



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice (The Nippon Foundation Professor of Marine Environmental Law) visited IMLI on 9 and 10 November 2016 and delivered a series of lecture on “The Law of Treaties” to the IMLI Class of 2016-2017.



Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice and the IMLI Class of 2016 – 2017

In the course of her lectures, Professor Fitzmaurice introduced the students to the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and engaged the Class in discussing the concept of a treaty and

its importance as a source of international law. She provided a detailed explanation of the various means through which States express their consent to be bound by a treaty and on the rules of treaty interpretation. In analysing the effect of a reservation to a treaty, Professor Fitzmaurice referred to the 1951 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The students learned that indeed, the conclusion of Articles 19 to 32 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties was informed by the said Advisory Opinion.

Further, Professor Fitzmaurice engaged the Class in a discussion concerning the intricacies involved in the formulation of a reservation to a treaty. These intricacies become more puzzling when one State makes a reservation and the other States either accept or reject such a reservation. She explained the legal ramifications of such a reservation and how the responses it attracts modifies the treaty relation amongst the States concerned. Professor Fitzmaurice made a comparison between reservations and interpretative declarations and concluded that unlike reservations, interpretative declarations are statements made by a State concerning its understanding or interpretation of a provision in a treaty.

Students responded very well to her lectures and praised her ability to make complex subjects easy to understand.

Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice is the current Chair of Public International Law at the Queen Mary University, where she specialises in public international law and the law of treaties. She has published widely and lectured extensively at various Universities in the United Kingdom and beyond and at the World Bank. In 1996, Professor Fitzmaurice delivered a paper at the 50th anniversary of the International Court of Justice, the Hague. She also worked at the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, seated in the Hague. Her latest publication is “the Whaling and International Law, 2016, published by Cambridge University Press.

In 2010, Professor Fitzmaurice was appointed as The Nippon Foundation Professor of Marine Environmental Law at IMLI where, besides the lectures on the law of treaties, she delivers lectures on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts and organizes the course on Marine Environmental Law and delivers a series of lectures on issues of prevention of pollution of the marine environment.

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