



THE UNITED NATIONS – NIPPON FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI  
FOURTH ALUMNI MEETING

SUMMARY REPORT

NEW YORK, 10 – 12 DECEMBER 2012  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Fourth United Nations-Nippon Foundation (UNNF) Fellowship Alumni was held at the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS), United Nations (UN) in New York from 10 to 12 December 2012 pursuant to the UNFF fellowship mandate. This alumni meeting coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). UNCLOS opened for signature on 10 December 1982 and has 164 parties to date. The UNNF alumni had the opportunity to attend this significant commemorative event held in the UN General Assembly Hall.

Broad participation at this meeting, which comprised 28 marine professionals worldwide, made it unique. Participants comprised fellowship programme advisor, alumni representative, deputy representative and eight regional representatives. Participation also included the website team from the alumni, eight current fellows, an international consultant and five resource people from partner institutions.

The objectives of the meeting were to assess the overall functions of the network, increase knowledge on ocean issues, UNCLOS and related matters, and identify areas for improvement. These objectives were consistent with the goal of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship to improve advanced education and research in developing states so they may assist in the formulation of ocean policy and implement the legal regime set out in UNCLOS and related instruments. This was possible based on wide participation and a comprehensive agenda (Annex 1).

All regional representatives presented findings from extensive assessments carried out to identify current regional oceanic and related issues. Recognising that each region faced particular difficulties, regional representatives together with alumni participants discussed specific challenges and solutions. These would be used as a starting point for wider and more inclusive discussions on the implementation of some of the proposed solutions through specific projects by the alumni.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the need for the alumni to focus on improving communication within the alumni and beyond. A redesign of the alumni website was initiated with the proposal to commence the development of a Website Action Plan and hiring the services of a web designer. It was expected that the website will become a key tool in promoting alumni activities related to ocean affairs at national, regional and global levels.

Presentations of eminent experts of ocean affairs and the law of the sea who work for partner institutions of the UNNF Fellowship Programme were an important part of the agenda. One of the outcomes from this interaction was the identification of areas to enhance interactions among the alumni, their partner institutions, and other interest groups.

Finally, the meeting led to the recognition of the need to commence designing a strategic action plan for the alumni based on its growing network and the renewed enthusiasm for achieving more defined goals and objectives.



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## **ACRONYMS**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| BBNJ        | Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction       |
| CARICOM     | Caribbean Community                                      |
| DOALOS      | Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea             |
| GA          | General Assembly   |
| ICJ         | International Court of Justice                           |
| ISA         | International Seabed Authority                           |
| ITLOS       | International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea            |
| IMO         | International Maritime Organization                      |
| IUU fishing | Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing              |
| LACA        | Latin American And The Caribbean                         |
| SIDS        | Small Island Developing States                           |
| UAE         | United Arab Emirates                                     |
| UN          | United Nations   |
| UNCED       | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| UNCLOS      | United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea          |
| UNNF        | United Nations - Nippon Foundation                       |
| USA         | United States of America                                 |
| WIO         | West Indian Ocean  |

## THE PRESENTERS

(In alphabetical order according to names as they are spelt)

**Mr. Mustapha Al-Nabhani** has been a United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellow in 2011-2012. His fellowship research topic is *Piracy off the Coast of Somalia from an Omani perspective* and he was based in Dalhousie University in Canada.

**Mr. Me Chinho Alegre** is the legal adviser to the Maritime Institute of Sao Tome and Principe. The Institute is public entity with the mandate for ship inspection and registration, pollution prevention at sea. His task is to provide legal advice upon the application of some legal instruments, including international convention, contribute to draft new internal regulations and so forth. He held a Degree in Law and a post-graduation on Market Regulation, by the Law Faculty of The University of Coimbra, Portugal.

**Dr. Anthony (Tony) Charles** is a professor at Saint Mary's University (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada) with a joint appointment in Management Science and Environmental Studies. Dr. Charles is a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation, and specializes in interdisciplinary analysis of fisheries, aquaculture and coastal issues. Particular areas of emphasis include integrated ocean and coastal management, the ecosystem approach to fisheries, marine protected areas, community-based management, indicator frameworks, and the development of management measures for sustainability and resilience. Dr. Charles is currently Principal Investigator in the Coastal CURA project exploring community involvement in coastal management across the Canadian Maritimes. He is the author of a wide range of publications, including *Sustainable Fishery Systems* (Blackwell Science), *Canadian Marine Fisheries in a Changing and Uncertain World* (NRC Press), *Nova Scotia GPI Fisheries and Marine Environment Accounts* (GPI Atlantic), *Integrated Fish Farming* (CRC Lewis) and the *Community Fisheries Management Handbook* (c/o Coastal CURA).

**Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain** (PhD in political science, UCLA, postdoctoral training, Harvard University) is Director of the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy and Professor of Marine Policy at the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, and Editor-in-Chief of the international journal *Ocean & Coastal Management*. She is a leader in the field of integrated coastal and ocean governance, both in the United States and around the world, and has forged international collaboration among all sectors of the international oceans community to advance the global oceans agenda.

**Mr. Elchin Ganjaliyev** is senior consultant of the Department of Law, Personal, International Relations and Conventions State Maritime Administration of Azerbaijan. He has been a United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellow in 2011-2012 and his fellowship research paper topic is *Building Azerbaijan's Legal Framework for Marine Operations on the basis of the UNCLOS*.

**Dr. Ghunther Handl** joined the Tulane University as holder of an endowed chair in January 1996. An expert in international law, he has also taught at law schools in Canada, Europe and Japan, as well as elsewhere in the United States. He is scheduled to teach a course at the 2012 winter session of the Hague Academy of International Law. Professor Handl has published extensively in US and European journals. He is the recipient of the 1997 Elisabeth Haub Prize for exceptional accomplishments in the field of international environmental law and is the founder and former Editor-in-Chief of the *Yearbook of International Environmental Law*. He has served as consultant to various international organizations and

governmental agencies and, in 1998, was a special adviser in the Legal Adviser's Office of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His teaching and research interests include public international law, comparative law, international environmental law, transnational litigation, law of the sea, and the intersection of law, science, and technology. Professor Handl teaches the basic course in International Law, as well as courses in International Environmental Law and Law of the Sea.

**Dr. Ronan Long** read for his PhD in Trinity College Dublin. He holds the Jean Monnet Chair of European Law at the School of Law at NUI Galway and lectures EU Law, International Law, Planning and Environmental Law, Law of the Sea and European Fisheries Law. He has also lectured at the Rhodes Academy Oceans Law and Policy and is a supervisor of advanced academic research under the United Nations - The Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme. In this capacity, he has worked with mid-career legal professionals from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Guatemala.

