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MARITIME BOUNDARY DELIMITATION EXPERT LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Robert van de Poll (Global Manager, Law of the Sea, Fugro N.V. Netherlands) visited the International Maritime Law Institute during the 2016-2017 academic year and delivered a joint two-day short course with Professor Pieter Bekker (Chair in International Law at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) within the University of Dundee (UK) and is a Partner at CMS Cameron McKenna LLP) on ‘The Law of the Sea and Maritime Boundaries’ to the IMLI Class.



Mr. Robert van de Poll (Global Manager, Law of the Sea, Fugro N.V) and Professor Pieter Bekker (University of Dundee (CEPMLP) and Partner at CMS Cameron McKenna LLP) with the IMLI Class of 2016-2017

The two-day short course conducted by Mr. Van de Poll and Professor Bekker started with the topic of 'the Law and Science of Maritime Boundaries.' The Class discussed the types of maritime boundary disputes that normally exist between States. These disputes include sovereignty over the land territory, maritime boundary dispute without sovereignty claims, and the combination of both. The Class learned 50.1 per cent of the world's maritime boundaries remained unresolved due to reasons such as competition for offshore natural resources, the claim of sovereignty over Islands, the location of land terminus and political tension between States.

Mr. Van de Poll and Professor Bekker engaged the students in discussing the role of the Private sector in maritime boundary disputes. The Class identified such role to include working with the disputing States to help them reach a peaceful settlement and not to hinder the process.

The Class also discussed international unitisation or joint development as an alternative arrangement that could effectively resolve maritime boundary disputes involving offshore natural resources such as oil and gas.

The expertise of these resourceful persons greatly enhanced the students' understanding of the realities and intricacies involved in maritime boundary delimitation disputes. While thanking the experts for their excellent presentation style, the students expressed gratitude to the Institute for facilitating such a relevant course.

Mr. Robert van de Poll is the Global Law of the Sea Manager, at Fugro N.V (he is based in Canada) and Fugro has its Head Offices in the Netherlands). He, (while at CARIS GIS Canada 1991 - 2006) designed and built the CARIS LOTS (Law of The Sea) GIS software for the United Nations Law of the Sea applications. This software is currently the World-Standard Law of the Sea software being used by both the United Nations and all the Courts (ICJ / ITLOS, etc.) for all Global Law of the Sea EEZ applications and/or ECS projects. Mr. Van de Poll joined Fugro Group in 2006. He manages all the Groups Global Law of the Sea activities and is responsible for 162 Countries (155 Coastal & 7 Land-locked "Lakes" States) around the world.

Mr. Van de Poll has worked on over 1400 Law of the Sea related projects (advising Governments, National Oil Corporations and/or International Oil Corporations) in 137 of the 162 Countries he is globally responsible for at Fugro Group. He is an Honorary Lecturer at the internationally renowned Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) at the University of Dundee (UK), and serves as Geology Director of the Dundee Ocean and Lake Frontiers Institute and Neutrals (DOLFIN).

Professor Pieter Bekker (The Netherlands) holds the Chair in International Law at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) within the University of Dundee (UK) and is a Partner at CMS Cameron McKenna LLP. He is the Founding Director of the Dundee Ocean and Lake Frontiers Institute and Neutrals (DOLFIN). He concentrates in public international law teaching and advice and international dispute resolution involving private and sovereign parties. A citizen of The Netherlands, he served as a staff lawyer in the Registry of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the 1990s. He is an active member of the New York Bar and has served as counsel in cases before the ICJ and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Professor Bekker obtained basic and doctoral law degrees in Dutch and International Law from Leiden University in The Netherlands and a Masters degree from Harvard Law School. He is the author/editor of four books and over 100 articles on international law and is listed in *Who's Who in Public International Law*.

Mr. Van de Poll and Professor Bekker have worked together on Law of the Sea projects all around the world, including most recently leading a panel discussion at the 2014 Offshore Technology Conference (Houston, USA, May 2014) on LOS Maritime Boundary disputes.

Mr. Van de Poll and Professor Bekker are both Visiting Fellows at IMLI.

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