



MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series

Deep-sea mining and the International Seabed Authority: Recent Developments, key outstanding issues and contrasting narratives

Wednesday, September 29, 05:00 – 06:30pm (CEST)

Venue: Online

Recent years have witnessed a rapid increase in interest to exploit the mineral resources of the deep ocean. Deposits located at depths greater than 200 m, such as polymetallic nodules, polymetallic sulphides and ferromanganese crusts, are known to consist critical and valuable metals such as nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese. Minerals in seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction, designated as the common heritage of humankind, are currently at the centre of attention as negotiations on regulations to facilitate exploitation activities are ongoing at the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

This presentation is divided into two parts. The first part will highlight recent developments at the ISA, whereby the recent invocation of a treaty provision known as the 'two-year' rule by the Republic of Nauru has necessitated the Council of the ISA to make haste with the negotiations of the exploitation regulations and complete the same by July 2023. In this respect, the presentation will discuss some of the key outstanding issues that remain unresolved as the Council of the ISA sets out to meet this seemingly insurmountable task before the deadline.

The second part of the presentation will delve into some narratives on deep-sea mining that have recently found their way into the ISA. This includes the discourse that deep-sea mining is essential to achieve the clean energy transition or that it is socially beneficial and environmentally friendly (at least when compared to terrestrial mining) and therefore sustainable on the one hand, and weighing some of these portrayals against marine conservation concerns and increasing calls for a moratorium on the other hand.

Pradeep A. Singh is a doctoral candidate at the University of Bremen, Germany and an independent research consultant. His areas of expertise are public international law, the law of the sea, international environmental law, climate policy, and ocean governance. Pradeep has spent the last five years working on legal and regulatory aspects of deep seabed mining and the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. His qualifications include the following: LL.M (Harvard Law School), LL.M. in Global Environment and Climate Change Law (University of Edinburgh, Chevening scholar) and LL.B. (University of Malaya, Gold medalist).



The monthly [MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series](#) offer a virtual space to get information and engage in exchanges on ocean governance issues, through presentations by international experts from academia, governments, international organisations and civil society. It is organized by the MARIPOLDATA project.

To register: via email to ina.tessnow-vonwyssocki@univie.ac.at, indicating your name and institution. You will receive an email with further information and the link to participate in the virtual space

More information: <https://www.maripoldata.eu/newsevents/#oceanseminarseries>