



IFLOS INTERVIEW

During their visit to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), Professor Dr. Doris König (Chair of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS)) and Mr. Joachim König (Director of the Summer Academy for the Law of the Sea) were interviewed by IMLI's e-news editor, Ms. Elda Belja. During their interview Professor Dr. König and Mr. König expressed their views on the work of IFLOS and the Summer Academy and the lecturing experience at IMLI as follows:

Thank you for the interview and welcome to IMLI! Professor König, you have been the Chair of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea since 2004. What is the aim of the Foundation?

Thank you! It is nice to be here and I would like to seize this opportunity and thank Professor Attard for his kind invitation. The aim of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea is to promote the activities of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. In our opinion it is important to raise public awareness of the valuable work of ITLOS within the international law of the sea community. The Foundation serves as a platform to promote the dialog between judges and the international legal community.

In this respect we organize events, in the form of maritime talks and symposia, at the Tribunal which are related to maritime affairs. The maritime talks are designed to address not only those in the academia but also practitioners in the area. The latest which focused on the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, was attended by more than 100 participants including maritime lawyers and representatives of the central and local Government. The speakers who addressed the audience were representatives of the International Labour Organization and other international organizations.

The last symposium held in 2009 was focused on fisheries whereas the next event, a co-operation between the Foundation and other organizations, will be held in autumn and will focus on Marine Environment Protection.



Professor Dr. Doris König and Mr. Joachim König with Professor David Attard and the Class of 2010/2011

Mr. König, in 2007 the Foundation established the Summer Academy at the seat of the Tribunal in Hamburg. What is the role that the Academy plays?

One of the Foundation's main aims is to promote learning and research in the field of international law of the sea at a global level, including nationals of developing countries. With this aim in mind the Summer Academy was established to get young people who are interested in maritime matters to study international law of the sea, maritime law and related topics of economic and natural sciences. The Summer Academy started as a Project without any certainties whether it will meet with a positive response. However, we are pleased to note that so far it has been successful, and most importantly a rewarding experience for all the lecturers who take their time and share knowledge with our students.

In an endeavour to keep the level of education and knowledge very high it is a requirement for our candidates to have obtained (or being in the process of obtaining) a Master's Degree before enrolment. Further, in order to make the Summer Academy relevant to all those involved in the maritime affairs, every year we change focus. This year, for example, the focus will be on the environment in a broad sense.

All this of course would have not been possible without the financial support of our donors. I would like to acknowledge the Nippon Foundation which, through its Capability Programme, has enabled many candidates to enroll in the Summer Academy. Most importantly special thanks go to many personalities in the field who lecture at the Academy. I am very pleased to note that Professor Attard (Director of IMLI) came last year and addressed our participants.

Further information is available at www.iflos.org.

Professor König how did you find the experience of addressing our students?

Stimulating and challenging! I really enjoyed it though! It is always nice and stimulating to address students that come from different backgrounds and who form such a diverse body. On the other hand, this diversity makes the lecturing a challenging experience. Students may not always agree with their lecturer especially if the latter has a different cultural and political perspective. However such disagreements enrich the lecture and make it always more interesting.

Thank you very much!

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