**Ms. Sampan Panjarat** is a Fisheries Biologist at the Andaman Sea Fisheries Research and Development Center (AFRDEC) in Phuket Province that's under Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand. She holds B.Sc. (1996) in Aquatic Science from Prince of Songkla University, Thailand. Her present duties are concerned in surveying and monitoring on marine fisheries resources in term of abundance, stock assessment and distribution including population structure of marine resources particularly neritic tuna and oceanic tuna in national and regional waters. She pursued two research cooperative programs between the DOF and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) entitled "The Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries Information and Statistics" and "Data Collection on Oceanic Tuna for Longliners and Purse Seiners at Phuket, Thailand" As well as study on the acceptation of social and fisheries community to the fisheries management regulations and measures that established by DOF.

**Mrs. Anama Solofa** completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand before returning to Samoa to work for the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 2001. She spent the next five years working in the field of coastal fisheries management, working with villages in the community-based fisheries management programme to manage their fisheries resources. In 2006, she returned to New Zealand where she completed her Post-Graduate Diploma in Science (specialising in Marine Science) at the University of Auckland.

**Ms. Lilian Yon B.** is the UN-NF Alumni Network Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean. She studied Law at Francisco Marroquín University in Guatemala obtaining the degree of lawyer and notary public, LL.M. She completed a Masters Degree in Business Law and Postgraduate Studies in Commercial Law at the Latin American University of Science and Technology in Panama where she graduated with Summa Cum Laude Honours, and also has Postgraduate Studies in Central America Integration with ETEA an Institution of the University of Córdoba from Spain. In 2009 she participated in the United Nations Environment Programme – UNEP 9th Training Programme in Environmental Law and Policy in Kenya where she gave a presentation on the process of developing the law relating to adaptation and mitigation of climate change in Guatemala. In 2007 Lilian obtained the 1st prize in the Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged" review contest held at the Ludwig von Mises Library, Francisco Marroquín University in Guatemala.

**Mr. Mohammad Mohammad Mohiuddin** is Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs of the Republic of Bangladesh and has been United Nations – Nippon Foundation Fellow in 2010 – 2011. His fellowship research paper topic is Resolution of the Maritime Boundaries Dispute between Bangladesh and its Neighbouring Countries in the Context of UNCLOS: a Case Study.



**Ms. Gloria Yona** is a Tanzanian, United Nation-Nippon Fellow in 2010-2011. She has MSc. in Aquaculture graduated in 2004 from Gent University, Belgium. Ms. Gloria Yona is working with Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) as a research officer. Ms. Gloria conducted several researches on Marine fish which include Mainstreaming of marine biodiversity more focus on conservation of endangered marine species mainly whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles and marine birds at national level and regionally. Under UN-Nippon fellowship she work on *“Analysis of Tanzania’s Legislation in the Context of the International Law Relating to the Protection and Preservation of Endangered Marine Species”*. Currently Ms. Gloria is investigating the impacts of climate change and variability on marine fish more specifically on estuarine and non estuarine mangroves fish along the Tanzanian coast.



## **1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The Director of the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), Mr. Serguei Tarrassenko, officially opened the Fourth United Nations-Nippon Foundation (UNNF) Fellowship Alumni Meeting on Monday 10 December 2012 in New York.

The director extended a warm welcome to the alumni participants and resource people who travelled far and wide to attend the alumni meeting. He acknowledged the time and efforts of alumni and emphasised the great role that the alumni network has played since its inception to sustain and improve the exceptional knowledge of developing states.

The director made a surprising announcement and informed the attendees that the current UNNF Programme Advisor, Dr. François Bailet had been promoted to senior legal officer, and from the beginning of 2013, would supervise a wider amount of programmes including the UNNF Fellowship Programme. A recruitment process was underway at the time of the meeting to hire staff to coordinate the fellowship programme at DOALOS.

Dr. Bailet also welcomed the alumni and especially acknowledged the enthusiasm and commitment of alumni participants to the invitations.

He confirmed the declaration of the Director and reassured the alumni that despite his next new assignment he will still pay a special attention to the UNNF Fellowship Programme. He called on the alumni to consider applying for the new position(s) related to the UNNF Fellowship Programme.

The Alumni Representative, Mr. Andrei Polejack expressed his deep gratitude to DOALOS for facilitating the alumni meeting. He also announced that he was taking the opportunity of this meeting to announce a new Alumni Representative to take over from his two year leadership. He officially proposed his Deputy Representative, Mr. Abbas Daher Djama from the African region for the position of UNNF Fellowship Alumni Representative. This was accepted without contest by the alumni.

Mr. Djama, as the new UNNF Fellowship Alumni Representative, thanked the Director for its welcome words, and acknowledged the organisers of the meeting for their efforts. He welcomed all the alumni to New York and congratulated Mr. Polejack for the excellent work in leading the alumni in 2011 and 2012.

## **2.0 GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMEMORATION OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

On 10 December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly commemorated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in New York. Several experts on the UNCLOS took this opportunity to speak about the significant progresses made since the convention opened for signature.

1. The President of the General Assembly Mr Vuk Jeremić noted that the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrated the legacy of former Malta's Ambassador to the United Nations Mr Arvid Pardo and his call for the international community to protect the common heritage of mankind. He noticed that the implementation of UNCLOS is integral to sustainable development especially with regard to protecting and sustaining the health and productivity of the ocean. He pointed out that protecting oceans and the challenges of climate change are linked and therefore the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was urgent.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon stated that UNCLOS provides the legal framework for ocean governance which in turn refers to managing every aspect of the oceans, not just law of the sea. He added that the existence of UNCLOS is a testament to the consensus formed by the international community. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon concluded that many challenges still exist with respect to ocean governance and as such greater support is needed for the Convention.

3. Mr Tommy Koh, the President, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), highlighted the need for the United States of America to ratify UNCLOS. He declared that UNCLOS has become the constitution on the law of the sea – it creates order, but issues such as those in the South China Sea are outstanding. He insisted on the fact that the Convention represents a careful balance of States rights and responsibilities with respect to the oceans. He noted that food security is an important issue that needs to be addressed, and removal of subsidies need to be more widely considered. Iceland and New Zealand were quoted as useful best practices for managing fish stocks. He further noticed that the link between climate change and the oceans is not fully understood, although the impacts such as ocean acidification and warming were clear. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were emphasised as being especially vulnerable. He concluded that more knowledge is needed and that DOALOS should incentivize research on law, policy and others for the oceans.

4. The Representative of the Central African Republic prompted that the success of the Convention is due to the flexibility of its legal framework in dealing with various challenges. He pointed out the importance of capacity-building to help States undertake their responsibilities under the Convention. He reaffirmed that African States are committed to making productive use of their marine environment, including through marine research.

5. The representative for the Asia - Pacific stated that despite the Convention, a number of threats exist to public order of the oceans including the degradation of the marine environment. He informed the

General Assembly that several conferences had been held to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention in the region, including in Japan, China and Bangladesh.

