

# IMLI *e*-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 15, Issue No. 72) 8 June 2018

## MARITIME BOUNDARY DELIMITATION EXPERTS LECTURE AT IMLI

Mr. Robert van de Poll (Global Manager, Law of the Sea, Fugro N.V. Netherlands) and Professor Pieter Bekker (Chair in International Law at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP), University of Dundee (UK) and Partner, CMS Cameron McKenna LLP) visited the International Maritime Law Institute from 26-27 April 2018 and delivered a two-day short course on “The Law and Science of Maritime Boundaries” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



*Professor Pieter Bekker (University of Dundee (CEPMLP)) and Partner, CMS Cameron McKenna LLP) and Mr. Robert van de Poll (Global Manager, Law of the Sea, Fugro N.V) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018*

The short course started with a discussion on 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 that such a role must be given attention to assist disputing states reach a peaceful settlement, instead of being a hindrance to 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 International Law of the Sea Manager, at Fugro N.V (Based in Canada, reports directly to Head Offices, Netherlands). Mr. van de Poll, (while at CARIS GIS Canada ~1991 - 2006) designed, created and built the CARIS LOTS (Law Of The Sea) GIS software for the United Nations Law of the Sea applications (as CARIS LOTS Product Manager (1998 - 2006) with a team of 8x software engineers as a direct request by many Countries (realizing there was no GIS currently to handle Global LOS studies, mathematics, geodetic requirements and all LOS applications). At present day, this is the World-Standard Law of the Sea software being used by both the United Nations and all the Courts (ICJ / ITLOS etc cases) for all Global Law of the Sea EEZ applications and/or ECS projects. Robert joined Fugro Group in 2006. Positioned under Fugro's Global Headquarters and reporting directly to Head Office (Fugro N.V. ~ Netherlands). Mr. van de Poll manages all the Groups Global Law of the Sea activities, and is responsible for 162 Countries (as 155 Coastal & 7 Land-locked "Lakes" States) around the world.

Mr. van de Poll (to date) has worked on 1500+ Law of the Sea related projects in 142 of the 162 Countries he is Globally responsible for. His law of the Sea projects are for both Governments and Industry. This is normally working directly at Countries' Ministers' Level, and for National Oil Companies (NOC's) (both for Governments) and Senior Management (for Industry), most commonly for International Oil Corporations (IOC's). Robert is an Honorary Lecturer at the internationally renowned Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) within the University of Dundee (UK), and serves as Geology Director of the Dundee Ocean and Lake Frontiers Institute and Neutrals (DOLFIN). He is also an honorary Fellow at the University of Wollongong, Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts, in the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS). This is Robert's 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row delivering this lecture at IMLI.

**Professor Pieter Bekker** holds the Chair in International Law at Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP) within the University of Dundee (UK). He combines with his professorial appointment, an active law practice as a Partner with CMS Cameron McKenna LLP, the UK's leading energy law firm. 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 served as Counsel and Advocate for the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism in Case 21 concerning Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities before the

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in 2014 and has served as counsel in ICJ cases. He regularly sits as an arbitrator in international cases. Professor Bekker has served as an elected member of the Nominating Committee and the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law. He obtained basic and doctoral law degrees in Dutch and International Law from Leiden University in The Netherlands and a Master's degree from Harvard Law School in 1991. 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. This is his 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row delivering this lecture at IMLI.

Professor Bekker is the Founding Director of the Dundee Ocean and Lake Frontiers Institute and Neutrals (DOLFIN), an interdisciplinary research unit within CEPMLP.

Messrs. Bekker and van de Poll 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.

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