



**FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW
OF THE SEA LECTURES AT IMLI**

Professor Dr. Helmut Tuerk (former Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on December 14, 2017 and delivered a lecture on ‘The International Sea-Bed Authority and its Contribution to Developing an Effective and Sustainable Ocean Governance Regime’ to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



Professor Dr. Helmut Tuerk (former Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority)

Professor Tuerk informed the students that the concept of the Common Heritage of Mankind (CHM) had become an essential element of the law of the sea. He recalled the speech of Ambassador Arvid Pardo on the CHM, the objective of which was to replace the principle of freedom of the seas with that of CHM, and that by this new regime, all users of the sea will actively participate in its governance and share in its benefits.

He said that in 1971, Malta called for the full application of the principles of CHM to all ocean spaces as the comprehensive approach in dealing with ocean issues in an integrated manner. He that 50 years after this is the most appropriate time to take stock of what has become of the Pardo inspiration with regard to the seas now and in the future. Ambassador Tuerk also discussed the status and the importance of the International Seabed Authority in managing the CHM.

Professor Dr. Helmut Tuerk is a native of Linz, Austria. He obtained a Doctorate in Law from the University of Vienna in 1963 and thereafter a Postgraduate Diploma from the College of Bruges, Belgium. He joined the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1965, serving as Legal Advisor, Deputy Secretary-General, Ambassador to the United States of America as well as to the Holy See. He further held the position of Director-General of the Office of the Austrian Federal President. From 2005 to 2015 he was a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg, Germany, also serving a term as Vice-President. Subsequently, he was elected President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority in Kingston, Jamaica, and also held the position of Chairman of the Review Committee. He is the author of numerous publications in the field of international law, in particular, the law of the sea.

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