6. The Eastern European States Representative asserted that there is need for enhanced security of the world's oceans and coasts. He added that the Convention has made an enormous contribution towards sustainable development, and that an ecosystem-based approach to ocean governance, including the management of fish stocks, is important. He also noted that capacity-building is important to enable States to better participate in ocean governance.

7. The Western European and Other States Representative emphasised that better coordination at all levels and among all actors is required for effective ocean governance and that challenges need to be addressed on the basis of consensus.

8. The United States of America Representative highlighted that the Convention is working in that it is fulfilling its function. It was affirmed that the Government of the USA is committed to ratifying UNCLOS and the Secretary of State has made this task a priority.

9. President of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS – The Ambassador of Monaco to the UN recognized the contributions made by UNCLOS through a Declaration (SPOLOS/249) and noticed that the Convention is fulfilling its purpose.

10. The Assembly President of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) stated that UNCLOS is a milestone both in international law and cooperation. He especially noted Article 125 on the common heritage of mankind as one of the simplest but most significant provisions of UNCLOS. He noted that the ISA is a first in many ways, including its establishment in a previously nonexistent domain, and its inclusion of both commercial and regulatory functions. He prompted that an endowment fund exists for researchers from developing countries.

11. The Secretary-General of the ISA identified three major accomplishments of UNCLOS: 1) significant advances in implementing the common heritage of mankind principle; 2) legally binding contracts established for exploration; 3) mandate to protect the environment from harmful effects of seabed mining is being fulfilled. He highlighted that funding of the ISA still needs to take place, as was agreed and that a Code for exploration and exploitation should be pursued urgently. He concluded by recalling that ISA needs additional resources to manage all such activities.

12. The President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), H. E. Judge Shunji Yanai, expressed that the adoption of UNCLOS was a pivotal moment in international law. He stated that 20 cases had come before it since its existence in 1996 bringing to the front a broad spectrum of legal questions. This includes urgent proceedings such as for prompt release of vessels and crew, activities at sea such as navigation, fisheries, marine environment, and legal status of ships, and delimitation of maritime areas. He reflected on concerns regarding the option given to states to choose one or more international courts or tribunals under Article 287 as these can give rise to fears of a fragmentation of international law and conflicting judgements. Among further elaborations, it was stated that such fears

were unfounded as ITLOS was efficient, and also regularly referred to judgements of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and its predecessor both on substantive and procedural points.

13. The Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) stated that the Convention provides a sound scientific base for determining the territorial aspirations of States and that he extended his gratitude to DOALOS for providing assistance and acting as the Secretariat.

14. The Representative from International Court of Justice noted that the principles of good faith and equity were exercised in judgments;

15. The Representative from CARICOM announced that a commemorative plaque had been unveiled in Jamaica to honor the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCLOS. It was highlighted that tribute should be paid to the early pioneers of ocean governance, including those from the Caribbean region. It was noted that the almost complete adherence to the Convention indicates its value and that preservation and protection of the Caribbean Sea is fundamental to the sustainable development of the region.

16. The Representative of land-locked States stated that UNCLOS had made much progress, but benefits skewed in favor of those with geographically advantageous features. He prompted that land-locked States necessitate special treatment and further consideration of how these States can fully use the provisions.

17. The Representative from Micronesia, Pacific SIDS, stated that the Convention provides certainty in the use of ocean resources and that it is important to reflect on the merits and demerits of the Convention. It was asserted that the Convention had many achievements but a significant gap is the outstanding issue of the governance of the biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). It was emphasised that exploration of the seabed should be done in accordance with the precautionary approach.

### **3.0 PRESENTATIONS BY RESOURCE PEOPLE**

Resource people were invited to enhance broader networking for alumni participants. Experts from partner institutions provided comprehensive presentation on advanced ocean affairs and law of the sea issues, and in-depth discussion followed each session. The alumni also benefited from an interactive session on Alumni Network, Network Organization and Team-building led by Mr. Stephen Smolinsky, an international consultant.

The representatives of the partner institutions were as follow:

- Mrs. Biliana Cicin-Sain from University of Delaware who made a presentation on *Global Networking for Ocean Governance*;
- Mr. Anthony Charles from Saint Mary's University who made a presentation on *Human Dimensions in Ocean Policy: Applications to the Ecosystem Approach & Marine Governance*;
- Prof. Gunther Handl from Tulane University of law school who made a presentation on *Oil Spills: Lessons and Applied*;
- Prof. Ronan long from National University of Ireland who made a presentation on *Law of the Sea Dispute settlement*.

### **3.1 Global Networking for Ocean Governance**

**Date of the presentation:** Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 15:30 to 16:00

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Prof. Biliiana Cicin-Sain from University of Delaware

#### **Presentation**

Dr Biliiana Cicin-Sain provided an overview of global networking for ocean governance emphasizing the importance of capacity building efforts. Progress reports at RIO +20 and current dialogues at United Nations and country missions recommend that ocean affairs should be prioritised. In this regard, ocean governance needs to be scaled up, financing mobilized and capacity development increased. In particular, the capacity development goal is one that has largely remained unfulfilled in the lead up to Rio +20 from Agenda 21 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development-UNCED, 1992). There is a need to measure money spent and assess the completion of tasks. Based on subsequent needs assessments, the main areas for capacity development were identified to be university programs, informal programs and extension at community level. There was a disconnection between foreign mission representatives and ocean leaders on ocean-related capacity development needs. It was often difficult to bring ocean issues to the front because of other national priorities related to economy and other global pressures. It was concluded that a global strategy for capacity building was needed.



### **3.2 Human Dimensions in Ocean Policy: Applications to the Ecosystem Approach & Marine Governance**

**Date of the presentation:** Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 16:00 to 16:30

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Prof. Antony Charles from Saint Mary's University

#### **Presentation**

Dr Anthony Charles began by introducing three drivers of ocean governance, Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), good governance and sustainable development. The latter was described in terms of a balancing act between stock depletion and improving environmental quality. There is a need to link these avenues of international policy debate. Co-management approaches were strongly emphasized in terms of the human dimension in oceans policy. This approach needs close interaction among government actors, the community and fishers. Another perspective was institutional sustainability which was possible as a result of ecological sustainability, socio-economic sustainability and community sustainability. One of the challenges of measuring sustainability is valuing ecosystems. There was an example of measuring sustainable development by the application of the genuine progress index (GPI) to Nova Scotia fisheries and marine environment. This example revealed that ecosystem based management does not necessarily involve more information or research, but an integration of the precautionary approach, dynamics and socio-economics. It was noted that in living with uncertainties, there is often an illusion of certainty, and a fallacy of controllability. A robust management approach is need to include the natural system, the human system and a management system to ensure ecosystem approach, a sustainable livelihood approach and integrated approach. These approaches are also often intertwined and could be encompassed through decentralized governance such as community-based management and co-management.

