

## Editors' Note

Current Developments in Arctic Law (CDAL) is an annual publication of the University of the Arctic's Thematic Network on Law (Network). The Network consists of over 160 scholars interested in the Arctic, not only from the standpoint of law but also from other social science disciplines, such as international relations and political science. Network members belong to education and research institutions located across the Arctic and sub-Arctic region. Its activities include research, education, networking, and outreach. In recent years, the Network has successfully implemented several research and network projects. To name a few are *Food (In)Security in the Arctic*, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, the *pilot project for institutionalizing research-end user cooperation in societal security research*, funded by the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and the *Finnish-Japanese Arctic Studies Program*, funded by the Department of Education in Finland.

In the areas of education and teaching, the Network organises guest lectures, in which well-known experts deliver speeches on topical issues concerning the Arctic. The Network cooperates with related institutions,

including other Thematic Networks of the University of the Arctic, to organise summer schools or teaching programs for doctoral and advanced-level undergraduate and graduate students. While the Network organises several seminars and workshops each year open to students and scholars, it regularly joins the host's effort to organise the annual Polar Law Symposium. Network members schedule scientific sessions in renowned international conferences, such as in the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS), the UArctic Congress, and the Arctic Circle Assembly.

As part of the outcomes of the research and network projects and that of the conference presentations, each year, the Network members publish high-quality scientific papers focusing on legal and policy developments concerning the Arctic. The publication of the *Yearbook of Polar Law* (Brill/Nijhoff) is one of the significant achievements to which the Network strongly contributes. Its members serve on the editorial board and, at the same time, serve as peer-reviewers for the submitted manuscripts.

The CDAL is another achievement that encourages both junior and senior scholars to publish their research and academic results. Additionally, it publishes policy papers,

short notes on Arctic-related research and developments, conference summaries and similar contributions. Today, the CDAL is in its eighth year. Hence, this is our eighth volume. The papers published in the CDAL are non-peer-reviewed and include both academic and non-academic contributions. This volume contains 10 articles covering a wide range of topics, as follows: Heather Sauyaq Jean Gordon and Ranjan Datta present the concept of restorative justice practices based on indigenous knowledge. By giving examples of such practices, the authors reflect on how introducing them can help with holistic healing of indigenous peoples and communities. Elena Cirkovic proposes a cosmolegal approach to the legal framework of climate change and outer space pollution, in which both human and non-human actors are agents influencing one another. Elena Gladun and Olga Zakharova examine how the Russian Federation is complying with the goals of the United Nations (UN) 2030 *Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arctic Region*. Karolina Sikora analyses the influence of the registry of indigenous peoples in the Russian Federation on the conditions and status of the indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation's North, Siberia and the Far East. Stefan Kirchner offers predictions of the potential consequences of a *No-Deal Brexit* to international cooperation in the Arctic

region. Juha Saunavaara and Fujio Ohnishi describe the *Arctic Challenge for Sustainably II* (ArCS II) project conducted jointly by Japan's National Institute of Polar Research, the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology and the Hokkaido University. Juha Joonas describes the potential consequences of opening a planned phosphate mine in the Kemin-Sompio area in the Finnish Lapland. Pavel Tkach discusses how federal laws of the Russian Federation make the Arctic regions more attractive for business development. Gudmundur Alfredsson presents a brief history of the Polar Law Symposiums organised so far, as well as their contents and outreach. Finally, Mami Furuhashi reports on the 13<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium held this year online.

While these contributions are not peer-reviewed, and opinions expressed in the papers are those of the individual authors, we sincerely hope that the articles are of interest to many of you – our readers. We are grateful to all the contributors for their insightful thoughts and deliberations, which advances this eighth volume of the CDAL one step further in disseminating knowledge on the state of the Arctic world.

*Kamrul Hossain & Marcin Dymet*

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