

اينستيتوت قشاجين اسيان



## Dr. Sow Keat Tok

“What’s in the Game in PCA’s South China Sea Decision, and Beyond? A View from China”

Wednesday, 1st March 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

### Abstract

The Permanent Court of Arbitration’s decision on the South China Sea came under intense scrutiny by both claimants and the international community when it was released in July 2016. Unsurprisingly, the decision provoked a robust challenge from China, calling it “non-effectual” and “non-binding”, at the same time as Beijing reasserted its sovereignty over those disputed waters. What are in Beijing’s calculation with regards to its sovereignty claims over the South China Sea? Is the PCA decision as “non-effectual” and a “non-binding” as Beijing claimed? Does non-conformation imply a decline in the regional order, as suggested by some external powers? This seminar explores the current South China Sea situation from China’s perspective, and grounds its findings in the current context of rising US-China rivalry and increasing uncertainties in the region.

### Speaker’s Profile



Sow Keat Tok is Deputy Director of the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, and Lecturer at the Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne. He previously held research and teaching positions at the East Asia Institute, National University of Singapore, as well as China Policy Institute at The University of Nottingham, and PAIS/CSGR at The University of Warwick, United Kingdom. His research covers China’s domestic politics and foreign relations, with particular focus on political and economic reforms, central-local relations and domestic dynamics of China’s foreign policy. Tok is also a keen student of international relations in the Asia-Pacific. He is currently working on political representation of historical narratives in China-Japan-Korea relations.