

Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Gandhinagar, Saturday, April 15, 2017

GNLU PRESS NOTE

No. 83/2017

DELIBERATIONS ON THE MARITIME INDUSTRY, NAVAL POWER AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT UNDER ONE ROOF

GNLU INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ACADEMY 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Greetings from GNLU!

Centre for Public International Law, Gujarat National Law University (www.gnlu.ac.in) in collaboration with the US Naval War College and knowledge partner Eastern Book Company inaugurated its 2017 International Maritime Academy on Saturday, 15th April 2017.

Vice-Admiral A. K. CHAWLA, AVSM, VSM, NM, Chief of Personnel, Indian Navy inaugurated the Academy in the presence of Admiral Robin K Dhowan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC, Former Chief Of Naval Staff of India and Professor James Kraska, Howard S. Levie Professor of International Law, Stockton Centre for the Study of International Law, US Naval War College, Rhode Island, USA.

Vice Admiral Chawla complimented the GNLU for conducting teaching, research and training programs on law of the sea and maritime laws and making the University a centre of excellence for bringing international and national policy-makers, think-tanks, academicians and students on the subject. He emphasised on the issue as to how humans are more aware about the surface of Moon and Mars but unaware of the rich resources hidden and unknown under the sea. He pressed on the point that how the states have failed to reap benefits of the rich marine life and resources of deep sea and to acknowledge the extent of this concern he informed the audience about the results of recent researches that show as to how the fishes of deep sea are dying of old age. He emphasised the enormous importance given by the Government of India to reap the benefits of the oceans for economic, strategic and security purposes.

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Admiral Robin K Dhowan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC, Former Chief of Naval Staff of India who graced the inaugural ceremony as the Guest of Honour highlighted the importance of sea in the development of mankind and gave an overview on the importance of ocean diplomacy and foreign policy. He traced the origin of Indian maritime industry since the Indus Valley Civilisation that flourished around 1200 BC and the marine industry in South lead by Cholas, Cheras and Pandvas that has left the imprint of India culture on the south-eastern countries of Asia and how the Indian maritime and shipping industry saw a downfall due to not being part of the Industrial Revolution. He urged the Academy to deliberate on issues and bring out recommendations which can be useful to realise the true potential of maritime industry. He even accolade the SAGARMALA project which aims to establish Stability and Growth in the Region. However, he emphasised that developing marine industry has led to the deterioration of marine ecosystem due to the man-made pollution where land based pollution has a far greater impact and serious policy framework is needed to address this issue.

Professor James Kraska, US Naval War College, on behalf of the President, US Naval War College, congratulated the University for organising the 2017 edition and expressed deep satisfaction on the collaboration between the two institutions. He admired the GNLU for being the Centre of Excellence on Maritime Law and Law of the Sea and efforts taken by the University to bring the related issues in prime focus of the policy makers which has till now not been given its due importance. Professor Kraska emphasised on the importance of continuous dialogue between the oceanic policy-makers and professors and researchers of law of the sea and maritime law.

Professor Bimal N. Patel, welcomed the resource persons and participants from India and other countries, including USA, Iran, Japan, Australia & Bangladesh. He summarised the policy and general research, teaching and training courses offered by the GNLU in this vital area of knowledge since 2011. Among others, he identified the contribution of GNLU in contributing in the Draft Deep Seabed Mining Act of India, Antarctica Act of India, Private Maritime Security Companies Regulations and review of major maritime laws of India.

Officials from Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Foreign Ministry, think-tanks, researchers are participating in the Academy. The Academy focuses on Maritime Industry, Naval Power and Marine Environment. The Academy will deliberate upon law of maritime counter-terrorism

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operations, maritime industry and security, maritime boundary and delimitation issue in East-China Sea, Maritime tourism and maritime interagency coordination, South China Sea Arbitration and Human rights at sea among others.

For more information, kindly contact Mr Sushil Goswami, Assistant Professor of Law and Assistant Registrar (gima@gnlu.ac.in / 0812 865 0813).