### **3.3 Oil Spills: Lessons to be Learnt and Applied**

**Date of the presentation:** Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 16:15 to 16:40

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Prof. Ghunter Handl from Tulane University

#### **Presentation**

Prof Gunter Handl provided an overview of the international legal framework for oil spills and argued for improvements to reflect a growing legal challenge. A number of case studies such as the Montara Oil Spill were used to highlight lessons learnt. The international principle of 'serious environmental harm' may be arguably applied in most cases. Oil spills can occur in offshore areas across the board and so institutions/regulations need to be strengthened to deal with such incidences. There is a need to particularly improve drilling safety. Some best practices were highlighted including Gulf of Mexico, and Indonesia-Australia arrangement. Overall, responsible institutions and laws need to also address liability and compensation. Oil spills have become a global challenge. In 2010, Indonesia proposed that the 'transboundary damage (harm)' principle be applied. At the International Maritime Organization IMO), bilateral and regional framework discussions occurred resulting in guidelines. Guidelines were preferred over a legal convention on oil spills which could take very long to develop and subsequently enter into force. Currently, each oil spill incident is on a case by case basis under the ICJ. However, there is also a need for a legal instrument to focus on civil liability with respect to oil spill incidents, and inhabitable equity assessment for replacement with equivalent services.

### **3.4 Law of the Sea Dispute Settlement**

**Date of the presentation:** Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 16:00 to 16:30

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Prof. Ronan Long from National University of Ireland

#### **Presentation**

Prof Ronan Long provided a comprehensive overview of dispute settlement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including the nature of the main international courts and tribunals in settling disputes. Dispute settlement is important in order to continue sustainable development, peace, resolve interpretation issues, build regional mechanisms and strengthen institutions, help maintain balance of states, and expedite long-standing disputes. In the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), there were two approaches for dispute settlement; 1) Retain independencies in means of settlement, and 2) binding settlement. The UNCLOS provides a compromise between 1 and 2 under Part XV. Articles 280-2, allows settlement of disputes by means chosen by parties by consensus, or otherwise by compulsory settlement. Consensual settlement may include negotiations and/or third party settlement through inquiry, mediation or conciliation (See OSPAR for case study on consensual settlement). A number of case studies were provided including MOX Plant case *Ireland v England*, *Cameroon v. Nigeria*, EU/Spain/Canada regarding MV Estonia, and Chile/EU regarding the swordfish case. The International Court of Justice, ICJ (under article 287), ITLOS (article VI), Arbitral Tribunal (Annex VII), and Special Arbitral Tribunal (Annex VIII) are the main dispute settlement bodies recognized in UNCLOS. Decisions by ICJ are compulsory and binding settlements. Advantages include pre-eminence and rulings carry weight, procedures are well-established, and there is extensive jurisprudence. Among disadvantages are that decisions are consent-based and often delayed. Examples of disputes include Cofu Channel, and Whaling in Antarctic (*Australia v Japan*). ITLOS is the first choice of dispute settlement by most states on many matters. There are 21 judges elected by geographical regions, open to all parties. Disputes settled include seabed, fisheries, and maritime boundaries conflicts. ITLOS can provide advisory opinions to states in terms of disputes.

#### **4.0 REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS ON CURRENT OCEAN ISSUES AND REGIONAL ACTION PLAN**

Each regional representative from the eight regions that comprise the UNNF Fellowship Alumni made a presentation in which they emphasized the main ocean issues that their region are facing and proposed some solutions to overcome these issues.

The Regional representatives as well as the regions represented were as follow:

- South East Asia: Mrs. Sampan Panjarat (Thailand);
- Pacific Islands: Mrs. Anama Solofa (Samoa);
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Mrs. Lilian Yon B. (Guatemala);
- West Africa and Atlantic Ocean Islands: Mr. Me Chinho Costa Alegre (São Tomé et Príncipe);
- East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands: Mrs. Gloria Yona (Tanzania);
- Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas: Mr. Elchin Ganjaliyev (Republic of Azerbaijan);
- Arabian Peninsula: Mr. Mustafa Al-Nabhani (Oman); and
- Indian Sub-Continent and Bay of Bengal: Mr. Mohammad Mohiuddin (Republic of Bangladesh).

## **4.1 South East Asia**

**Date of the presentation:** Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 16:30 to 17:00

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mrs. Sanpam Panjarat from Thailand, Regional Representative

### **4.1.1 Background**

South East Region comprises 18 alumni from 5 countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

### **4.1.2 Regional Issues**

The South East Asia representative Mrs. Sanpam Panjarat from Thailand, has identified three main regional issues affecting the South East Region.

*Maritime boundary and maritime law enforcement:* there are maritime delimitation issues between Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia. We could say that in general Southeast Asian states have overlapping boundaries, which creates regional tensions. Most of these boundaries have not been settled through agreements negotiated between governments.

*Fisheries resource use:* there is a fisheries dispute between Indonesia and Thailand that has escalated into political tensions between governments and fishermen at the local level.

*South China Sea dispute:* South China Sea has been the center of a regional dispute involving Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines. Although Indonesia is not a party to the dispute it has been actively involved in the mediation process.

### **4.1.3 Gaps**

The regional representative has therefore highlighted two main gaps that need to be addressed.

First, there is a lack of knowledge especially on the application of UNCLOS although this Convention serves as the “constitution” in ocean management.

Second, there are misunderstandings on maritime boundaries, law enforcement and fishery legislation at the local level.

#### **4.1.4 Suggested solutions**

To overcome these gaps, the regional representative proposed the following solutions.

*Education:* Improving the knowledge of the Southeast Asian people on maritime boundary and fisheries legislation.

*Local activities:* Developing inclusive activities that involve academic community (undergraduate and graduate students, lecturers, and teachers); fishermen and general public.

#### **4.1.5 Alumni proposed activities**

The alumni network could implement some of the following activities in order to help overcome the issues previously identified:

- Lecture series;
- Publish articles, books, fact sheets;
- Meeting with target groups.

#### **4.1.6 The expected outputs of these activities**

- Book;
- Articles in printed media: fisheries journal, newspaper, newsletter;
- Factsheets: e.g. Fisheries fact sheet of the country;
- Articles and factsheets in digital media.

#### **4.1.7 Timeframe**

- All the propose activities to be conducted throughout 2013;
- Assessment of the proposed activities will be carried out from January-February 2014.

## **4.2 Pacific Islands**

**Date of the presentation:** Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 17:00 to 17:30

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mrs. Anama Solofa from Samoa, Regional Representative

### **4.2.1 Background**

Ms Anama Solofa from Samoa, Pacific Islands Representative stated that her region counts five alumni and two current fellows represent the Pacific Islands and they are from six states including Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Fiji.

### **4.2.2 Regional Issues**

The entire range of ocean issues was highlighted. These included:

- Food security and sustainable livelihoods;
- Marine resource management issues of overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Enforcement and maritime surveillance;
- Biodiversity conservation;
- Seabed mining;
- Climate change impacts and regional coordination.

