



The Indian Society of International Law NEWSLETTER

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For members only

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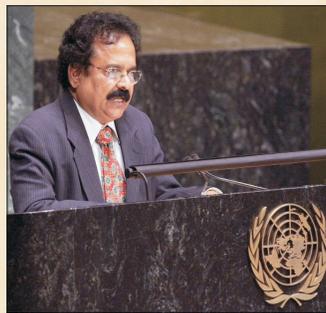
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Editorial



The Arbitration Tribunal seated at The Hague on the India-Bangladesh Maritime Delimitation delivered its ruling on 7th July 2014. In October 2009, Bangladesh served India with notice of arbitration proceedings under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for delimitation of the Maritime Boundary. Both India and Bangladesh are parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In brief, India has seven neighbouring States for maritime boundary purposes, namely, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand and Indonesia. India has between 1974 and 1979 concluded eleven Agreements with five of its neighbours, namely Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. The boundary

negotiations with Bangladesh commenced in October 1974 and could not able resolve the dispute. Maritime boundary talks with Pakistan have not yet commenced. A major reason for this lapse was that both neighbours favoured the 'equitable' rather than the 'equidistant' principle used by India for demarcating maritime boundaries.

Since India and Bangladesh had not chosen a dispute settlement forum under the Convention, the case was decided by its default procedure and a 5-member Arbitration Tribunal was established under Annex VII of the Convention for Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between the two nations. Bangladesh, in its memorial, claimed the right to an extended continental shelf, that is, an area beyond 200 nautical miles. Bangladesh also argued for the use of the Angle Bisector method as being the most suitable method and arrived at a 180° perpendicular delimitation line. In its attempt to get the most advantageous line, it is being argued that the equidistance method was not suitable for states such as Bangladesh with concave coastlines as its effect would be to pull the line of the boundary inwards in the direction of the concavity. Bangladesh also argued for a second deflection of its 180° line so as to claim a huge swathe of maritime territory in the outer continental shelf. Overall, Bangladesh claimed an area of about 32,000 sq km of extended continental shelf on this basis of this second deflection, citing its large coastal front, geology and geomorphology of the area and claiming that all the sediments in the Bay of Bengal which form the outer continental shelf flow from the rivers of Bangladesh. The logic advanced was that as the outer continental shelf was clearly an extension of the land mass of Bangladesh, the country enjoyed an inherent entitlement to the outer continental shelf.

In its counter memorial, India claimed for following the internationally recognized equidistance methodology for delimitation of the territorial sea, EEZ and continental shelf alike, emphasizing that this is the most equitable method for delimitation. India countered Bangladesh's claim of coastal instability by pointing out that this can be regarded as a special circumstance only if it renders selection of appropriate base points impossible. It argued that Bangladesh's proposed line is not a true depiction of the coastlines of the two countries. A major bone of contention was New Moore Island, which has been claimed both by India and Bangladesh. India had made the case that the Radcliff Award fixes the boundary in this sector as the midstream of the main channel of the rivers Hariabhanga and Raimangal until it meets the Bay of Bengal. On this basis, India argued that the Land Boundary Terminus should lie to the east of New Moore Island. Bangladesh argued that the Terminus should lie to the west of the Island.

The Tribunal acknowledges that the equidistance method is a more accurate method and rejects Bangladesh's proposed angle bisector method. While the Tribunal has acknowledged in its award that the purpose of adjusting an equidistance line is not to refashion geography, or to compensate for the inequalities of nature and that there can be no question of distributive justice, it has adjusted the provisional equidistance line to a remarkable degree. The Award acknowledged India's sovereignty over New Moore Island, with the concomitant access this provides to the Hariabhanga River.

Dr. E. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan

RECENT ACTIVITIES

RECENT ACTIVITIES 43RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) organized its 43rd Annual Conference on 11-12 April 2014 at its premises. More than 130 delegates comprising law faculty members, researchers, students and lawyers from different parts of the country and representatives from several embassies and ministries participated in the Conference. Shri Narinder Singh welcomed the dignitaries sitting on the dias and participants of the Conference. Dr. E. M. S. Natchiappan, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry & President, ISIL inaugurated the 43rd Annual Conference of the Indian Society of International Law. Prof. Lakshmi Jambholkar, Executive President, ISIL also addressed the gathering. Dr. V. G. Hegde, Treasurer, ISIL gave vote of thanks.

First Session was organized on "Private International Law" which was chaired Shri P. K. Malhotra, Law Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India. Shri Malhotra also gave key note address. Prof. A. Jayagovinda, Former Vice Chancellor, NLSIU, Bangalore, Prof. Lakshmi Jambholkar, Executive President, ISIL, Shri G. G. Hegde, Associate Professor, NLSIU, Bangalore, Ms. Aakansha Kumar, Researcher, ITM University School of Law, Ms. Rhia Rhilina Choudhary, Assistant Professor, ISIL presented their papers on the theme. Second Session focusing the theme "Investment Disputes-Investment Arbitration" was chaired by Professor J. L. Kaul, Vice Chancellor, Vikram University, Ujjain. Eminent panelists



Shri S. K. Dholakia, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Dr. Prabhash Ranjan, Assistant Professor, SAU, New Delhi and Shri Naresh Kumar, Advocate, New Delhi presented their papers in this session. Third Session focusing "Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges" was chaired by Prof. B. C. Nirmal, Vice Chancellor, NUSRL, Ranchi. Prof. M. Gandhi, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Dr. Luther Rangreji, Associate Professor, SAU, New Delhi, Dr. Srinivas Burra, Assistant Professor, IIT Kharagpur, Dr. Alok Mishra, Professor, Amity Law School, New Delhi and Capt. J. S. Gill presented their papers on the theme.

This occasion was also marked with the felicitation of two Executive Council (EC) Members of ISIL Prof. J. L. Kaul and Prof. B. C. Nirmal on their elevation to Vice Chancellor to Vikram University, Ujjain and National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi respectively. These two Vice Chancellor was honoured with the flower bouquet and shawl by Dr. E. M. S. Natchiappan, President, ISIL. Shri Narinder Singh, Secretary General, other EC members also congratulated to them on their

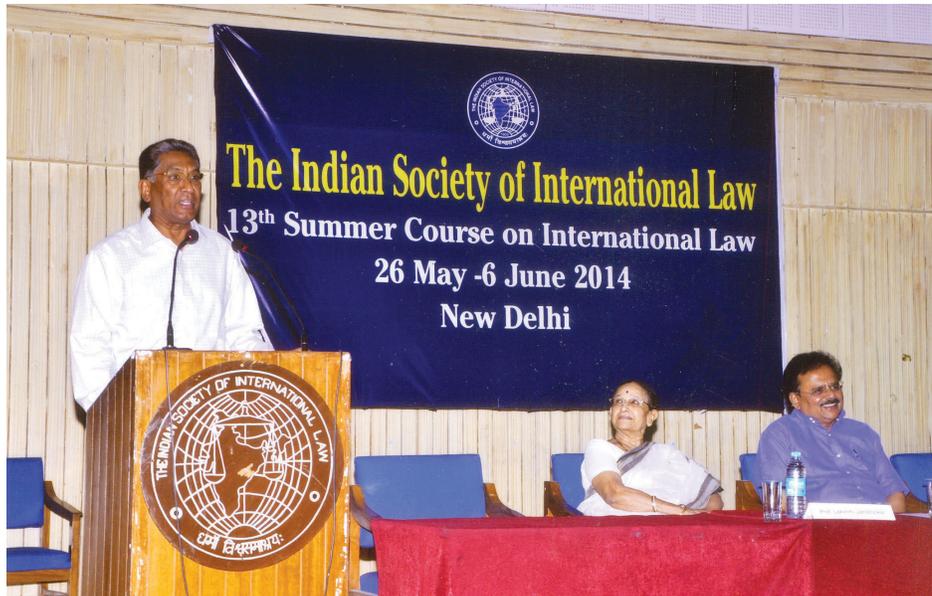
achievements.

13TH SUMMER COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

The ISIL organized its 13th Summer Course on International Law at its premises from 26 May – 6 June 2014 and the Course was attended by 125 participants from many parts of the country. The Summer Course was intended to introduce all branches of international law and highlight contemporary issues to the participants. The Course was inaugurated by Dr. Neeru Chadha, Joint Secretary, L&T Division, MEA on Monday, 26 May 2014. Dr. Neeru said, "I am happy to see so many of you have chosen to participate in the 13th Summer Course on International Law organized by the Indian Society of International Law. I am convinced that it is the only specialized course of this nature which is filled with international law experts that could come out with some practical and workable ideas in this regard. I wish the participants a great success."

The substantive lectures of the Course were spread over two weeks. Lectures

RECENT ACTIVITIES / RECENT DEVELOPMENTS



were delivered on vital and contemporary areas of international law, viz., General Principles of Public International Law, Introduction to Private International Law, International Institutions, International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian and Refugee Law, International Criminal Law, Maritime Law, Public International Trade Law, National and International Arbitration, International Environmental Law and Sustainable Development. The faculties for the Summer Course comprised of eminent international law

experts. Justice Vikramajit Sen, Judge, Supreme Court of India gave valedictory address and also distributed the certificate to the participants. The Course witnessed lively interactions and discussion by the participants.

V. K. KRISHNA MENON LECTURE BY HON'BLE AMBASSDOR K. P. FABIAN, K. P. S. MENON CHAIR FOR DIPLOMATIC STUDIES, MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, KOTTAYAM

In the memory of Shri V. K. Krishna

Menon, former President and founder of ISIL, the ISIL organized its 13th V. K. Krishna Menon Memorial Lecture on 30 June 2014 at ISIL premises. Dr. E. M. S. Natchiappan, President, ISIL highlighted and underlined the achievements of Hon'ble Chief Guest Ambassador K. P. Fabian, K. P. S. Menon Chair for Diplomatic Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. Ambassador Fabian delivered lecture on "India's Foreign Policy Options in a Changing Geopolitical Situation". Dr. R. K. Dixit, EC Member, ISIL summed up the speech of the Chief Guest. Shri Narinder Singh, Secretary General, ISIL proposed the vote of thanks.

MONTHLY DISCUSSION FORUM

Monthly discussions were organized on the following topics:

International Law in the New Crimean Conflict: Facts and Norms Governing Secession and Annexation on 4 April 2014. Shri Vivek Kanwar, Associate Professor of Law, Jindal Global Law School, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat initiated the discussion.

International Crimes on Internet-An Indian Perspective on 2 May 2014: Shri Anil Bakshi, Advocate, Supreme Court of India initiated the discussion.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT

UN RECEIVED PALESTINIAN APPLICATIONS TO JOIN GLOBAL CONVENTIONS, TREATIES

On 2 April 2014, the United Nations confirmed that Palestinian Authority officials have presented letters for accession to 15 international conventions and treaties. Palestinian leadership, including President



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Mahmoud Abbas at the time of signing the accession letters on 31 March 2014, repeatedly emphasized that it wants to continue the negotiations with Israel that resumed in July 2013 under United States auspices. Palestinian leadership said, “we hope that a way can be found to see negotiations through until the scheduled end of the nine-month timeframe set to expire on 29 April 2014. The goal remains to arrive at a substantive basis for negotiations towards a comprehensive peace agreement on all final status issues.”

NEED FOR GLOBAL INSTRUMENT TO PROTECT MARINE BIODIVERSITY BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION: UN

United Nations Member States have begun a series of meetings in New York on 2 April 2014 to discuss the need for an international instrument that would regulate the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond countries' national jurisdiction. From 1 to 4 April 2014, a working group consisting of representatives from UN Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community and civil society are discussing ways to protect marine resources from a number of pressures that cumulatively put oceans at risk.

At the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), States committed to urgently address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans, rich in marine biodiversity, have a significant role to play in sustainable development as they contribute to the health, food

security and livelihoods of millions of people around the world.

“The Working Group is now at a critical juncture of its work. The next three meetings present a clear opportunity to try and overcome remaining differences and to crystalize the areas of convergence into concrete action,” said UN Legal Counsel Miguel de Serpa Soares in his opening remarks at the meeting.

The Working Group will present its recommendations on the scope, parameters and feasibility of the instrument to the General Assembly to enable it to make a decision before the end of its 69th session, in September 2015.

The meetings will be co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN, Palitha T. B. Kohona, and the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Liesbeth Lijnzaad.

OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CRC ENABLES CHILDREN TO LODGE COMPLAINTS WITH UN ABOUT RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, entered into force, on 14 April 2014, – after Costa Rica became the 10th country to deposit its instrument of ratification. The Optional Protocol will enable children and their representatives to submit complaints to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about specific violations of their rights under the Convention, as well as under its other two Optional Protocols (on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution). But children can only complain if their government has ratified the new Optional Protocol, and if they have exhausted all

legal avenues in their own country.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely and rapidly ratified human rights treaty in history. Only two countries – Somalia and the United States – have yet to ratify.

RUSSIA, CHINA BLOCK SECURITY COUNCIL REFERRAL OF SYRIA TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The Security Council was unable, on 22 May 2014, to adopt a resolution that would have referred the Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC), due to vetoes by permanent members Russia and China. The resolution, which was backed by the other 13 members of the Council, would have given the Court the mandate to investigate the crimes committed during the course of the conflict in Syria, which since March 2011 has witnessed the deaths of over 100,000 civilians, the displacement of millions and widespread violations of human rights. In February 2013, the UN-appointed Commission of Inquiry indicated that the ICC could be the appropriate venue to pursue the fight against impunity in Syria.

ILO MADE GLOBAL EFFORTS TO TACKLE FORCED LABOUR

The United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO), on 11 June 2014, adopted a new legally binding protocol on forced labour, aiming to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures, as well as to intensify efforts to eliminate contemporary forms of slavery. The 2014 Protocol to ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour, supported by a Recommendation, was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the

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government, employer and worker delegates at the International Labour Conference – with 437 votes in favour to 8 against, and 27 abstentions. The main convention was adopted in 1930, and the Protocol brings it into the modern era to address practices such as human trafficking. The accompanying Recommendation provides technical guidance on its implementation. There are currently an estimated 21 million forced labour victims worldwide. A recent ILO report estimates that \$150 billion in illegal profits are made in the private economy each year through modern forms of slavery. According to ILO, more than half of the victims of forced labour are women and girls, primarily in domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation, while men and boys were primarily in forced economic exploitation in agriculture, construction, and mining.

The Protocol strengthens the international legal framework by creating new obligations to prevent forced labour, to protect victims and to provide access to remedy, such as compensation for material and physical harm. It requires governments to take measures to better protect workers, in particular migrant labourers, from fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices and emphasizes the role of employers and workers in the fight against forced labour. The Committee agreed on the need for a legally binding instrument that establishes a common framework for the 177 ILO member States that have ratified Convention 29 – as well as the 8 countries that have not – to move towards the elimination of forced labour.

CASES BEFORE WTO DSS BETWEEN PERIOD APRIL-JUNE 2014

On 8 April 2014, the European Union requested consultations with Russia concerning certain measures adopted by Russia affecting the importation of live pigs and their genetic material, pork, pork products and certain other commodities from the European Union, purportedly because of concerns related to cases of African Swine Fever. The European Union claims that the measures at issue are inconsistent with Articles 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7, 8, Annex B, and Annex C of the SPS Agreement; and Articles I:1, III:4 and XI:1 of the GATT 1994. On 27 June 2014, the European Union requested the establishment of a panel. At its meeting on 22 July 2014, the DSB established a panel but panel yet not composed. Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Norway, Chinese Taipei and the United States reserved their third-party rights. Subsequently, Brazil and South Africa reserved their third-party rights.

On 8 May 2014, New Zealand requested consultations with Indonesia concerning certain measures it imposes on the importation of horticultural products, animals and animal products. New Zealand claims that the measures are inconsistent with Articles III:4, X:1 and XI:1 of the GATT 1994; Article 4.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture; Articles 1.2, 1.5, 1.6, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1 and 5.2 of the Import Licensing Agreement; and Articles 2.1 and 2.15 of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection. On 20 May 2014, the United States requested to join the consultations. On 22 May 2014, Thailand requested to join the consultations. On 23 May 2014, Canada, the European Union and Chinese Taipei requested to join the consultations. On 26 May 2014, Australia requested to join the consultations. Subsequently,

Indonesia informed the DSB that it had accepted the requests of Australia, Canada, the European Union, Chinese Taipei and Thailand to join the consultations.

In another instances, on 8 May 2014, the United States requested consultations with Indonesia concerning certain measures it imposes on the importation of horticultural products, animals and animal products. The United States claims that the measures are inconsistent with Articles III:4, X:1 and XI:1 of the GATT 1994; Article 4.2 of the Agreement on Agriculture; Articles 1.2, 1.5, 1.6, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1 and 5.2 of the Import Licensing Agreement; and Articles 2.1 and 2.15 of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection. On 16 May 2014, New Zealand requested to join the consultations. On 22 May 2014, Thailand requested to join the consultations. On 23 May 2014, Canada, the European Union and Chinese Taipei requested to join the consultations. On 26 May 2014, Australia requested to join the consultations. Subsequently, Indonesia informed the DSB that it had accepted the requests of Australia, Canada, the European Union, Chinese Taipei and Thailand to join the consultations.

On 21 May 2014, the European Union requested consultations with Russia with respect to the levy of anti-dumping duties on light commercial vehicles from Germany and Italy by Russia pursuant to Decision No. 113 of 14 May 2013 of the College of the Eurasian Economic Commission. The European Union claims that the measures are inconsistent with Articles 1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.5.1, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, 9.2, 9.3, 12.2, 12.2.2, 18.4 and Annex II of the Anti

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Dumping Agreement; Article VI of the GATT 1994.

On 10 June 2014, Indonesia requested consultations with the European Union on: (a) provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1225/2009 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community; and (b) anti-dumping measures imposed in 2013 by the European Union on imports of biodiesel originating in, *inter alia*, Indonesia. Indonesia claims that the measures are inconsistent with Articles 1, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.2.1.1, 2.2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 6.5, 6.5.1, 7.1, 7.2, 9.2, 9.3, 15 and 18.4 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement; Article XVI:4 of the WTO Agreement; and Articles VI, VI:1 and VI:2 of the GATT 1994.

On 13 June 2014, the European Union requested consultations with Indonesia with respect to Indonesia's recourse to Article 22.2 of the DSU in the context of the proceedings in US — Clove Cigarettes (DS406), and the exclusion of third parties from those proceedings. The European Union considers this to be inconsistent with Articles 21.5, 22.2, 23.1 and 23.2(a) of the DSU, as well as Articles 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 of the DSU. On 26 June 2014, Australia requested to join the consultations. On 30 June 2014, Brazil requested to join the consultations. Subsequently, Indonesia informed the DSB that it had accepted the requests of Australia and Brazil to join the consultations.

On 25 June 2014, Chinese Taipei requested consultations with Canada with respect to the provisional and definitive anti-dumping measures imposed by Canada on imports of certain carbon steel welded pipe (CSWP) originating in, among others,

Chinese Taipei. Chinese Taipei claims that the measures are inconsistent with Articles 1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 5.8, 6.8, 6.10, 18 and Annex II of the Anti-Dumping Agreement; Article VI of the GATT 1994.

OBLIGATIONS CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO CESSATION OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE AND TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT (MARSHALL ISLANDS V. INDIA)

On 24 April 2014, the Republic of the Marshall Islands filed an application against India, UK and Pakistan at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), claiming that these States, known or presumed to possess nuclear weapons, have failed to fulfil their obligations under international law with respect to nuclear disarmament and the cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date. In its application against India, the Marshall Islands accused it of not engaging in negotiations to cease the nuclear arms race, highlighting that India, instead, continues to expand and improve its nuclear arsenal. The International Court of Justice (ICJ), has fixed time-limits for filing of pleadings on the question of jurisdiction in the case of Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. India). By an Order of 16 June 2014, the Court fixed 16 December 2014 and 16 June 2015 as respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by the Republic of the Marshall Islands and a Counter-Memorial by the Republic of India. It also indicates that, "by a letter dated 6 June 2014, the Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands informed the Court, *inter alia*, that "India considers that the International Court of Justice does not

have jurisdiction in the alleged dispute". According to the Order, by a subsequent letter dated 10 June 2014, the Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands indicated that "India regrets to inform [the Court] that it will not be able to participate in the proposed meeting" to be held by the President with the representatives of the Parties. In other words, India refused to participate in a meeting called by the President of the Court to discuss preliminary procedural issues. The Order goes on to state that, "on 11 June 2014, the President of the Court met with the representatives of the Marshall Islands and at that meeting, the Marshall Islands expressed the view that, if the Court were to order a first round of written pleadings dedicated to the question of its jurisdiction, a time-limit of six months would be sufficient for the preparation of a pleading on that question". Finally, "the Court considers, pursuant to Article 79, paragraph 2, of its Rules, that, in the circumstances of the case, it is necessary to resolve first of all the question of the Court's jurisdiction, and that this question should accordingly be separately determined before any proceedings on the merits". Therefore, the Court decided that the written pleadings shall first be addressed to the question of the jurisdiction of the Court.

By an Order of 10 July 2014, the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, has fixed 12 January 2015 and 17 July 2015 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by the Republic of the Marshall Islands and a Counter-Memorial by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the questions of the jurisdiction of the Court and the

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

admissibility of the Application in the case of Obligations concerning Negotiations relating to Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and to Nuclear Disarmament (Marshall Islands v. Pakistan). It is stated in the Order that “by a letter dated 9 July 2014 and received in the Registry on the same day, H.E. Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Co-Agent of Pakistan, transmitted to the Court a Note Verbale, also dated 9 July 2014, whereby the Pakistani Government indicated, inter alia, that 'Pakistan is of the considered opinion that the ICJ lacks jurisdiction and considers the [above-mentioned] Application inadmissible', and requested the Court 'to dismiss this Application in limine'”. The Order further indicates that “at the meeting held, pursuant to Article 31 of the Rules of Court, by the President of the Court with the representatives of the Parties, later in the day on 9 July 2014, those representatives expressed the views of their respective Governments with regard to questions of procedure in the case, in the light, in particular, of the above-mentioned Note Verbale dated 9 July 2014”, and that “pursuant to Article 79, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Court, it is considered that, taking into account the views expressed by the Parties, it is necessary to resolve first of all the questions of the Court's jurisdiction and the admissibility of the Application, and that these questions should accordingly be separately determined before any proceedings on the merits”.

According to the terms of the Order, “it is necessary for the Court to be informed of all the contentions and evidence on facts and law on which the Parties rely in the matters of its jurisdiction and the admissibility of the Application”. Consequently, the President of the Court has decided that the written pleadings shall first be

addressed to the questions of the jurisdiction of the Court and the admissibility of the Application.

UNITED NATIONS ESTABLISHES TRANSPARENCY REGISTRY IN VIENNA

On 1 April 2014, the United Nations launches a new entity, the Transparency Registry, at its offices in Vienna, Austria. The Transparency Registry operates within the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and serves as a repository for the publication of documents in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration. The European Commission is planning to offer financial support for the operation of the Transparency Registry.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) has approved the draft convention on transparency in treaty-based investor-State arbitration (the "convention on transparency") at its 47th session in New York.

Disputes between a foreign investor and a State often touch on subjects of public interest, such as infrastructure development, resource extraction, and environmental standards, but the arbitrations conducted to resolve these disputes have frequently taken place outside public view. The Transparency Registry is established under the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration ('Rules on Transparency') with a view to making the documents produced in these disputes available to the public. The Transparency Registry will publish dispute documents via its user-friendly and freely-accessible global case database, available at www.uncitral.org/transparency-registry.

The Transparency Registry is just one

aspect of the Rules on Transparency that serves to make investment arbitration more transparent. The Rules on Transparency were adopted by UNCITRAL in July 2013 after three years of negotiations that included States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. They take into account both the public interest in investment arbitrations and the need for an efficient resolution of such disputes. In addition to the publication of documents, they facilitate, where applicable, public access to hearings and the ability of third parties to make submissions.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFIRMS JORDAN'S PRINCE ZEID AS NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations General Assembly, on 16 June 2014 unanimously approved Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein of Jordan as the new High Commissioner for Human Rights, succeeding Navi Pillay of South Africa. He will be the first High Commissioner from the Asian continent and from the Muslim and Arab worlds.

RASIK RAVINDRA, INDIA BECAME MEMBER OF UN COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF CONTINENTAL SHELF (UNCLCS)

Indian scientist Rasik Ravindra on 12 June 2014 was elected as a member of the UN Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (UNCLCS). He was unanimously elected by securing support of all 111 members who were present and voted. Ravindra was elected during the 24th meet of the State Parties of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea held

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in New York, USA. Ravindra's tenure in the CLCS will be till 15 June 2017. He was elected in place of of Indian scientist Ranjan Sivaramakrishnan who resigned from CLCS in February 2014. Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS) in the UN body and consists of 21 members and has a power to grant new seabed territory to nations. The members are elected for a term of five year by State Parties to the Convention from among their nationals. The members are experts in field of geology, geophysics or hydrography.

WORLD CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW: REGISTRATION IS OPEN

ISIL is organizing World Congress on International Law on "Contemporary Issues of International Law" on 9-11 January 2015. The President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee will inaugurate

the conference at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 9 January 2014. Judge Peter Tomka, President, International Court of Justice, The Hague will also address the Inaugural Session. The objective of the Conference is to examine and discuss the topics of international law which encompass a variety of topics, WTO and international trade, IPR, Technology and Development of International Law, human rights, humanitarian law, refugee law, Investment Law, International Commercial Arbitration, national implementation of international law and other issues.

Registration for the Conference is open. Interested persons can visit to ISIL website www.isil-aca.org for online registration. Participants will be given Certificate of Participation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Training Workshop for Indian Forest Service Officers on "IPR-WTO Accountability- Scope of Patent", 20-21 November 2014

World Congress on International Law: 9-11 January 2015

Intellectual Property Policy Seminar Jointly organized by the ISIL and the University of Washington School of Law, 16-17 January 2015

WIPO-India Summer School on IP (WSSIN) at ISIL, New Delhi, 02 - 13 March 2015

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