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CFP 2026 SCS Arbitration Award (January 2026)

**INDONESIAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
CALL FOR PAPERS
Special Issue (October 2026)
Commemorating the 10th Anniversary
of the South China Sea Arbitration Award (2016–2026)**

Theme

***The South China Sea Arbitration Award at Ten:
Developments, Debates, and the Future of Public International Law***

Background and Rationale

The 2016 South China Sea Arbitration Award, issued by an arbitral tribunal established under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), marks a key milestone in the modern development of public international law. Beyond settling specific disputes between the parties, the Award provided authoritative interpretations of essential UNCLOS provisions, including the legal status of maritime features, the extent of maritime rights, and the significance of historic rights within the Convention framework.

Ten years after its issuance, the significance of the Award cannot be measured solely by the level of political acceptance or enforcement by states. Instead, its lasting importance lies in its influence on legal reasoning, doctrinal interpretation, and normative expectations within the international legal order. The Award remains a key reference for courts, tribunals, scholars, and policymakers in understanding the meaning and application of the law of the sea, regardless of changing geopolitical circumstances. Notably, the past decade has shown that international legal decisions—especially those involving sensitive geopolitical disputes—are often viewed through the lens of power politics. Such perspectives risk obscuring the primary purpose of international adjudication: to clarify legal norms, define lawful conduct, and offer a reasoned interpretation of treaty obligations based on law rather than coercion or strategic advantage. This special issue, therefore, aims to refocus scholarly attention on the legal substance, interpretative methods, and normative implications of the Award, rather than on political contestation.

The South China Sea Arbitration Award provides a unique opportunity to explore how international law functions as an independent normative system, capable of constraining,

guiding, and structuring state behaviour even amidst power asymmetries. The tribunal's reasoning demonstrates how treaty interpretation, evidentiary standards, and legal classification can act as tools to depoliticise disputes and uphold the rule of law at sea. Simultaneously, the diverse responses to the Award prompt critical reflection on the relationship between legal authority, compliance, and legitimacy in international law.

A decade later, new state practices, judicial decisions, diplomatic statements, and scholarly debates offer fresh opportunities to reassess the Award's doctrinal influence and its role in the development of public international law. Instead of asking whether the Award "succeeded" or "failed" in political terms, this special issue invites contributors to consider how the Award has been interpreted, reinterpreted, and utilised as law—and what this indicates about the resilience, boundaries, and future course of international legal reasoning.

By marking the tenth anniversary of the South China Sea Arbitration Award, the Indonesian Journal of International Law aims to foster a rigorous, law-oriented discussion that views the Award not as a proxy for geopolitical rivalry, but as a dynamic legal document whose importance continues to develop through interpretation, critique, and application within the broader scope of public international law. IJIL invites submissions for a special issue to be published in October 2026. This issue seeks to offer a thorough, reflective, and future-oriented evaluation of the Award and its developments over the past decade, with a particular focus on perspectives from public international law.

Scope of the Special Issue

IJIL invites original, high-quality scholarly submissions that explore any aspect of the South China Sea Arbitration Award and its legal, institutional, or normative development over the past decade, including but not limited to:

- Interpretation and application of UNCLOS following the Award
- The legal status and implications of maritime features, entitlements, and historic rights
- Compliance, non-compliance, and the authority of international adjudicative decisions
- The Award's influence on state practice, regional diplomacy, and dispute settlement
- Implications for third states and freedom of navigation
- The role of arbitral tribunals in politically sensitive disputes
- Interactions between international law, geopolitics, and regional order
- Comparative or critical perspectives on dispute settlement under UNCLOS
- Developments in jurisprudence related to maritime disputes since 2016
- The Award's relevance for future ocean governance and international legal order

Both doctrinal and interdisciplinary approaches grounded in public international law are welcome.

Selection Policy

This CFP will result in the publication of selected articles only. Selection will be based on:

1. Scholarly quality and originality of the research
2. Contribution to public international law discourse
3. Gender balance considerations
4. Geographical diversity of authors

Submission does not guarantee publication. All accepted papers will undergo IJIL's standard peer-review process.

Submission Timeline

- Submission of Abstracts (300–400 words) and Short Biography (100–150 words):
1–30 January 2026
- Announcement of Selected Abstracts:
20 February 2026
- Full Paper Submission:
By 30 May 2026
- Publication of Special Issue:
October 2026

Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts and biographies should be submitted electronically in MS Word format via email ijil@ui.ac.id.
- Full papers must comply with IJIL's author guidelines, including citation style and word limits, available on the IJIL website (<https://scholarhub.ui.ac.id/ijil/>).
- Manuscripts must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration elsewhere.

Change in Publication Schedule (September 2025)

The **Indonesian Journal of International Law (IJIL)** wishes to inform all contributors, readers, and partners of a change in our publication schedule.

Starting from **Volume XXIII (2026)**, IJIL will shift its publication frequency from a **quarterly schedule (October, January, April, July)** to a **triannual schedule (February, June, October)**.

Rationale for the Change

This policy adjustment has been carefully considered by the Editorial Board, taking into account both academic quality and operational sustainability. The primary reasons are as follows:

1. **Enhancing Scholarly Quality**

By reducing the number of issues per year, IJIL will be able to devote more time and resources to the rigorous peer-review and editorial process. This ensures that each published article meets the highest academic and ethical standards expected of an international law journal.

2. **Balancing Timeliness and Substance**

A triannual publication schedule allows for better curation of articles, ensuring that each issue presents not only timely legal developments but also in-depth, well-researched scholarship. This balance strengthens IJIL's role as a leading forum for international law discourse in Indonesia and beyond.

3. **Aligning with International Best Practices**

Many reputable law journals globally have adopted a triannual model to maintain a steady but manageable flow of high-quality publications. By adopting this model, IJIL aligns itself with international academic publishing standards while maintaining consistency for its readership.

4. **Supporting Author and Reviewer Engagement**

The adjustment provides additional time for authors to prepare submissions of substantial scholarly contribution, while also alleviating the increasing demands placed upon our pool of expert reviewers. This enhances the sustainability of IJIL's academic ecosystem.

5. **Ensuring Long-Term Editorial Sustainability**

The change reflects IJIL's commitment to balancing quality with operational capacity, ensuring that the journal continues to thrive as an authoritative and credible publication in the field of international law.

Prof. Arie Afriansyah, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief of IJIL

Proofreading Charges (April 2024)

Starting from **Volume 21 No. 3 (April 2024)**, IJIL will **no longer provide** proofreading services due to a new financial policy established by the Faculty of Law, Universitas Indonesia. Therefore, authors whose articles are accepted for publication will be responsible for proofreading their article according to the international publication standard before submission.

In order to help authors find suitable proofreaders, below is the exclusive list of those who can provide the proofreading services that the Journal have approved:

- Ms. Namira Izharaddina (nizharaddina@gmail.com)
- Ms. Fariza Nasution (nasution.fariza1003@gmail.com)
- American Journal Experts (<https://www.aje.com>)



Should you have further questions, please contact us via ijil@ui.ac.id.

Journal Index Status (February 2022)

As of 2022, IJIL is indexed in [Scopus](#) and Ranked 1 in [Indonesia's Science & Technology Index \(SINTA\)](#).