Press Release

SWEARING IN OF JUDGE XU GUIANGJIAN

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 Guaingjian (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


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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