

# Legal Framework for Combating Maritime Cyberterrorism

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**723, 7/F., Cheng Yu Tung Tower**  
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The threat of maritime terrorism may increase further because of the risk of maritime cyberterrorism. Overall, the increasing reliance on information technology is creating cyber-related risks in many shipboard operations. Cyber risk management is a timely and important issue for the maritime industry. Maritime cyberterrorism is an ongoing issue for negotiation in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The IMO has issued guidelines on ‘Maritime Cyber Risk Management in Safety Management Systems’. This issue needs further negotiation in the IMO to establish an appropriate legal framework. Although some of the IMO legal instruments may be liberally interpreted to combat maritime cyberterrorism, the existing international legal regime is insufficient to cover all aspects of this emerging threat. Against this backdrop, this paper critically examines the challenges in framing an effective international legal framework for combating maritime cyberterrorism.



**Dr Saiful Karim** is an Associate Professor and the Director (International) of the School of Law at the Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia. Dr Karim teaches and researches in different areas of international law and environmental law. He has published extensively in the fields of public international law and environmental law and has presented research papers in many conferences and workshops organised by various academic and research organisations based in Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania. Dr Karim is a lead author of the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC)*. The Australian federal government also nominated him as an expert in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) established under the auspices of the United Nations. Dr Karim is the recipient of the [IUCN Academy of Environmental Law 2018 Emerging Scholarship Award](#) for his outstanding contribution in interdisciplinary research of environmental law.

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