

Tanaka's book offers readers an accessible account of most of the key concepts and procedures that underpin international dispute settlement from an international law perspective.

reviewed by Pannavit TAPANEEYAKORN
Naresuan University, Thailand

Environmental Law

Shipbreaking in Developing Countries: A Requiem for Environmental Justice from the Perspective of Bangladesh

by Md Saiful KARIM.

Oxon/New York: Routledge, 2018. xx + 150 pp. Softcover: £36.99.[†]

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Shipbreaking, being amongst the most highly polluting industries in the world, simultaneously violates human rights laws, labour laws, and environmental laws. Having profound insight into the field of marine and environmental law, Md Saiful Karim grapples with these legal issues in his book *Shipbreaking in Developing Countries: A Requiem for Environmental Justice from the Perspective of Bangladesh*. While some books deal with ship dismantling and its diverse impacts, this book offers instead “the issue of global and national environmental injustice using the shipbreaking industry as an example” (p. 9).

The author frames the shipbreaking industry in the context of three different themes: “environmental justice”, “international environmental laws”, and “international maritime laws”, in order to critically analyze legal issues encompassing the industry by interconnecting these themes through six chapters. A conceptual understanding of environmental justice is explained in the first two chapters, where he characterizes the workers' situation as a “contemporary form of economic slavery” since their work forcibly puts their lives at risk due to their poor financial status (Chapter 2).

The subsequent two chapters discuss the existing international environmental conventions germane to the shipbreaking activities. The author envisages potential in the Basel Ban Amendment to influence regional and national legislation regarding waste management, but is a little dubious about its success to prevent the north–south trade of obsolete ships because a large number of ships are sailing under “flags of convenience”. Further, he criticizes the 2009 Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships for placing more financial and environmental burdens on developing countries than on developed countries, regarding the management of hazardous waste.

While analyzing the initiatives of Bangladesh in Chapter 5, he argues that several regulations have developed to govern the shipbreaking sector due to the worldwide attention and directions from Bangladesh's Apex Court. Still, practical implementation of those regulatory reforms is lacking due to “the serious influence of the industry on the government's decision-making process” (p. 112). The penultimate chapter touches upon two unfortunate sufferers of scrapping activity, shipbreaking workers and the surrounding natural environment, both of whom lack a voice or power in this matter. Given the shortcomings of international and national regulatory policies explored in the book, the author concludes that the foundation of the relevant frameworks is “hollow”, and concerned only with the interest of wealthy shipping industries (p. 126).

Overall, this book has successfully demonstrated how environmental injustice is occurring in Bangladesh. The discussion in the initial two chapters serves as a valuable basis for the reader to understand the critical scrutiny of technical legal instruments in subsequent chapters. The author's key argument, the failure of national and international legal instruments to acknowledge the environmental

[†] The original version of this book review was published with the incorrect author name. A notice detailing this has been published and the error rectified in the online PDF and HTML copies.

justice aspect of shipbreaking, seems convincing, as supported by his well-researched identification of the gap in relevant laws and case-studies. This book is a valuable source of reference for scholars of international environmental law, international maritime law, and professionals in the shipping industry.

reviewed by Sifat Umme AIMAN
South Asian University, New Delhi, India

Environmental Regimes in Asian Subregions: China and the Third Pole

by Simon MARSDEN.

Cheltenham/Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017. xix + 294 pp. Hardcover: £85.00.

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Environmental Regimes in Asian Subregions: China and the Third Pole by Simon Marsden, is an excellent contribution to the scholarship on environmental regulation in Asia. The work is split into five chapters, with Chapters 2 to 4 providing insightful examples of environmental regimes in Southwest Asia, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia, respectively, while Chapter 5 focuses on linking South and East Asia through environmental governance of the Third Pole. To date there has been a lack of comparative exploration of environmental regimes in Asia's subregions and this work goes some way to remedying that. It helpfully provides contextualization of environmental agreements in their subregions, historically, politically, and environmentally, while also addressing how the environment of the Third Pole may be regulated in the future.

Through examination of select subregional regimes, Marsden determines that a focus on developing and establishing effective regulatory frameworks for diversity conservation and transboundary environmental impact assessments [EIA] is most likely to gain support in any future regime development for the Third Pole. He then goes on to define the Third Pole and explore the political constraints on subregional governance, particularly with reference to water management, biodiversity protection, and infrastructure development. The geographical definition of the Third Pole as being primarily constituted by the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau, including the Hindu Kush Mountains, is supplemented by a discussion of its similarities and differences to the First and Second Poles, in particular significant population, climate, and richness of biodiversity differences. Interestingly, he does not discuss the environmental governance of the First and Second Poles, instead signalling that the differences mean that the existing regimes in Asian subregions are more relevant for comparison. A running theme through the work is the prominence of infrastructure development projects in Asian subregions and the role of international lenders, such as the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and Marsden emphasizes how they can play a role in ensuring the careful environmental management of the Third Pole through, for example, the continued inclusion of EIA requirements in lending agreements. He concludes the work by highlighting that, although the regimes in other Asian subregions have for the most part failed to make particularly positive contributions to environmental protection, they may nonetheless have institutional arrangements, objectives, principles, and provisions that are transferable or capable of transfer to the Third Pole. His recommendations include the development of a subregional environmental regime building on existing agreements in the Asian subregions, while ensuring that China is invited to participate fully, and collaboration between China, India, Pakistan, and the other states of the subregion is prioritized.

Although, at times in Chapters 2 to 4 the link between China and the Third Pole is not made effectively enough, leaving the reader to question the relevance of the very detailed examples, the examples given are underexplored in the existing literature and the contextualization provided in this book will help readers to understand the complexity of these subregional regimes and difficulties inherent in studying regionalism where regions themselves are hard to define.

reviewed by Amber Rose MAGGIO
Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore