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## **NEW REPORT ASSESSES MARITIME DISPUTES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Washington, D.C. – With political resolution to maritime disputes in East and Southeast Asia unlikely in the near term, states with claims in the East China Sea, South China Sea, and Gulf of Thailand must implement interim measures to leverage the unrealized benefits these waters hold for their long-term stability and prosperity, concludes a new report by the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR).

This new NBR Special Report “[From Disputed Waters to Seas of Opportunity: Overcoming Barriers to Maritime Cooperation in East and Southeast Asia](#)” examines the importance of maritime spaces to the economic and security needs of East and Southeast Asia. It explores how developments in this sphere affect the region’s stability, and makes specific policy recommendations on how to move forward in the absence of a resolution to disputes, including the implementation of confidence-building measures, joint development and management of living and non-living resources, and added clarity to claims based on international law.

The report was jointly written by senior scholars from NBR’s project “Maritime Energy Resources in Asia: Opportunities for Joint Development,” sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation’s Asia Security Initiative. Authors include principal investigator Dr. Clive Schofield, Professor and Director of Research at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong, Australia; senior advisors Professor Ian Townsend-Gault (University of British Columbia) and Ambassador Hasjim Djalal (Senior Advisor to the Indonesian Minister for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries); Dr. Ian Storey (Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore); Ms. Meredith Miller (The National Bureau of Asian Research); and Mr. Tim Cook (The National Bureau of Asian Research).

For more information about NBR’s work on maritime and energy resource issues in Asia, a free PDF of the new report “From Disputed Waters to Seas of Opportunity: Overcoming Barriers to Maritime Cooperation in East and Southeast Asia,” and to read an interview about [rising tension in the South China Sea](#) with report author Dr. Ian Storey, visit [www.nbr.org](http://www.nbr.org).

To request an interview with the authors, please contact Sonia Luthra at (202) 347-9767 or [media@nbr.org](mailto:media@nbr.org).

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