### **4.2.3 Solutions**

Regional inter-governmental organizations and inter-agency coordination were emphasized as a key step in resolving regional ocean issues. For enforcement, external agencies such as New Zealand and Australia were also significant.

### **4.2.4 Alumni proposed activities**

The role of the alumni could be enhanced by participation in capacity-building and sector-specific projects in regional inter-governmental organizations. Strengths of the alumni included the new region-based format for reporting, better communication and contribution to websites. These could be strengthened further, and a regional strategy may improve regional outputs in the near future.

## **4.3 Latin American and the Caribbean**

**Date of the presentation:** Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 17:30 to 18:00

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mrs. Lilian Yon B. from Guatemala, Regional Representative

### **4.3.1 Background**

Mrs. Lilian Yon B. from Guatemala, Regional Representative of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region highlighted that her region comprises 18 fellows from 12 countries (3 from Mexico and Central America, 5 from the Caribbean and 10 from South America).

The communication among the group is largely through social networks – Facebook and email being the most popular. The communication among Alumni and Fellows in the region needs to be improved to make the network more effective.

### **4.3.2 Regional Issues**

The regional representative has identified several issues affected LACA region.

*Marine ecosystem:* the conservation of marine ecosystem and the adaptation to climate change is most certainly one main issue in the region (e.g. Guatemala).

*Marine dispute:* there are maritime delimitation issues in the region such as Colombia/Nicaragua maritime dispute, which has been brought before ICJ. The ICJ released a decision on November 19, 2012.

*Ocean governance:* There is a need for integrating sectorial policies, to set up environmental care for the oceans and reduce dependence on foreign technology.

*Lack of knowledge:* There is a lack of knowledge on general issues (international provisions) as well as specific issues.

### **4.3.3 Suggested solutions**

The Regional Representative proposed some solutions to overcome the previous issues.

*Marine ecosystem:* to promote protection and sustainable use through the establishment of Marine Protected Areas and networks and improve management.



*Ocean governance*: to identify stakeholders, to promote sustainability, to integrate policy and to make a technology transfer.

*Lack of knowledge*: capacity building – including through training and scholarships, raising awareness and knowledge dissemination.

## **4.4 Western Africa and Atlantic Ocean Islands**

**Date of the presentation:** Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 15:00 to 15:30

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mr. Me Chinho Costa Alegre, from São Tomé e Príncipe, Regional Representative

### **4.4.1 Background**

Mr. Me Chinho Costa Alegre from São Tomé e Príncipe, Regional Representative of the Western Africa and Atlantic Ocean Islands Region presented his region as very wide and diverse consisting of English, French and Portuguese colonial heritage. However, the common bond for the region is the ocean. With regards to the oceans, there are two fronts – the Guinea Current and Benguela Current.

Presently, there are 15 Alumni and Fellows from the Region. With the announcement of fellows for the 2013 – 2014 Awardees, two persons from the region were also potential alumni for the near future. In addition there is one current fellow in the 2012 – 2013 group, Godwin Dzah from Ghana.

### **4.4.2 Importance of the oceans to the region**

#### **1. Economic and social importance of the Region**

Significant exploitation of marine resources takes place in the ocean areas. These include fishing and offshore hydrocarbon development. Approximately, 300 million people live in the region, and a greater percentage of the population live along the coast. Therefore, they are heavily reliant on coastal and oceans resources for their subsistence.

#### **2. Growing maritime trade**

With an increase in offshore hydrocarbon development, there is intensive maritime traffic with large oil tankers visiting the marine waters of the Region.

### **4.4.3 Regional Issues**

The regional representative has noted several main issues in the region of Western Africa and Atlantic Ocean Islands.

*Fishery Sustainability:* There is a high level of dependence on fishery resources for subsistence as well as commercial purposes. This potentially threatens the sustainability of fishery resources.

*Maritime security:* Marine piracy and armed robbery at sea, largely taking place in the territorial sea is on the rise due to the rise in maritime traffic in the Region. Oil tankers are usually the targets.

*Limited Regional Integration:* There are a number of marine related institutions working separately and not interacting fully with each other in an integrated manner.

*Pollution:* Land-source coastal and pollution is on the rise in the region.

*Environment:* Climate change is also a major problem in the region, and coastal erosion attributable to this development is on the rise.

*Legal:* Domestic legislation across the region is not fully reflective of the provisions of UNCLOS.

*Maritime delimitation:* There are ongoing competing claims in the region regarding maritime delimitation, such as EEZ claims and extension of the continental shelf.

*Illegal Fisheries:* As a result of limited capacity for enforcement of fisheries laws, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing continues to be a regional issue.

#### **4.4.4 Challenges for effective organization in the region**

The regional representative has numerated some of the challenges that need to be addressed including the (1) Lack of political attention or will for marine environment protection and (2) the fact that there is no effective connection between resource exploitation and maritime security.

## **4.5 East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands**

**Date of presentation:** Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Time:** 16:00 to 16:30

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mrs. Gloria Yona from Tanzania, Regional Representative

### **4.5.1 Background**

Mrs. Gloria Yona from Tanzania, Regional Representative of the East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Region stated that the East Africa and Indian Ocean region includes 11 States namely Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius and La Reunion. As to date, there are 13 UNNF fellows in the region, comprising the Alumni and the current fellows. The key communication means among fellows in the region aimed at information dissemination were emails as the primary medium, supplemented by Facebook, Skype and mobile phone. However, the response rate from the fellows was around 40% which is relatively low. The reason is probably heavy workload handled by the fellows in their position in their home country, lack or limited Internet access, lack of motivation or turnovers in their professional occupations.

### **4.5.2 Regional Issues**

The region is very conscious that welfare and livelihoods of their peoples are intimately linked to the goods and services provided by the marine ecosystems, the food security is an urgent issue that is dependent on the sustainability and effective management of living marine resources. The Regional Representative also made aware that incomes and livelihoods associated with both fisheries and coastal tourism rely on the maintenance and preservation of coastal, offshore habitats and associated biological communities as well as water quality. Nevertheless the region has analysed identified five key areas of concern, which include:

- Water quality degradation;
- Habitat and community modification;
- Declines in living marine resources;
- Unpredictable environmental variability and extreme events;
- Somali piracy.

*Water quality degradation:* Water quality within the region is being degraded by a combination of factors associated with changes in the quality, quantity and timing of river flows, and due to contamination of ground, surface coastal waters and estuaries and marine waters. Impacts are from a variety of sources, ranging from catchment management and agricultural practices, to effluent and sewerage management land-based sources as well as marine-based sources such as shipping or fisheries activities that cause litter and oil pollution. The climate change exacerbated the situation, for instance disappearance of Maziwi Island in Tanzania was suggested to due to wave erosion after mangrove deforestation.

