

The Centre for Comparative and Public Law Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

Presents a Seminar

The International Legal Protection of the Amazon

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The Amazon contains the largest freshwater reserve and forest cover on the planet, sheltering a mosaic of ecosystems with a variety of species of fauna and flora, some of which still unknown to science. It is also home to diverse indigenous communities holders of a legacy of ancestral knowledge and cultures. The Amazon also provides important global environmental services, such as control of the greenhouse effect, preservation of the hydro equilibrium of the atmosphere and circulation of nutrients. Despite those unique natural characteristics, the Amazon forests are being rapidly cleared with a consequent loss of biodiversity and impact on climate change.

This seminar will present a study on the International Legal Protection of the Amazon. This research systematizes the international norms and principles comprising the international legal system for the environmental protection of the Amazon with a view to examine what forms of cooperation exist among the Amazon States *inter se* and between them and the international community. It focuses on the 1978 Amazon Cooperation Treaty, which is the only international instrument to involve all Amazon countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela) aimed at the preservation and rational use of the environment. The objectives of this study are to 1) examine whether this treaty meets its objectives and, if this is not the case, 2) identify inadequacies that prevent their realization and assess whether international environmental law provides mechanisms to address existing gaps.

Beatriz Garcia is concluding a PhD thesis on the International Legal Protection of the Amazon at the Law Department of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. She has worked at the Biodiversity and Climate Change Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), where she carried out research on climate change, notably the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism, trade and environment, biodiversity and law of the sea.

Thursday, 24 April 2008

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Room 303, 3/F KK Leung Building

The University of Hong Kong

ALL ARE WELCOME!