ITLOS REGISTRAR LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Philippe Gautier (Registrar, the International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS)), visited the International Maritime Law Institute during the 2016-2017 academic year and delivered a lecture on ‘Settlement of Disputes under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)’ to the IMLI Class.

In introducing Professor Gautier to the students, Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), expressed great pleasure at yet another visit of Professor Gautier to the Institute and described him as an eminent personality with a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the sphere of dispute settlement in international law.
During his lecture, Professor Gautier gave a general overview of the dispute settlement mechanisms in international law and their importance, with particular emphasis on Part XV of UNCLOS. This was followed by a detailed discussion of the provisions in Section 1 of Part XV which deals with the peaceful means of settlement of international disputes and Section 2 which deals with the compulsory procedures entailing binding decisions. In his analysis of the provisions of Section 2, Professor Gautier identified 2 cardinal principles that make that section unique. They are, the obligation to accept a mandatory settlement of dispute and freedom of choice. He also discussed limitations and optional exceptions under Section 3 of the same Part. Other areas instructively discussed by Professor Gautier includes the procedural rules of the Tribunal, its Statute, organization and jurisdiction.

Professor Gautier has a Master in Law (1982), Master in Philosophy (1983), as specialized Master in European Law (1985) and a Doctorate in Law (1992) from the Catholic University of Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve).

He has held many important portfolios in his career including, Deputy Director, Head of the Law of the Sea/Antarctica Office from 1991 to 1995 and Director, Head of the Treaties Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium from 1995 to 1997. He has been a Professor since 1996 at Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve). He was appointed as the Registrar of the International Tribunal for Law of the Sea in 2001.


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