



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

Press Release

FIFTH ITLOS WORKSHOP FOR LEGAL ADVISERS (SPONSORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA)

The fifth ITLOS Workshop for Legal Advisers (sponsored by the Republic of Korea) was opened on 18 September 2026 by the President of the Tribunal, Judge Tomas Heidar, who welcomed 20 participants from the Asian region.



This workshop, which has been designed for legal advisers of Asian States, is the fifth in the ITLOS legal advisers workshop series. It belongs to the Tribunal's array of capacity-building programmes aimed at promoting and disseminating knowledge about the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and, in particular, the dispute settlement procedures enshrined in its Part XV.

In his opening statement, President Heidar emphasized the aim of the workshop: to provide high-level government officials responsible for the international law of the sea with first-hand insights, thereby furthering the understanding of States

of the jurisprudence and procedures of the Tribunal, deepening their understanding of the dispute settlement regime established by the Convention, and exploring contemporary issues that pose challenges to ocean governance today. He expressed his gratitude for the ongoing support of the Republic of Korea in sponsoring the workshop series.

Mr Kim Young-Jae, Deputy Director-General for International Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, confirmed the support of the Republic of Korea for the judicial work and the capacity-building programmes of the Tribunal. He remarked that the Republic of Korea has been pleased to work closely with the Tribunal in strengthening legal capacity and encouraging dialogue among government legal advisers through this workshop, and to support the effective implementation of UNCLOS and the development of the law of the sea, including the BBNJ Agreement.

The fifth workshop runs from 18 to 23 September 2026. The programme includes presentations on the dispute settlement mechanism under Part XV of the Convention and the jurisdiction of the Tribunal; activities in the Area and the role of the Seabed Disputes Chamber; advisory proceedings of the Tribunal; the contribution of the Tribunal to the development of the law of the sea; requests for the prescription of provisional measures; applications for the prompt release of vessels and crews; and the manner in which proceedings are instituted and conducted before the Tribunal. Further sessions focus on litigation before the Tribunal; international fisheries law; navigational rights and enforcement; submarine cables and pipelines; protection of the marine environment; climate change, sea level rise and the law of the sea; delimitation of maritime boundaries; the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles; contemporary developments in the Area; and the Agreement under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction ("BBNJ Agreement").

Presentations will be given by President Heidar, Vice-President Chadha, Judges Kittichaisaree, Duan, Horinouchi and Rhee, and Registrar Hinrichs Oyarce. A faculty of external lecturers – Professors Harrison, Petrig, Proelss and Voigt, joined by Ms Macdonald, Mr Bressie, Ms Sander, Mr Fietta, Dr Dingwall and Dr Nguyen – will also speak during the course of the workshop.

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

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