

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Environmental Standards for Deep Seabed Mining

8-9 May 2015, Tromsø, Norway

The **K.G. Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea** at the **Arctic University of Tromsø** is hosting a workshop on **Environmental Standards for Deep Seabed Mining in Tromsø, Norway on 8-9 May 2015**.

Whether the exploitation of mineral resources of the deep seabed will be economically and technically feasible in the near future is uncertain. Yet, regulations on exploration and exploitation activities need to be in place before States start engaging in deep seabed mining as damage to the marine environment may be irreversible. One of the legal challenges of deep seabed mining is to set effective standards for the protection of the marine environment despite scientific uncertainty. The Mining Code set up by the International Seabed Authority with its environmental regulations, the setting aside of environmental protection zones for which no licenses are granted and the Advisory Opinion of the Seabed Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on responsibility for environmental damage are examples for the importance of the issue. The workshop aims at presenting and explaining the status quo from a political, scientific and legal perspective with a view to evaluate the benefits and shortcomings of the current regime and to discuss further development.

In addition to two keynote speeches on invitation by the organizers the workshop calls for abstracts by researchers (including young scientists) with a background in law, political sciences or environmental economics. On the basis of the submitted abstracts the steering committee will invite six speakers to present their papers at the workshop. Relevant issues on which abstracts can be submitted include

- the environmental content of the common heritage principle
- the allocation of risk and responsibility between sponsoring States and companies
- a comparison between rules for environmental protection on the (extended) continental shelf and the deep seabed
- the establishment of high seas MPAs that may or may not cover the seabed (e.g. OSPAR MPAs)
- the evaluation of the environmental standards provided by the mining code
- dispute settlement
- possible future challenges

Submission deadline: 28 February 2015

Notification of acceptance: 15 March 2015

International workshop: 8-9 May 2015

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