

Preface and Acknowledgements

This book explores the role of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as facilitator of the adoption and implementation of international legal instruments for the protection of the marine environment. While several studies have examined different aspects of the international legal regime concerning vessel-source marine pollution, none have presented a research monograph particularly emphasising or critically examining the role of IMO in the protection of the marine environment and the emerging challenges in fulfilling this role. This book aims to fill that gap. It contributes to this aspect of international legal scholarship, with particular emphasis on the north–south tensions IMO is currently facing. This book also presents an overview of the IMO legal instruments and their implementation process. It will work as a guide for the implementation of IMO marine environmental legal instruments.

This book is likely to interest environmental lawyers, international lawyers and those involved with environmental governance. This includes academics, governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. Apart from the research and academic community, this book may be useful for government officials who are involved with national implementation of IMO marine environmental legal instruments, particularly officials of coast guards and maritime administrations. Although it is a research monograph, this book may be used as a prescribed text for training programs for government officials, and as a recommended text for postgraduate courses on marine environmental law. While writing this book, particular emphasis has been given to fulfilling the demands of the target readership.

The idea of writing this book first came to my mind in 2006 when I was a research student at the National University of Singapore. There are two reasons for writing this book. The main reason is that the perspectives of least developed countries have not been well documented in the existing literature on vessel-source marine pollution. Moreover, there is a shortage of books that concisely and critically present the IMO law-making process and IMO marine environmental legal instruments for a new researcher in this field. As a new researcher in this field I felt

both of these concerns when I was pursuing my research degree at the National University of Singapore.

This book incorporates some materials from my three previously published articles including 'Implementation of the MARPOL Convention in Developing Countries' (2010) 79 *Nordic Journal of International Law* 303, Brill Academic Publishers; 'Environmental Pollution from Shipbreaking Industry: International Law and National Legal Response' (2010) 22 *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review* 185; and 'Implementation of the MARPOL Convention in Bangladesh' (2009) 5 *Macquarie Journal of International and Comparative Environmental Law* 51. I would like to thank the editors and publishers of those journals.

I would like to thank all the institutions with which I was involved in the last 10 years in different capacities including Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, National University of Singapore (NUS), Macquarie University and Southern Cross University (SCU). I am also grateful to my current employer, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), for providing excellent research support.

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Finally, my gratitude and love to my family.

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