Specific issues in that area include:

- Alteration to natural river flow & changes to freshwater input & sediment load;
- Degradation of ground and surface water quality.

*Habitat and Community Modification:* The region hosts a huge diversity and complex array of different coastal and marine habitats including some of the critical habitats such as seagrass, coral reefs and mangroves that are important not only for the biodiversity that they support, but also for carbon sequestration, food production and natural shoreline protection. Coastal and marine habitats are under increasing pressure from the intensification of human activities in the coastal and marine environment. As coastal populations continue to increase, and as people move to the coast to seek employment, these pressures will continue to grow, causing further risk to food security, income and livelihoods, protection of coastlines, tourism, recreation and cultural values. Inadequately or completely unplanned coastal developments, destructive fishing techniques, and the expansion of the extractive industries will continue to contribute towards the degradation, disturbance, fragmentation, or complete destruction of habitats.

Specific issues in this are:

- Alteration to natural river flow & changes to freshwater input & sediment load;
- Degradation of ground and surface water quality;
- Shoreline change, due to modification, land reclamation & coastal erosion;
- Disturbance, damage and degradation of open water habitats;
- Introduction of alien and invasive species.

*Declines in Living Marine Resources:* The methods used to extract resources may impact on other non-target species, and contribute towards the loss or disturbance of natural habitats, further threatening the long term sustainability of otherwise healthy ecosystems and of other species which depend upon these habitats for feeding, breeding or other critical life processes. Populations of many species, including the larger more marine mammals, seabirds, marine turtles, as well as the more rare endemic species, are critically endangered or vulnerable. Excessive by-catch and discards have been identified as a problem. Fisheries data capture and consequent fisheries management have historically tended to underestimate small-scale fisheries which appear to be of significant importance in terms of size, food security, sustainability of stocks, national/regional economic value. It is widely recognized that fisheries and their management cannot operate in isolation from their surrounding ecosystems and associated biodiversity. Understanding the relationship between fishing and the environment, such as by-catch, removal of top predators, impact on associated biota and the incidental mortality of marine mammals, turtles and seabirds is critical and all these factors are required to be incorporated in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

Specific issues in this area include:

- Overexploited fisheries;
- Impacts on other non-target species;
- Loss or disturbance of natural habitats;
- Excessive by-catch and discards.

*Unpredictable environmental variability and extreme events:* Shifts in seasonal rainfall patterns in terms of the distribution and volume of precipitation have already been reported by all countries within the region, with associated impacts upon river flows and sediments into nearshore marine habitats. Heavy rainfall results in increased soil erosion and sediment input into coastal waters. Climatic extremes such as floods and droughts may become more common, and the frequency of intense cyclones may increase as a result of climate change. Sea level change, pH change (ocean acidification) and long-term increases in ocean temperature have already been recorded, and these trends are likely to increase with major impacts on coastlines, nearshore habitats, marine species and the people of the region. For instance coral bleaching which occurs in 1998 was due to increased in marine temperature.

Specific issues in this area include:

- Climate hazards and extreme weather events;
- Sea level change;
- Ocean acidification;
- Changes in seawater temperatures;
- Changes to hydrodynamics and ocean circulation;
- Changes in productivity (shifts in primary and secondary production);
- Geohazards (tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes).

*Somali piracy:* The Somali Piracy are still a problem in Indian Ocean, however, the number of incidences has been decreased because of the joined military operations on the ground by Amisom, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti troops against al-Shabaab who protected these pirates. More than that the recent election of a new president of Somalia over three decades of civil war raise hopes that there will be actual functioning institutions in Somalia including coast guards.

### **4.5.3 Proposed solutions**

In order to address the challenges highlighted above and to fill gaps the three main area of concerned were proposed and within each area there are several proposed solution:

- An ecosystem monitoring programme;
- A capacity-building and training programme;
- A science-based governance programme.

*An Ecosystem Monitoring Programme:* (1) All States in WIO region should define the baseline status of the ecosystems. (2) Long term monitoring programme to track changes in the status of the ecosystem.

*A Capacity Building and Training Programme:* (1) To improve infrastructure and equipment in national institutions facilities and equipped schools. (2) The basic marine education should start at primary schools. (3) To improve capacity and expertise through short and long term training at all levels:

- Fishers, processors, marketers, investment agencies etc.;

- Governance experts, socio economists, maritime lawyers, marine meteorologists and tourism planning.

*A Science-based Governance Programme:* The vitally important step is to communicate the scientific information in a manner that captures the broader implications, such as: (1) water quality, living marine resource distribution should show relations in terms of socioeconomic implications such as community welfare, sustainability of livelihoods, security of access to food sources.

## **4.6 Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas**

**Date of presentation:** Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Time:** 10:00 to 10:30

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mr. Elchin Ganjaliyev from Azerbaijan, Regional Representative

### **4.6.1 Background**

Mr. Elchin Ganjaliyev from Azerbaijan, Regional Representative of the Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas précised that his region has five fellows from five countries namely Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran and Turkey.

### **4.6.2 Regional issues**

*Resources management:* Territorial and legal division of Caspian Sea (oil resources).

*Maritime delimitation:* Delimitation between Black sea and Mediterranean Sea.

### **4.6.3 Proposed solutions:**

Capacity-building – including through training and scholarships, raising awareness and disseminating knowledge.



## **4.7 Arabian Peninsula**

**Date of presentation:** Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Time:** 10:30 to 11:00

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mr. Mustapha al-Nabhani from Oman, Regional Representative

### **4.7.1 Background**

Mr. Mustapha al-Nabhani from Oman, Arabian Peninsula Representative states that three alumni members represent the Arabian Peninsula from Oman, Syria and Yemen, respectively. This region comprises ten states. The low representation of all states in this region was highlighted in terms of the need to better reflect all issues of the region fairly and completely.

### **4.7.2 Regional issues**

A number of marine concerns of the region were presented including:

*Regional political issues:* the conflict of Iran's nuclear program with eastern states.

*Maritime delimitation:* three disputed islands between Iran and UAE, and maritime boundary issues such as between Oman and UAE.

*Maritime security:* Further maritime concerns include piracy and armed robbery, pollution from ships, illegal fishing, infiltration and smuggling.

### **4.7.3 Proposed Solutions**

The proposed action plan for the region was to intensify the work of the region by encouraging the alumni to act more in ocean and maritime matters. Systemization of alumni work was suggested through the development of identification cards.

## **4.8 Indian Subcontinent and Bay of Bengal**

**Date of presentation:** Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Time:** 10:30 to 11:00

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

**Presenter:** Mr. Mohammad Mohiuddin from Bangladesh, Regional Representative

### **4.8.1 Background**

Mr. Mohammad Mohiuddin from Bangladesh, Regional Representative of Indian subcontinent and Bay of Bengal region mentioned that his region comprises five alumni from four states including Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India. Responses to surveys and queries made by the representatives had been high from alumni.

