

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Polar Law Symposium held in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time

Polar law experts from around the world will gather in Hobart in October to discuss the key issues facing the international community in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Hosted by the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic studies, the 7th Polar Law Symposium will be the first held in the Southern Hemisphere.

Up to 100 academics, students and practitioners from around the world will discuss issues including –

- Asian interests in the polar regions
- opening up of the northern sea route, and climate change
- polar economies and industry and marine resources
- the Antarctic Treaty system
- and native peoples and human rights.

Japan's Professor Akiho Shibata of Kobe University will deliver the keynote address. Professor 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 will be held from October 29 to 31. It coincides with the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, also being held in Hobart in October.

For more information contact Dr Julia Jabour, Institute for Marine and Antarctic studies, (03) 6226 2978 or julia.jabour@utas.edu.au, and visit the Polar Law Symposium website at www.conferencedesign.com.au/polarlaw2014/index.html

Information released by:

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