

Preface and acknowledgements

I heard about the Third Pole for the first time in 2013, while attending the inaugural Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík. Looking into the related environmental issues and associated regulation, I was surprised by the lack of legal commentary, and concerned to draw attention to the absence of effective protective legal frameworks. Presenting a number of papers and writing them up for publication began the journey for this book. Recognition of the identification of the need for a Third Pole environmental regime subsequently formed the major part of the concluding chapter to my 2017 book, *Environmental Regimes in Asian Subregions: China and the Third Pole*. This 2019 book, *Protecting the Third Pole: Transplanting International Law*, follows directly from that.

Despite the challenges of continuing conflict over land and resources between states in the subregion, the focus on international law in this book was nonetheless considered the most appropriate means of analysing the way forward. The theory of legal transplants in turn provided the method to examine the potential effectiveness of developing Third Pole subregional governance. While the book is focused on international environmental law and the law of international watercourses, international climate law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international disaster law (and other international legal subdisciplines) remain also to be considered; the domestic law of relevant states, and the potential of wild law (and perhaps links between law and religion) are also important areas to examine. My hope is that readers of this book will be interested in pursuing Third Pole governance further, to take it beyond what I have been able to do.

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