



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

ITLOS REGIONAL WORKSHOP OPENS IN HANOI

Judge Tomas Heidar, President of the Tribunal, opened the seventeenth regional workshop of the Tribunal today in Hanoi, Viet Nam, focusing on “The Role of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in the Settlement of Disputes relating to the Law of the Sea”.

The two-day workshop is organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and with the support of the Korea Maritime Institute. The workshop welcomes representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei-Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste, as well as officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam.



In his opening statement, President Heidar observed that the workshop shall “contribute not only to a greater understanding of the Tribunal’s work, but also to the broader goal of strengthening the legal order for the seas and oceans, as envisaged

in the preamble of the Convention". He thanked the Government of Viet Nam for its generous support in hosting the workshop and the Korea Maritime Institute, whose funding also made the organization of the workshop possible.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Nguyen Minh Vu, Permanent Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, stated: "For Viet Nam, the work of ITLOS and UNCLOS is not an abstract matter – it is central to our vision for the future. As a coastal nation with a long history and a dynamic economy, we see the sea as both a source of prosperity and a space that demands careful stewardship."

The workshop programme covers an overview of proceedings before the Tribunal, with sessions dedicated to dispute-settlement mechanisms under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, advisory proceedings, urgent proceedings, and the procedure for bringing cases before the Tribunal. Presentations on the jurisprudence of the Tribunal regarding maritime delimitation disputes and the Advisory Opinion on climate change are also featured. In addition to President Heidar, speakers include Vice-President Chadha, Judges Kulyk, Duan, Horinouchi and Rhee, and Registrar Hinrichs Oyarce.

The Tribunal's regional workshops aim to familiarize participants with the dispute-settlement mechanisms established by the Convention and with the procedure applicable to cases before the Tribunal. To date, workshops have been held in Senegal, Gabon, Jamaica, Singapore, Bahrain, Argentina, South Africa, Fiji, Mexico, Kenya, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Cabo Verde, Uruguay, Malta and France.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

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