The twelfth regional workshop of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea was held in San José, Costa Rica, on 5 and 6 June 2017. The workshop was devoted 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 in the Central American and Caribbean Regions”, and was organized in cooperation with the Government of Costa Rica and with the financial support of the Korea Maritime Institute.

The workshop was attended by representatives of 12 States from the region: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The workshop was opened by Mr Manuel A. González Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica. In his statement, Minister González Sanz stated that the Tribunal “has become a key player in the strengthening of [the] International Rule of Law, by guaranteeing compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,
in a just, objective and efficient manner”. Judge Vladimir Golitsyn, President of the
Tribunal, also gave a statement at the opening ceremony, stating that the Minister’s
attendance at the workshop “bears witness to Costa Rica’s dedication to the promotion
of international justice in respect of the seas and oceans and the advancement of the
rule of law at the regional and international level”. The President thanked the Minister
of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Costa Rica for their support in organizing the
workshop.

The objective of the Tribunal’s regional workshops is to familiarize the
participants with the dispute-settlement mechanism established by the United Nations
Convention on the Law of the Sea and with the procedure applicable to cases before
the Tribunal. The San José programme included an introduction to case law, the
procedure for bringing cases before the Tribunal, and sessions on provisional
measures, prompt release of vessels and crews, and advisory proceedings before the
Seabed Disputes Chamber and the Tribunal. Presentations were made by President
Golitsyn, Judges Akl, Lucky and Paik, and Registrar Gautier and were followed by two
question and answer sessions.

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websites (http://www.itlos.org and http://www.tidm.org) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please
contact Ms Julia Ritter at: Am Internationalen Seeegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany,
Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org