

IMLIe-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 12, Issue No.34) 21 May, 2015

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR LECTURES AT IMLI

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming for the first time, Professor David M Ong, Professor of International and Environmental Law at Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University, UK on 9 and 10 April, 2015. During his visit, Professor Ong who met with the Director, staff and students of the Class of 2014/2015, delivered a lecture under the rubric “*Delimitation of the Outer Continental Shelf and Prospects for Revenue Sharing Between States and the International Community.*”



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Professor David M. Ong with the IMLI Class of 2014/2015

During his lectures, he explained the delineation of continental Shelf limits beyond 200nm and Deep Sea-bed ‘Area’, including Articles 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) dealing with the Roles of Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), International Sea-bed Authority (ISA) and Sea-bed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal on Law of the Sea (ITLOS); Application of Article 82 dealing with Revenue-Sharing Obligation and Article 300 dealing with Good Faith and Abuse of Rights.

Professor Ong further explained the delimitation of continental shelf beyond 200nm between coastal States delving into the Relationship between Entitlement and Delimitation of Continental Shelf; Applicable Principles of Delimitation: Within and Beyond 200nm and Joint Development Agreements: Mauritius/Seychelles and Mexico/USA.

Professor Ong concluded by stating that significant implementation issues remain for Article 76 (OCS delineation beyond 200nm) & Article 82; Delimitation and Joint Development agreements beyond 200nm between States apply similar principles, but raised the issue of creeping jurisdiction by coastal States Parties to these agreements into the superjacent water column that is technically High Seas.

Professor Ong's main research interests are in the International Law of the Sea, particularly on offshore joint development, published in American Journal of International Law (1999); and International Environmental Law, published in European Journal of International Law (2001) and Irish Yearbook of International Law, 2006 (2008), Yearbook of International Environmental Law, 2006 (2008), Nordic Journal of International Law (2010), and Netherlands International Law Review (2011); as well as several edited volumes of essays, three of which he has co-edited.

His most recent publications are: 'Specifying Procedural Obligations for Joint Development and Alternative Joint Development Models for the South China Sea', in Wu Shicun and Nong Hong (editors), Recent Developments in the South China Sea Dispute: The Prospect of a Joint Development Regime, Routledge (2014) Chapter 7, 99-136; and 'Alternative Approaches to Piracy and Armed Robbery in Southeast Asian Waters and off the Horn of Africa: A Comparative Perspective', in The Law and Practice of Piracy at Sea: European and International Perspectives, edited by Panos Koutrakos and Achilles Skordas, Hart (2014) Chapter 12, 267-295.

Professor Ong has also served as a consultant on offshore joint development issues to the Guyana legal team in the Guyana-Suriname maritime boundary delimitation arbitration (2007); and as a technical resource expert on Joint Development at the Second United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) South-South High Level Meeting on Oil and Gas Producing Developing Countries held in Nairobi, Kenya, 12-15 October, 2009. His lectures were highly appreciated by the students.

Professor Ong acknowledged the very well-informed interest of the students in his lecture topics, as evidenced by the excellent round of questions and discussion points raised by the IMLI students following his lectures. He also expressed his gratitude to Mr. Riyaz Hamza (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Security Law) for organising his visit to IMLI and Malta, as well as his great appreciation to Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) for inviting him to IMLI to give these lectures to the IMLI Class of 2014/15.

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