

President and Distinguished Judges of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea,

Professor Doris König, President of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea,

Distinguished Participants,

I am delighted to have been asked by Professor Doris König, President of the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea, to briefly talk to you today about my experience as a participant in the IFLOS first summer academy in 2007.

My first visit to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea was in 2006, as a representative of my country, Bahrain, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Tribunal. I found the atmosphere inspiring, thanks to the participation of many distinguished experts in the law of the sea from all over the world, as well as the variety of topics that were discussed at the symposium.

From then on, I realized the importance of the law of the sea to us in Bahrain, as an island state, and I therefore decided to further develop my knowledge in this field.

In order to achieve this, there were a number of options, among which was the Summer Academy organized by the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea.

In the end, there were a number of substantial reasons behind my decision to choose IFLOS Summer Academy. Firstly, IFLOS's president, Professor König, is a distinguished and respected academic, and extremely knowledgeable in the field of the law of the sea. Secondly, the programme of the IFLOS Summer Academy was well tailored, especially, for those of us wanting to build a solid background in the main principles of the law of the sea.

During the Summer Academy programme we had the opportunity to deal with a variety of fundamental issues relating to the law of the sea such the historical developments of the UNCLOS, some recent environmental issues, the mechanism of the ITLOS dispute settlement system and its relation with the ICJ, and the principles of maritime delimitation in international law. Furthermore, important topics relating to maritime

issues in international private law, such as the carriage of goods by sea and maritime insurance, were also covered by the Summer Academy programme.

Importantly, I found the programme's practical approach to be particularly rewarding. All the participants had the opportunity to participate in the practical workshop on delimitation, which was a very effective and successful way to tackle such a complicated issue. In addition, using the Tribunal Court Room for the moot court exercise was the ideal method to allow the participants to experience how the Tribunal works in reality.

There is no doubt the location of the Academy within the premises of the Tribunal, as well as the distinguished judges, experts and academics who taught the programme, are all factors inspiring the participants to further develop their knowledge in the field of maritime law.

In addition to the unique and inspiring academic atmosphere, the social atmosphere was also great, particularly with the multinational and multicultural environment. It is a great opportunity to get to know people from all over the world, and to share with them views, opinions and friendship. The sightseeing programme was perfect, taking us to many historical sites and landmarks in Germany, especially the Hamburg seaport and the ship building sites.

Distinguished participants,

In conclusion, I greatly enjoyed my time at the summer academy, which I found to be consistently rewarding and interesting. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate, and would encourage all the participants in this workshop to take part in the next summer academy.

Thank you.

Hussain Makhloq
Second Secretary
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