### **4.8.2 Regional issues**

The regional representative highlighted one main regional issue for the Indian Subcontinent and Bay of Bengal region.

*Maritime delimitation:* A key area highlighted for the region was boundary issues, in particular those between India and Myanmar. A boundary dispute between Bangladesh and Myanmar was resolved under ITLOS.

### **4.8.3 Proposed solutions**

*Capacity-building:* One of the solutions could be the enhancement of knowledge on maritime law, such as through training, doctorates and awareness-building.

### **4.8.4 Alumni activities**

The alumni suggested further increase in the age limit for the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme.

## **5.0 THE ALUMNI NETWORK: COLLABORATION, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD**

**Date of presentation:** Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Time:** 14:00 to 18:00

**Location:** UN - DOALOS Conference room.

On Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, the alumni network met to discuss about the possibilities of collaboration with the academic network as well as assessing the functioning of the network including through the testimony of the main actors of the network. This session was moderated by Prof. Ronàn Long from the National University of Ireland.

This session was a unique opportunity to elaborate on the elements of a strategy to improve the global network. Appreciation was extended to the leadership of the three previous UNNF Fellowship Alumni Representatives namely Mr. Made Andi, Mrs. Sampan Panjarat and Mr. Andrei Polejack. The presence of the website editors and the current fellows brought a renewed perspective and enthusiasm to the discussions.

The discussions were divided into three sections:

- A. Alumni Network and the Academic Network: Continuing Opportunities for Collaboration;
- B. Lessons learned and way forward: the Alumni Representatives' Perspective;
- C. Lessons learned and way forward: The Web and Newsletter teams.

## **5.1 Alumni Network and the Academic Network: Continuing Opportunities for Collaboration**

The objectives of this discussion were to assess the current relationships between the alumni network and the partner institutions in order to identify ways to strengthen this momentum and highlight the possible channel of future collaboration.

Prof. Long initiated a round table discussion by inviting each participant to shared his/her expectations and vision on how the relationship between the alumni and partner institutions should be.

1. The roundtable discussions identified three elements for primary consideration: (i) the academic institutions, (ii) the sending institution and (iii) the supervisors.

i. The academic institutions

The academic institutions are the institutions that have accepted to be part of the UNNF Fellowship Programme and welcome each year a number of selected fellows. The updated list of the academic institutions is available on the Fellowship Host Institutions page in the UNNF fellowship website.

ii. The sending institutions

The UNNF Fellowship Programme enables Government officials and other mid-level professionals from national government organ of a developing coastal State, or another government related agency to apply for the fellowship.

It clearly came out from the group discussions that the sending institutions have not been enough taken into account by the alumni and should therefore be fully included in the future communication strategy framework of the network.

iii. The supervisors

The supervisors are the professors who have followed the fellows' researches during their times in the university. The discussions have shown that there are several actions that need to be set in order to improve and sustain the relationships between the fellows and theirs supervisors but also between the alumni network and the supervisors.

2. Having identified these three elements, the discussions were orientated on how to increase, improve and strengthen the relationship between the network and identified elements. The following action items summarise the main ideas:

- i. Set up a structured and productive relationships with the academic institutions;
- ii. Strengthen the relationship with the supervisors through series of initiatives;
- iii. Involving sending institutions into alumni activities and its interaction with the academic institutions;
- iv. Involving the academic institutions and the supervisors in the alumni activities.

3. Prof. Long as representative of the academic institutions and supervisor himself gave us some insights of the supervisors' realities. He insisted on the fact that the professors are supervising numerous students, in addition to fellows, thus any proposals or projects should rather come from the alumni and not the other way around. He also noted that the relationship between supervisors and fellows should be on a human-level and the fellows should strengthen this personal relation including through personal emails on special occasion (birthday, Christmas, special ocean events) to maintain continuity. He assured the group that these post-fellowship attentions are well appreciated by the supervisors who will then be keener in accepting fellows' proposals.

Prof. Long talked also about the type of organization that needs to be implemented by the network. He insisted on the implementation of some kind of program assessment form that would keep the alumni informed about the supervisors and the academic institutions expectations. He also suggested that the alumni network should have a wider role into the alumni life and consider utilizing the network as reference for seeking new employment or in fellowships applications. Prof. Long insisted on the fact that there is a need to formalize relationship between universities and the sending institutions in order to create more opportunities in the future for both the institutions and the alumni who will then be part of this new momentum.

He finished his comments by saying that the alumni network should be modest in its expectations and focus on doable actions from the academic institutions and supervisors. He talked for instance about the possibilities of PhDs, post-doctorals and other studies scholarships that the university could provide to their students and to alumni as well.

4. The Programme Advisor Dr Bailet added that occasionally there may be misunderstandings between fellows and supervisors and the need of a third party could help clarify difficulties.

## **5.2 Lessons learned and way forward: the Alumni Representatives' Perspectives**

The objectives of these discussions were to assess the global functioning of the alumni network through the experience of the alumni representatives and to identify the keys issues that the network should focus on in the future.

1. One of the issues that have been raised is the concern about the disproportionate alumni geographical distribution. Indeed, some regions have more than 20 alumni (LACA, South Asia regions) while some others have less than 5 alumni (Arabian Peninsula and Indian Sub-Continent and Bay of Bengal regions).

2. Furthermore, there was a need for each regional representative to designate a deputy regional representative that would represent the diversity of each region; it could be for instance based on the language, geographic localisation or some other specific features. This would help the regional representative to interact in a more effective way with the alumni of their region.

3. The issue of financial resources is a subject of concern for the alumni. Indeed, it should be noticed that along with the growing expectations of alumni, the alumni network ambitions require a certain amount of fund in order to self-fund some projects like the redesigning of the UNNF Fellowship alumni website or others small projects. This point is very important if the network is expected to grow and to meet its ambition including the improvement of its ways of communication.

### **5.3 Lessons learned and way forward: The Website and Newsletter teams**

1. During this session the alumni recognized the positive role played by the alumni website in providing valuable information on the fellowship and also in sharing alumni information and opinion regarding oceans and law of the sea issues.

Discussion clearly showed that the current website needs to be redesign in order to meet the new realities of the network. Indeed, the Dr. Bailet announced during this discussions that information on fellows would not longer be available in the general UNNF website but it would rather be a link toward the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Alumni website.

Consequent to this information, and taking into account the expanding need and the growing number of alumni, to the alumni participants agreed with redesigning the website. The Webmaster, Mr. Made Andi Arsana was tasked to investigate the feasibility of a new website that would encompass the new features.

2. Discussions also highlighted the difficulties of maintaining the newsletter. Indeed, the newsletter, while it is a useful tool to present the alumni work was considered redundant since articles are also posted in the website. Therefore, the alumni participants decided to stop producing newsletters, which is deemed not compatible anymore with the alumni practices but encourages contributions to the alumni website.

