

The Sixth ABLOS Conference:
“Contentious Issues in UNCLOS – Surely Not?”

The 6th Conference of the IAG/IHO* Advisory Board on Scientific and Technical Aspects of the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) was held at the International Hydrographic Bureau, in the Principality of Monaco, on 25-27 October 2010. The purpose of this Conference was 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). The Conference was very successful attracting a capacity audience of 90 delegates from 28 countries with 28 papers being presented during 9 sessions. The Keynote address “The Relevance of Hydrography to UNCLOS; an Indonesian Perspective.” was delivered by Professor Hasjim Djalal of Indonesia. The sessions dealt with such topics as:

- The delimitation of the outer continental shelf
- Technical and legal issues concerning territorial sea baselines in a changing environment, due to sea level rise, or in cases of unstable coasts including ice-covered areas and river deltas
- The status of artificial islands and structures
- The judgements of the CLCS, and reactions by 3rd parties
- Trends in dispute resolution and negotiated settlements
- Problematic areas, such as the Arctic and South China Sea

Many of the papers submitted and presentations given during the Conference are available for download from the IHO web site www.iho.int > Committees > ABLOS > 6th Conference or via the following link:

http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/ABLOS/ABLOS_Conf6/ABLOS_Conf6.htm.



6th ABLOS Conference
IHB. Monaco - 25-28 October 2010

The Government of Monaco kindly hosted a reception for all delegates and accompanying persons in the Atrium of the Casino.

The 7th ABLOS Conference is planned to be held in Monaco in October 2012 and the IHB is investigating an alternative venue in order to meet the demand for an increased attendance. Further details will be made available in due course.

The Conference was preceded and followed by the 17th ABLOS Business Meeting which was held on the morning of 25 and the 28 October. The meeting elected Chris Carleton, IHO – UK, as the new Chair and Professor Sunil Bisnath, IAG – Canada, as Vice Chair. They assumed their positions following the closure of the meeting. The report of the 17th Business Meeting will be available from the ABLOS section of the IHO web site once it has been finalised by the ABLOS members. The 18th Business meeting will be held in Chile in October 2011.

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