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Robert Beckman heads the ocean law and policy program and is the Director of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS), which was established in 2009. Professor Beckman is also an Associate Professor at the NUS Faculty of Law. He currently teaches Ocean Law & Policy in Asia and Public International Law. He is an expert on the issues of law of the sea in Southeast Asia, including piracy, maritime security, the South China Sea and the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. He served for several years as a regional resource person in the workshops on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea and Professor Beckman also lectures in the summer programme at the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law & Policy in Rhodes, Greece.

Henry Bensurto
Henry Sicad Bensurto Jr. is the former Secretary General of the Commission on Maritime and Ocean Affairs Secretariat (CMOAS) and incoming Assistant Secretary of the West Philippine Sea Center (WPSC), Department of Foreign Affairs. A recipient of the Presidential Award of Gawad Mabini (with the Rank of Commander) for his distinguished contribution and leadership in the passage of the Philippine Archipelagic Baselines Law on March 10, 2009. He helped shepherd the preparation and submission of the Philippine partial claim for Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) before the UN Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS) in April 2009.

Andrew Billo
Andrew Billo is an Assistant Director at the Asia Society’s New York headquarters where he manages the organization’s public programs in the policy domain. Prior to Asia Society, he was an official with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) where he was posted to Vietnam, Jordan, and Cambodia. While based in Ho Chi Minh City, he managed projects aimed at combating the exploitation of migrants. In the Middle East, he held operational and logistical responsibilities pertaining to refugees. Prior to joining IOM in 2004, he served as UN Volunteer, also in Vietnam. Andrew holds a Master’s degree in International Affairs from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) in New York and a Master’s degree in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore. He holds a B.A. from Colorado College and speaks Vietnamese.

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Patrick Cronin
Patrick Cronin is a Senior Advisor and Senior Director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). Previously, he was the Director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS) at National Defense University and has a nearly 30-year career inside government and academic research centers. He used to serve at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). In 2001, he was confirmed by the Senate to the third-ranking position at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Dr. Cronin received both his M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees in University of Oxford, and graduated with high honors from the University of Florida.

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Christopher Hill
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Walter Lohman is Director of The Heritage Foundation's Asian Studies Center. Lohman joined Heritage in 2006 as Senior Research Fellow for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Before joining Heritage, Lohman served as Senior Vice President and Executive Director of the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council. The other part of Lohman's career has been spent as a Senate staff member. In 2002, he served as senior professional Republican staff advising Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) on issues affecting East Asia. From 1991 to 1996, he served as a policy aide to Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) advising McCain on foreign policy, trade and defense issues. Lohman has a bachelor's degree in humanities from Virginia Wesleyan College and a master's degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia.

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Stephen Loosley is a former Australian Senator and General Secretary of the NSW ALP and ALP National President. Stephen has specialist experience in international affairs, public policy, legislative process and major infrastructure projects. He holds several high profile appointments including Chairman of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Senior Vice President of the European Australian Business Council and eight years as Chairman of the Committee for Sydney. His deep understanding of the dynamics affecting business and government, locally and globally, is invaluable in helping organizations tackle complex issues. Having pursued careers in both the political and corporate arenas, Stephen is uniquely placed to offer high level strategic advice to public and private sector clients.

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Duncan McCargo is professor of Southeast Asian Politics at the University of Leeds and a Visiting Scholar at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University. His interests mainly focus on politics of Thailand and comparative politics of Southeast Asia. He is best known for his agenda-setting contributions to current debates on the politics of Thailand. In addition, Professor McCargo has lived in Singapore, taught in Cambodia and Japan, and published on Indonesia and Vietnam. Dr. McCargo appears regularly on BBC radio and television and has written for The Daily Telegraph, The Economist, The Guardian, and Time magazine. He has also given briefings to senior officials including UN staff and the president of the Thai Senate.

Tom Nagorski
Tom Nagorski became Executive Vice President of the Asia Society following a three-decade career in journalism—having served most recently as Managing Editor for International Coverage at ABC News. Before that he was Foreign Editor for World News Tonight, and a reporter and producer based in Russia, Germany and Thailand. Nagorski was the recipient of eight Emmy awards and the Du Pont Award for excellence in international coverage, as well as a fellowship from the Henry Luce Foundation. He has written for several publications and is the author of Miracles on the Water: The Heroic Survivors of a World War II U-Boat Attack.

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