



LAW OF THE SEA TRIBUNAL LECTURE

Professor David Attard, Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, recently delivered, at the Main Hall of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, a lecture on the “Maritime Jurisdiction in Enclosed and Semi-Enclosed Seas: The Mediterranean Experience”. His lecture was attended by this year students of ITLOS-Nippon Foundation Training Programme, judges and bankers. Professor Attard was introduced to the audience by Mr. Philippe Gautier, Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) deliver his lecture at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

During his lecture Professor Attard reviewed the origins of the legal institution of enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, its development and application, with special focus on the Mediterranean. Professor Attard recalled that “*in the early days when together with*

colleagues in the International Ocean Institute I was furthering the development of this Institution, it was strongly argued that given the geographical complexities and ideological diversity of the Mediterranean and its litoral States that the region would provide an excellent testing ground for the development of regional approaches to the law of the sea. It was also hoped that the approach developed in the Mediterranean could serve as a model which could be applied in the other enclosed and semi-enclosed seas of the globe. In fact, to a certain extent our aspirations were achieved and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, first developed in the Mediterranean, has been successfully exported to other enclosed and semi-enclosed seas. Indeed today more than 140 States participate in 13 Regional Seas programmes established under the auspices of UNEP”.

Professor Attard also reviewed the rules and State practice relating to the exercise of maritime jurisdiction in the relative confined areas of the Mediterranean Sea and examined how Mediterranean legislators have adopted legal regimes which attempt to balance the national interest and sovereign rights with the requirements of their neighbours and those of the international community. He then answered questions put to him by the members of the audience.

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*** For further information please contact Ms. Elda Belja (Editor, IMLI e-News) at publications@imli.org*