IMLI HOSTS THE 15TH ITLOS REGIONAL WORKSHOP HELD IN MALTA

Judge Albert Hoffmann (President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)) opened the fifteenth regional workshop dedicated to “The Role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the Settlement of Disputes relating to the Law of the Sea” on 2 June 2022. The two-day workshop was held in Malta and was organized in cooperation with IMLI and with the support of the Republic of Cyprus and the Korea Maritime Institute. The workshop welcomed representatives of Albania, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, and Malta, as well as officials of IMLI.
In his opening statement, President Hoffmann highlighted the long-standing maritime history of Malta and its impact on the contemporary law of the sea. Echoing Ambassador Arvid Pardo’s now famous address to the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the President reiterated that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole and affirmed that the resources of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction belong to the common heritage of humankind. The President expressed his gratitude to IMLI and to Judge Professor David Attard, (Director, IMLI) for the support in the organization of the workshop. He also thanked the Republic of Cyprus and the Korea Maritime Institute, whose funding made the organization of the workshop possible.

In his welcoming remarks, Judge Professor Attard emphasized the important role of the Tribunal in upholding the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes, noting that the Tribunal has established itself as an active and effective body in deciding law of the sea disputes.
The workshop programme included an overview of proceedings before the Tribunal, with sessions dedicated to jurisdiction, urgent proceedings, advisory proceedings and the procedure for bringing cases before the Tribunal, as well as presentations on the jurisprudence of the Tribunal regarding maritime delimitation disputes. Presentations were given by President Hoffmann, Vice-President Heidar, Judges Attard, Paik and Caracciolo, and Registrar Hinrichs Oyarce.

The Tribunal's workshops aimed to familiarize participants with the dispute-settlement mechanisms established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and with the procedure applicable to cases before the Tribunal. To date, workshops have been held in Dakar, Kingston, Libreville, Singapore, Bahrain, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Fiji, Mexico City, Nairobi, Bali, San José, Mindelo and Montevideo.
A reception was held in the Institute's foyer at the conclusion of the first day of the two-day workshop, wherein some of the IMLI students met with the Judges and other participants. During the meeting, the IMLI badges were placed on the map to record the representation of El Salvador and Guinea-Bissau for the first time in any of the Institute's programmes. The participation of Ms. Karla Vanessa Cañas Fernández (student from El Salvador) was made possible thanks to the generous funds of the IMO Technical Cooperation Division. Mr. Joao Constantino Paulo Co's participation (student from Guinea-Bissau) was made possible thanks to the generous contribution of The Nippon Foundation.
During the event, students who are now in Malta had the opportunity to take photos with the flags of their respective countries which had been hoisted in a flag raising ceremony held on 25 October 2021 and presided over by the Institute's Director, Professor Attard. In the physical absence of the students on that day, the honour of raising the flag was bestowed on their respective moral tutors.

In continuation with its efforts to enhance capacity-building in the area of International Maritime Security Law, the Institute had the pleasure of welcoming Commodore Alok Ananda (Commodore (Naval Operations)) and Captain Brian Wilson (Deputy Director, Global Maritime Operational Threat Response Coordination Center). These lectures were delivered on the 24 and 25 May respectively.

Commodore Ananda's lecture was entitled "Indian Navy's Role, Capabilities and Initiatives in IOR As Preferred Security Partner."
This was followed by the lecture of Captain Wilson on the topic "United Nations Security Council and Maritime Enforcement Measures."

On Monday 23 May, Professor Simone Borg (Professor of International Law and Head of Department of Environmental and Resources Law, University of Malta) delivered a lecture entitled "The International Regulatory Framework on Climate Change". This was followed immediately by the lecture of Professor Alan Deidun (Director of the International Ocean Institute (IOI)). He delivered a lecture entitled "Ocean Acidification and Climate Change." Both of these eminent professors were welcomed and introduced to the participants by Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Lecturer, IMLI) and their lectures were very well received.
The Institute is proud and wishes to congratulate Ms. Faranisese Cakaubalavu Kinivuwai (IMLI Class of 2019 (Fiji)) for Chairing the International Meeting on the Voluntary Guidelines for Transhipment at the UNFAO Head Quarters in Rome. Ms. Kinivuwai is currently the Director of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of her country.

The Institute is also proud of the achievement of Dr. Felicity Grace Attard (IMLI Class of 2013 (Malta)) and congratulates her for winning the 1st edition of the ‘Aldo Leucci and Ortensio Degli Atti’ award for her article entitled “Limitations on the Duty to Render Assistance at Sea under International Law in the COVID-19 Era.” This article was published in the ASCOMARE Yearbook on the Law of the Sea. Dr. Attard is a Lecturer in the Department of International Law, Faculty of Laws, at the University of Malta.