

DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF UNCLOS

The Fifth ABLOS Conference: Web Announcement revised on January 17, 2008

The Fifth Conference of the IAG/IHO* Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) is scheduled for October 16-17, 2008 in Monaco. The purpose of this Conference is to draw together specialists from a variety of disciplines for a discussion of the challenges that arise when applying science and technology with due consideration of the juridical requirements of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

* IAG: International Association for Geodesy; IHO: International Hydrographic Organization

Past ABLOS Conferences have dealt with:

- *Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundary Delineation and Delimitation (1999)*
- *Accuracies and Uncertainties in Maritime Boundaries and Outer Limits (2001)*
- *Addressing Difficult Issues in UNCLOS (2003)*
- *Marine Scientific Research and the Law of the Sea: the Balance between Coastal State and International Rights (2005)*

Proceedings of all past Conferences are available on the ABLOS website at www.gmat.unsw.edu.au/ablos/index.html where they comprise a collection of about 100 papers that address various aspects of state practice and jurisprudence in Law of the Sea matters.

Proposed sessions during the 2008 Conference will address the following topics:

- The delineation of the outer continental shelf
- Technical and legal issues concerning territorial sea baselines in a changing environment
- The protection of the marine environment - principles and practices
- The definitions of sea level and vertical datum
- The establishment and application of marine cadastres

Conference organizers seek presentations that discuss how the provisions of UNCLOS come into play in activities related to the topics listed above. Special consideration will be given to papers that describe real or anticipated problems, and which propose solutions to those problems. Speakers will be encouraged to outline selected legislation, and where appropriate to describe case histories, actual situations, or real-world experiences that could offer guidance to practitioners in other states.

Conference organizers invite abstracts of presentations concerning the above and related topics. Abstracts should be submitted to Chris Carleton (chris.carleton@ukho.gov.uk) by April 30, 2008 and should follow the format illustrated at <http://www.gmat.unsw.edu.au/ablos/ABLOS08Folder/AbstractFormat.pdf>.

Completed manuscripts of accepted papers should be submitted no later than August 31, 2008 to ensure inclusion in the Proceedings which will be distributed at the close of the Conference. Formatting instructions for the final papers will be sent to those whose abstracts have been accepted. They are also posted on

<http://www.gmat.unsw.edu.au/ablos/ABLOS08Folder/PaperFormat.pdf>

Language

English will be the language of the Conference. No translation services will be available.

Reception

A delegates' reception, hosted by the Government of Monaco, will be held on the evening of 16 October. Venue and time to be confirmed.

Registration

A registration form can be downloaded from

<http://www.gmat.unsw.edu.au/ablos/ABLOS08Folder/ABLOS2008ConfRego.pdf>

Please note that there is a reduction in the registration fee for those who book and pay before 31 August 2008.

Travel and accommodation information

A certain number of rooms have been pre-booked at hotels in and close to Monaco. A hotel booking form can be downloaded from

<http://www.gmat.unsw.edu.au/ablos/ABLOS08Folder/ABLOS2008HotelForm.doc>

Conference Organizing Committee

Chairman:	Shin TANI, The Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan
Assistant to the Chairman:	Asano USUI, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan
Programme coordinators:	Chris CARLETON and John BROWN, UK Hydrographic Office
Advisor, Geodesy:	Lars SJOBERG, Swedish Royal Institute of Technology
Advisor, Hydrography:	Luiz Carlos TORRES, Hydrographic Service of the Brazilian Navy
Secretariat services:	Steve SHIPMAN, International Hydrographic Bureau
Communications:	Ron MACNAB, Geological Survey of Canada (Retired)