



The South China Sea:

Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects for Collaboration



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Overview

Separating East and West Malaysia, the South China Sea is one of Malaysia's most strategic but vulnerable maritime domains. The multi-stakeholder territorial dispute continues with the status quo increasingly being defined by might-makes-right, instead of norms grounded in international law.

At the same time, Malaysian policymakers remain concerned that the internationalisation of the dispute will only see further entrenchment of major power competition, adding to the challenges.

Has the US approach to the South China Sea forged stability in the region? How have developments in the South China Sea impacted the environmental and economic concerns of the local communities who depend on the South China Sea for their livelihoods and movement? What are the opportunities and prospects for the US in supporting multiple stakeholders in Malaysia – both the federal and state government, and local communities – to improve and promote capacity for stability, domain awareness and sustainable economic growth?

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