

IMLIe-News

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IMLI HOSTS BOOK LAUNCH

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino (Professor of Sociology and Pro-Rector for International Development at the University of Malta) launched his recent book titled ‘Solution Protocols to Festering Island Disputes: ‘Win-Win’ Solutions for the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands’ at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 2 November 2017.



Professor Godfrey Baldacchino (Professor of Sociology and Pro-Rector for International Development at the University of Malta) presenting his book

In introducing his book to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018 and other invited guests, Professor Baldacchino said that since the coming into force of the United Nations Law of the Sea,

states have been targeting outlying islands to expand their exclusive economic zones, simultaneously stirring up strident nationalism when such plans clash with those of neighbouring states. No such actions have brought the world closer to the brink of war than the ongoing face-off between China and Japan over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands, an uninhabited archipelago in the East China Sea.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and Professor Godfrey Baldacchino (Professor of Sociology and Pro-Rector for International Development at the University of Malta) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

The book instructively provides a detailed exploration of seven tried and tested solution protocols that have led to innovative 'win-win' solutions to island disputes over the last four centuries. A closer look at the circumstances and processes that brought contending regional powers to an honourable, even mutually advantageous, settlement over islands provides a convincing and original argument as to why the conflict over the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands need not conclude in a 'zero-sum' or 'winner takes all' solution, as is the likely outcome of both open conflict and international arbitration.

The book will be of interest to scholars and practitioners concerned with the festering Diaoyu/Senkaku dispute. It will also be of interest to students, scholars and policy specialists in geography, geopolitics, international relations, conflict studies, island studies and ocean affairs and the law of the sea, among other related studies.

Professor Godfrey Baldacchino is Island Studies Teaching Fellow and UNESCO co-Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Canada.

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