation of the Law of the Sea, these are located within the Exclusive Economic Zones of Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines. China uses more idiosyncratic arguments to claim that it has the rights to the same resources. This presentation will outline what these arguments are and how they have changed since the 2016 arbitration decision.