

IMLI *e*-News

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FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL MARITIME AND HYDROGRAPHIC AGENCY LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Peter Ehlers (Former President, German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency and Professor, Hamburg University) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) from 2-3 May 2018 and delivered lectures on “Marine Environmental Lawmaking” and “Balancing the Use and Protection of the Seas” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



Professor Peter Ehlers (Former President, German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency and Professor, Hamburg University) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

In his lecture, Professor Ehlers discussed the General Principles of Marine Environment Lawmaking and why this type of law is necessary. He likewise showed the class how National legislation and International Agreements and Regulations, side by side, can be used to promote Marine Environment Protection (MEP). He made special emphasis on the role of UNCLOS in MEP. He pointed out that international conventions, though carefully worded and substantively sufficient instruments for MEP, have issues in terms of enforcement and implementation. Finally, he provided the class with descriptions of key Marine Environment Conventions. Students certainly appreciated his specialised knowledge on Marine Environmental Law.

Professor Peter Ehlers was born in 1943. He studied law at Marburg and Kiel University. After having written his doctoral (PhD) dissertation about IMO, he joined the German maritime administration in 1970. He worked many years in the Maritime Transport Department of the

Federal Ministry of Transport, where he became Deputy Director General. From 1989 to 2008, he was the President of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, the central maritime authority in Germany. He represented his country in various international maritime organizations, e.g. IMO, IHO, UNESCO-IOC, Helsinki-Commission; he was twice Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and chaired two International Hydrographic Conferences of IHO. He was a member of numerous German maritime institutions and organisations. He retired in 2008.

Since 1992, he has been teaching law of the sea at Hamburg and Rostock University. In 2002, he became a Professor at Hamburg University; in 2007, he was awarded Dr. h.c. at Rostock University. Until its closure in 2014, he was member of the Board of Directors of the International Max-Planck Research School for Maritime Affairs, Hamburg.

After his retirement, he was appointed Chairman of EUROGOOS, an association of European oceanographic institutes. The chairmanship terminated at the end of 2013. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the World Maritime University, Malmö.

He performs consultancy functions concerning law of the sea, hydrography, marine research and offshore activities and has published more than 160 papers on maritime, environmental, legal and administrative measures. He recently published a voluminous commentary on German public maritime transport law.

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