

International Online Symposium on
Sino-Indian Border Disputes: A Dialogue between International Law and
International Relations
(4 March 2021)

City University of Hong Kong's School of Law:

Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL)
in collaboration with
Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR)

Background:

The unresolved Sino-Indian Boundary Dispute (SIBD) remains a primary cause of tension between China and India. A face-to-face clash in mid-June 2020 resulted in 20 Indian soldiers losing their lives and 76 being wounded, as well as undisclosed casualties on the Chinese side, becoming the deadliest conflict between the two nations since the 1962 Sino-India war. The China-India skirmishes are part of an ongoing military standoff at multiple locations along the Sino-Indian border, such as in the Galwan River Valley near Pangong Lake in Ladakh (Indian Administered Kashmir) as well as at the Nathu La pass in Sikkim, and this has affected cooperation between the two largest developing countries in the world. This conflict has had a profound impact on the geopolitical situation and the development of international law, as well as Third World solidarity on a wide range of issues, including regional peace and security, South-South cooperation, development, and regional economic integration in Asia. The current diplomatic and military-to-military dialogue between the two countries has been unsuccessful.

Taking a forward-looking approach, CCCL and CPLR are organizing a workshop to convene a group of distinguished researchers from China, India and other jurisdictions to discuss China-India border disputes from the perspectives of international law and international relations. The objective of the workshop is to provide a forum for robust and balanced academic discussions with a view to producing high impact scholarship in this field. The following issues will be explored:

- Historical origins of the SIBD
- Current Chinese position on SIBD from the perspective of international law
- Current Indian position on SIBD from the perspective of international law
- Whether China and India have a legally and geographically agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC)
- The reasons why the SIBD has not been resolved, why negotiations have failed
- How the May 5, 2020 standoff was triggered
- Whether the evidence of China/India crossing the LAC is convincing
- How immediate hostilities be ended
- Whether it is possible to return to the pre 5-May 2020 status quo
- Geo-political consequences of the SIBD in relation to borders with Pakistan and Nepal
- Impact of the SIBD on China-India cooperation
- Impact of the SIBD on the development issues in international economic law
- Impact of the SIBD on Third World solidarity
- Impact of the SIBD on initiatives taken by China to increase cooperation to further global health and security
- The possibilities for the long-term resolution of the SIBD

In considering these issues, experts will examine China and India's approach to international law, previous state initiatives, conflicting national interests and international foreign relations in the post-COVID-19 era.

Papers presented in the conference will be published in an internationally-refereed journal, followed by an edited book volume with a prestigious international academic publisher.

Organizers:

- Wang Jiangyu, Professor, City University of Hong Kong School of Law
- Fozia Lone, Associate Professor, City University of Hong Kong School of Law