

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**MALAYSIA SINGAPORE  
RELATIONS: A STUDY ON  
MARITIME DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
PROCESS UNDER INTERNATIONAL  
LAW**

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**LL.M**

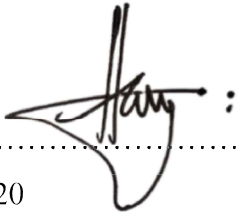
**September 2020**

## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledged that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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Dispute Resolution Process Under International Law

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## ABSTRACT

Ever since Singapore parted ways with the Federation of Malaysia on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1965, both Malaysia and Singapore are expected to coexist as mutual respectable and responsible neighbours. With Singapore joining the United Nations (UN) barely a month after separation, Singapore is also entitled to its rights as a sovereign nation as specified in the UN Charter, similar to Malaysia. Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits States from the use of force against the “territorial integrity or political independence” of another State, hence stressing the need for Malaysia and Singapore to abide by this rule and respect the sovereign territories of one another, a demand which has also been recognised as customary international law. At the same time, all member States are also required by the Charter to peacefully find solutions to any disputes, if such disputes arise. Over the years, Malaysia and Singapore are seen to be frequently at odds over their claimed maritime boundaries, especially in areas where such boundaries have yet to be fully defined and precisely accepted by both sides. These include the area around Tuas, where both sides are still at odds over their respective port limits, whereas the area surrounding *Batu Puteh*, which was awarded to Singapore in 2008, has created more uncertainties in terms of boundary definitions there. In order for the two neighbouring nations to comply with the demands of the UN Charter, an effective mechanism should be in place for both parties to abide as a standard operating procedure to resolve their maritime disputes. Such mechanism can only be determined through the understanding of historical facts to identify the source to the problems, as well as looking into the current and future challenges faced by the involved parties. Looking into a legal point of view, this doctrinal research applies qualitative methods to study maritime dispute resolution process under international law, specifically for the context of Malaysia-Singapore relations.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to thank Allah SWT for providing me the space and opportunity to pursue my Master's Degree in Law (LLM) and to being able to complete it successfully. My utmost gratitude goes to my main supervisor, Prof. Dato Dr. Rahmat Mohamad, as well as my co-supervisor, Associate Prof. Dr. Mohd Hazmi Mohd Rusli of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM). Thank you to the both of you for your persistent support and patience to provide the much-required guidance which led to the completion of this research project.

My deepest appreciation also goes to the law experts, practitioners of diplomacy in the Research Division of the Prime Minister's Department, as well as the foreign ministry (Wisma Putra) whom had shared their valuable experiences and thoughts on the matters of interest. At the same time, I would also like to express my special thanks to my beloved wife, my family members, all my colleagues and friends who were involved, either directly or indirectly, in aiding me to complete the research.

Last but not least, I would like to dedicate this thesis to the loving memories of my late parents, whom I will always be highly indebted to for providing life and for their efforts to educate me in my early years of learning. This research paper is dedicated to the both of you. Al Fatihah to the both of them.

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