



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

# **Press Release**

## **THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE TRIBUNAL**

The Thirteenth Session of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea took place from 4 to 15 March 2002. The Session dealt with organizational and administrative matters and other matters having a bearing on the judicial work of the Tribunal. The Tribunal also adopted its draft budget for 2003. The draft budget will be placed before the representatives of the 138 States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, who will meet from 16 to 26 April 2002 in New York. On 13 March 2002, the Members of the Tribunal elected Mr. Doo-young Kim (Korea) as Deputy Registrar of the Tribunal. Mr. Kim is Lecturer in Law of the Sea at Korea University, Seoul, and has served as Director of the International Affairs Division of the Treaties Bureau of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### **FIRST OPEN DAY**

On Saturday, 9 March 2002, the first open day of the Tribunal was held, providing an opportunity for the general public to view the new headquarters building and learn about the work of the Tribunal. With over 3,400 visitors to the premises, the open day was deemed a great success.

### **RECEPTION FOR THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIBUNAL**

On 14 March 2002, the President of the Tribunal, P. Chandrasekhara Rao, held a reception to celebrate the completion of the first five years of the Tribunal. The reception was attended by a number of representatives from the international legal and maritime law community, the Senate and the Administration of the City, the consular corps, the Chamber of Commerce, business and industry.

On this occasion, messages of goodwill were received from, among others, the Legal Counsel to the United Nations and the Director of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

Dr. Hansjörg Geiger, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice, representing the Federal Minister of Justice, Mrs. Herta Däubler-Gmelin, praised the efficiency of the Tribunal, declaring it to be “one of the quickest working courts” which should be recommended “as a shining example to other courts, national or international”. He closed his speech with the words: “The Tribunal has indeed turned out to be the

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custodian of the maritime order. We are grateful that this Tribunal has operated in such a manner as to inspire confidence and respect. And we look forward to the future.”

In his concluding statement, the President observed that almost all the judges of the Tribunal took part in drafting the Convention on the Law of the Sea, that, being draftsmen of the Convention, they were uniquely situated to interpret the Convention, and that “there is no other international court whose judges were also draftsmen of the Convention they are asked to interpret and apply”. He added that by delivering its judgments and orders within relatively short periods, the Tribunal established “a new culture in international adjudication”. The President further observed that, in its orders, the Tribunal “avoided a doctrinaire approach”.

The President pledged that “it shall be the constant endeavour of the Tribunal to promote the rule of law in matters relating to the oceans in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal’s websites: <http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tiddm.org> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms. Julia Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227, Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245;  
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