

CLASS DIARY OF THE 7th IFLOS SUMMER ACADEMY (21st July – 16th August 2013)

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The 7th IFLOS Summer Academy at the seat of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has wrapped up with fruitful outcomes. We, 37 participants from 32 countries all over the world, gathered in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, from 21st July to 16th August 2013 with a view to broadening our knowledge on law of the sea and maritime law. We spent almost four weeks together in the sun and the rain of Hamburg with strong aspiration towards serious learning but not without fun.

It all started with a warm **Welcome Party** in the pretty Villa Schröder. After the introduction session, we immediately created a social network among us which would remarkably strengthen during the course despite our diverse backgrounds and geographic differences.



We had the honor to be welcomed by the ITLOS President **Shunji Yanai** and

IFLOS Chairperson Professor **Doris König** among others. We were glad to know from the welcome speeches that we were the largest group of participants ever that expanded the reach of the Summer Academy to 92 countries.

With the focus on “Promoting Ocean Governance and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes”, we went through a variety of **lectures and workshops** and had the opportunity to meet an impressive faculty of some 35 renowned lecturers, many of whom had traveled long distances here to share their expertise and experience with us.

The **first week** passed quickly in the warmth of Hamburg’s most beautiful summer days. A series of excellent presentations covering general law of the sea issues, delivered by distinguished lecturers from the Tribunal, including President **Shunji**

Yanai, Former President **Thomas A. Mensah**, Judge **David Attard**, and Judge **Vladimir Golitsyn**. Through these presentations, different aspects the United



Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) were introduced and illustrated with case studies so that it is easy to see how it has been applied and interpreted in reality. We were deeply drawn into class discussion and proactively posed questions to our lecturers. By the end of the week, we had the opportunity to bring our newly learnt knowledge to a practical marine delimitation workshop with the help of the UK Hydrographic Office. We had relatively professional presentations on our own solution to a challenging delimitation case. It was really fun, too.

The **second week** was not less appealing with the focus mainly on the uses of the oceans and marine environmental protection. We also attended the annual Summer Academy Open Event at Bucerius Law School. The topic of this year's event is much related to what we have learnt during the week – "Deep Seabed Mining – Is it about to begin?". It was also in Week 2 that the **Moot Court Tournament** kicked off. As soon as the list of four teams was announced, everybody immediately got excited and involved in discussion with great motivation and enthusiasm even during lunch or coffee breaks. The "Moot Court atmosphere" could be observed anywhere.

The **third and fourth weeks** covered several topics on maritime law and the maritime industry. We were introduced to the complex realm of maritime law by prominent experts, who applied a practical approach of teaching to make sure we get the general picture of the industry. As part of this "practical approach", we made our way through the cold rain for mind-broadening visits to **Leonhardt & Blumberg**, a

major shipowner in Hamburg, the **Blohm & Voss** Shipyard across the Elbe River, and the **Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law**.

In the last working day of Week 4, the four teams competed in the **Moot Court Tournament** held in the main Court Room of the Tribunal. The bench consisted of Former Vice President **Helmut Türk** from the Tribunal, Professor **Doris König**, Professor **Alexander Prölß**, and Attorney at Law **Christoph Hasche**. We prepared the memorials and the hearings within a limited time but with due diligence and serious attitude. We came to the Court with sharp arguments and decent lawyers' look. We also managed to answer challenging questions from the judges. Team B as the Respondent won the Tournament thanks to their astounding performance and was awarded a special recognition.



As for the fun side of the course, the organizers managed to put several **extra-curricular activities** into our tight schedule. We had the opportunity to do some sight-seeing in **Hamburg and its vicinity** with a bus tour as well as an

amazing boat tour in a breezy summer afternoon with the help from the **Hamburg Port Authority**. We visited the medieval city of **Lübeck**, had time to stuff our bags with marzipan for our beloved and enjoyed the beach of **Timmendorfer Strand**.

There were also various **social events** where we could extend our circle of friends and enjoy ourselves. **Bucerius Law School** invited the Summer Academy participants to their place for a barbeque party, while **INCE & Co. International Law Firm** hosted an evening at a typical Hamburg sailor's pub.



Most noticeably, a wonderful **excursion to Berlin** was organized. We took thousands of photographs as we toured the Reichstag, Berlin Wall Monument, and several other landmarks. To some who stayed overnight, the trip also involved Berlin nightlife.

However, everything must come to an end. And the 2013 Summer Academy ended in a happy way. It was our honor to be received by Senator of Justice **Jana Schiedeck** in the beautiful Town Hall of Hamburg.



We are proud to have contributed to the success of the 2013 IFLOS Summer Academy. For us, the experience we had during the past four weeks is unparalleled. So **where do we go from here?** We are coming back to our normal routine, studying, working or whatsoever. But we will keep the memory of this Summer Academy in our heart and keep this network of friends for as long as we can. It is said that “knowledge has a beginning but no end”. We are now well prepared to conquer new horizons of the law of the sea and maritime law with the first ship of knowledge that IFLOS provided us.



Finally, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the Tribunal, the Foundation and its partners, as well as distinguished lecturers for bringing us such a wonderful time. Wish you all the best.

Thank you and Farewell.