

Current Developments on the Law of the Sea Relevant to the Philippines

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In this Article, the Author enumerates the different developments in the law of the sea. First, he discusses the most apparent development arising from the proceedings of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction which dealt with establishing an international standard on the use of the area and resources of the ocean floor. Second, he discusses the need for a strengthened archipelago concept for the Philippines in relation to the treaty limits position and notes that although these two concepts are related, they are founded on distinct considerations. Other areas related to the law of the sea are also discussed such as the continental shelf and sea-bed limits, breadth of the territorial sea, compromise proposals with regard to the economic zone and patrimonial sea, and the problem of fisheries. The Author ends by stressing that these developments are extremely important to the Philippines due to the fact that the country itself is surrounded by water, thus, any rule for dealing with the oceans and its resources will create significant implications.