

## **FORMER JUDGE AND VICE -PRESIDENT OF ITLOS LECTURES AT IMLI**

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming online, Ambassador Helmut Türk (Former Judge and Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)) on 12 May. Ambassador Türk delivered a lecture titled “*Responsibility of States for Activities in the Area (Case No. 17).*” He was introduced by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), who introduced him as an outstanding jurist and publicist. He also informed the participants that Ambassador Türk is an exceptional international lawyer and a specialist in the Law of the Sea, despite hailing from a landlocked country. Professor Attard also noted that Ambassador Türk has had an excellent administrative and diplomatic career.



*(Former Judge and Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS))*

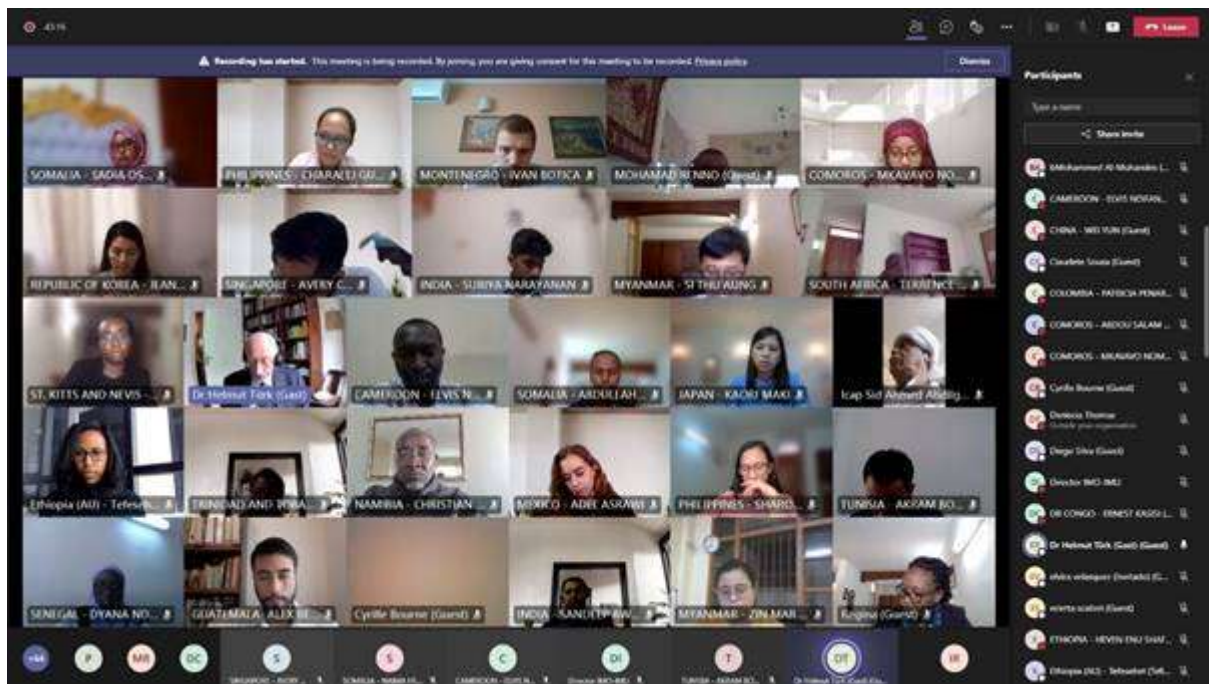
Ambassador Türk thanked Professor for the invitation to lecture, considering it a great honour and pleasure to be able to address such a distinguished audience from all over the world. He commenced his lecture by giving a general insight into the system of Advisory Opinions, stating that it provides for possibilities for countries to obtain a legal opinion given by a standing international tribunal which, although not binding, can facilitate the resolution of a dispute. Ambassador Türk then focused the remainder of his lecture on the Advisory Opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of ITLOS regarding the responsibilities and obligations of States sponsoring persons and entities with respect to activities in the Area.

The lecture of Ambassador Türk was part of the IMLI Specialized Course on the Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes, attended by over 75 Government nominated participants from 69 countries.



Ambassador Türk worked for the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs in various capacities, including as Vice-Consul and Acting Consul General in Hong Kong, Deputy Legal Adviser and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy in Bonn. He was Legal Adviser and Head of the International Law Department, Deputy Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the United States of America, Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States, Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and Director-General of the Office of the Austrian Federal President. Ambassador Türk was also a Member of the Austrian National Security Council, Ambassador to the Holy See, the Sovereign Military Order

of Malta and the Republic of San Marino. He represented Austria in many UN meetings, including UNCLOS III.



Ambassador Türk was the President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority. He is and has been a member of numerous distinguished bodies and is the author of a number of publications in the field of international law, in particular the law of the sea.

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