



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

Press Release

SWEARING IN OF JUDGE XU GUAINGJIAN

PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO THE TRIBUNAL BY THE CONSUL GENERAL OF CHINA

HAMBURG, 18 September. A public sitting of the Tribunal was held yesterday to swear in Judge Xu Guaijingjian (People's Republic of China). Judge Xu was elected by the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 16 May 2001, to fill the vacancy left by the death of Judge Lihai Zhao (People's Republic of China). Pursuant to article 11 of the Statute, every member of the Tribunal, before taking up his duties, has to make a solemn declaration in open session that he will exercise his powers impartially and conscientiously. The sitting, at which Judge Xu made his solemn declaration, was held in the courtroom of the Tribunal's headquarters in Hamburg, in the presence of the Judges and the Acting Registrar of the Tribunal. The meeting was presided over by Judge Chandrasekhara Rao, President of the Tribunal. Judge Xu's biography is reproduced below.

The passing away of Judge Edward A. Laing on 11 September 2001 was marked by a minute's silence at the beginning of the ceremony. On this occasion, the President stated: "Judge Laing had a distinguished academic record. He taught law at several Law Schools in the Caribbean Region and the United States. He was an able international lawyer and published several articles in areas concerning the United Nations, Law of the Sea, international adjudication and public law. He served Belize with distinction in several diplomatic capacities. Within the Tribunal, his contribution was significant. I wish to refer here in particular to his special efforts to equip the Tribunal with modern courtroom technology. In recognition of his special interest in this area, the Tribunal appointed him as Chairman of the Buildings and Electronic Systems Committee. Judge Laing also chaired a working group on bonds and securities. We shall miss him and his perspectives at the Tribunal."

Shortly after the ceremony, the Consul General of China, Mr. Chen Jianfu, presented a gift of an embroidered stand to the Tribunal on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China. The screen was created by masters of embroidery from

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the City of Suzhou in the People's Republic of China and represents a magnificent peony, the queen of flowers. In his address, the President expressed his gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China and declared that the Tribunal would welcome donations of works of art to the new building, to highlight the international character of the Tribunal.

Judge Xu Guangjian

Born: Sichuan Province, China, 15 August 1931. **Education:** Department of International Politics, Qinghua University, Beijing (1950-1952); Master of Law, Foreign Affairs College, People's University of China, Beijing (1956). **Professional Experience:** Lecturer and Associate Professor of International Law, Foreign Affairs College, Beijing, (1956-1964); Deputy Director and Director (1965-1985) and Deputy Director-General (1985-1990), Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China; Consul-General (Ambassadorial Rank) of China in Sydney, Australia (1990-1992); Director General, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China (1992-1995); Adjunct Professor of International Law, Foreign Affairs College, Beijing (1985-present); Legal Adviser and Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China (1995-present). **Member:** Alternate Representative, Chinese Delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1976-1982); Head of Chinese delegations to the following meetings: Annual sessions of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (1985-1989, 1994-1995, 1998-1999), Session and informal consultations of the Fourth Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting on Antarctic Mineral Resources (1985-1988), Sessions of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of the Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee (1985-1989), First and second sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification (1993), Informal Consultations by the United Nations Secretary-General on Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1993), Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994), Thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (1994-1995); Chief Chinese Representative, Joint Committee of Sino-Pakistan Boundary Inspection (1985-1987); Chief Chinese Representative, Joint Committee for the Demarcation of the Eastern Section of the Sino-Russian Boundary (1992-1995); Special Adviser, Chinese delegation to the United Nations General Assembly (1993-1994); Representative of China, Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (1993-1994); Alternate head of the Chinese delegation to the inaugural meeting of the International Seabed Authority (1994); Senior Expert, Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea (1993-present); Head of the Chinese Expert Group on Marine Issues in the Sino-Vietnamese Boundary Delimitation Negotiations (1994-present); Senior Legal Adviser, Chinese Expert Group on the Delimitation of the Sino-Vietnamese Boundaries in the Beibu Gulf (1995-present); Vice-President (1992-2000) and Senior Adviser (2000-present), Chinese Society of International Law; Vice-President, Chinese Society of the Law of the Sea (1995-present),

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Senior Researcher , Hainan Research Institute of the South China Sea (2000-present); Senior Adviser, Chinese Institute of Marine Affairs (1998-present). **Publications and Lectures:** Various lectures and articles on international law and law of the sea, including: *Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and UNCLOS*, Chinese Yearbook of International Law, 1983; *new Developments in the International Law of the Sea*, Foreign Affairs College, 1983; *International Seabed Development Regime in UNCLOS*, Chinese Society of International Law, 1985; *International Law and Diplomacy*, Chinese Society of International Law, 1993; *Legal Issues on the Agreement Implementing Part XI of UNCLOS*, Chinese Society of the Law of the Sea, 1994.

The curricula vitae of the other Judges can be found in document SPLOS/11.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Mr. Robert van Dijk or Ms. Julia Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: (49) (40) 35607-228/227, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275; E-mail: press@itlos.org