3. In more general terms, it has been noticed that there is an urgent need of rationalizing and redefining the way of communication among alumni. Indeed, the meeting shows that there are too many social media and unclear editor guidelines. The consequences of this situation are some difficulties for new fellows to know where to gather valuable information about the fellowship related to commencement, and alumni members becoming isolated from alumni activities. These issues are going to be continually addressed through ad hoc meetings among the Representative, Deputy Representative, Website team, Regional Representatives, and other alumni members as required.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION AND THE WAY FORWARD**

The United Nations–Nippon Foundation Fellowship (UNNF) Alumni **recalled** the paramount role that the UNNF Fellowship Programme plays in building a new generation of ocean leaders and, strengthening the capacity of developing states in order to better undertake their responsibilities under UNCLOS; and

**Acknowledged** the significant contributions of DOALOS in providing an exceptional environment where fellows can interact among themselves and with other professionals that are the most knowledgeable experts in the world of oceans;

**Conscious** that more needs to be done in order to address the current oceans challenges of developing states to enhance national, regional and international efforts towards better access to the resources of oceans.

**Noted with approval** the statement made by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa during the World Oceans Day in which, he highlighted that ocean affairs and the law of the sea is a multi-disciplinary and ever expanding field which requires constant and deliberate attention from all of us;

**Deeply convinced**, with Dr. Sasakawa, that it is essential to develop professionals who possess a global and multi-disciplinary vision to take us beyond the existing framework.

**Reaffirmed** its commitment in taking part to the international efforts to ensure equitable and efficient use of ocean resources especially towards developing states.

**Calls upon** the international community to take into consideration the specific difficulties encountered by developing states in managing their natural resources and to further contribute to the capacity-building of the developing countries in order them to make productive use of their marine environment.

**Agreed** that the main areas that the network should call for immediate actions are as follows:

- Increase and strengthen the relationship with partners' institutions;
- Implement some of the proposed solutions to the identified regional oceans issues;
- Improve communication within the alumni and,
- Undertake further actions to improve the global functioning of the network.



### **6.1 With regards to the partner institutions**

- The roundtable discussions identified three main actors when it comes to partner institutions and initiated the set up of a new approach that the network may adopt in order to increase and strengthen the relationship with the partners' institutions

### **6.2 With regards to the regional ocean issues**

- The regional representatives presentations regarding the regional ocean issues should be the starting point for a wider and more inclusive discussions on the implementation of some of the proposed solutions. It has been pointed out that the project should be ambitious and the group should "dare to dream".

### **6.3 With Regards to communication within the alumni and beyond**

- Discussions have mainly focused on the alumni website and the need to redesign it in order to better reflect the new realities of the alumni (growing numbers, a better alumni database etc.). The Website Editor is to prepare a plan of action that will take into account the group discussions with the goal of increasing communication effectiveness. In the same way, the group called for the Webmaster to propose to the network the cost to redesign the website. Each participant voluntarily contributed financially to fund the redesign of the alumni website.

### **6.4 With regards to actions to improve the global functioning of the network**

- The Representatives of the network at large (representatives, deputy representatives, regional representatives, website team) shall propose a strategy with an action plan on issues that they deemed should require the attention of the network. The final goal of this strategy and action plan shall be to primarily set up the direction and implement actions to improve the global functioning of the network.

## **7.0 CLOSING REMARKS**

The Director of DOALOS Mr. Tarasenko thanked all the participants for their contribution to the meeting. He emphasised the importance of building exceptional maritime expertise among people from developing states to allow them to fully participate to the improvement of the world of oceans.

The UNNF Fellowship Alumni Representative of the network, Mr. Djama thanked the director for all the support that he provided to the UNNF Fellowship Programme and wished him all the best for his upcoming retirement. The Representative thanked also the professors for their presentations and for their significant inputs towards the identification of the key issues that the alumni network should focus on. He also expressed his gratitude to the DOALOS team and especially Ms. Simone Dempsey for her dedication in assisting to organize this successful meeting. At the end, the Representative expressed the deep gratitude of the network to Dr. Bailet whose support, help and commitment have significantly contributed to building the UNNF Fellowship Programme. Dr. Bailet was wished all the best for his well deserved new position as senior legal advisor of DOALOS.

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Meeting Agenda**

The United Nations – Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellowship Programme  
 Alumni Network Meeting  
 New York, 10 – 12 December 2012  
 United Nations Headquarters  
 Agenda

| Date                                      | Event  | Comments  |
|---|--|---|
| Sunday, 9/12                              | Arrival day  |   |
| Monday, AM<br>(10/12)<br>10:00 – 13:00    | UN-General Assembly UNCLOS agenda item   | All   |
| Monday, Lunch<br>(10/12)<br>13:15 – 14:45 | Lunch Reception hosted by the<br>Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN<br>(Japan Society: 333 East 47 <sup>th</sup> St.)  | Speakers:<br>Judge Yanai<br>Ambassador Koh<br>Dr. Kuribayashi |
| Monday, PM<br>(10/12)<br>15:00 – 18:00    | 15:00-15:30<br>Welcoming Remarks<br>DOALOS, Alumni Representative<br><br>15:30-16:00<br>Global Networking for Ocean Governance<br>Biliana Cicin-Sain<br><br>16:00-16:30<br>Q&A<br><br>16:30-17:00<br>Regional Presentation (South East Asia -<br>Sampan Panjarat, Thailand)<br><br>17:00-17:30<br>Regional Presentation (Pacific Islands - Anama | All   |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | <p>Solofa, Samoa)</p> <p>17:30-18:00</p> <p>Regional Presentation (Latin America and the Caribbean - Lilian Yon B., Guatemala)</p>   |   |
| <p>Monday, PM<br/>(10/12)<br/>18:00</p>        | <p>Reception - Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea</p> <p>(Secretariat Visitors' Lobby)</p>  | All   |
| <p>Tuesday, AM<br/>(11/12)<br/>8:30-9:45</p>   | <p>Alumni Representative Preparation Meeting<br/>(Café Centro: 200 Park Ave. at 45th St.)</p>  | <p>Mr. Smolinsky<br/>Alumni Representative<br/>Deputy Representative<br/>Former Representatives</p> |
| <p>Tuesday, AM<br/>(11/12)<br/>10:00-12:30</p> | <p>The Alumni Network<br/>Network Organization and Team-building<br/>Stephen Smolinsky</p>   | Resource Persons as required  |
| <p>Tuesday, PM<br/>(11/12)</p>                 | <p>14:00-14:30</p> <p>Human Dimensions in Ocean Policy:<br/>Applications to the Ecosystem Approach &amp;<br/>Marine Governance - Anthony Charles</p> <p>14:30-15:00</p> <p>Q&amp;A</p> <p>15:00-15:30</p> <p>Regional Presentation (West Africa and Atlantic Ocean Islands - Me Chinho Costa Alegre, São Tomé e Príncipe)</p> <p>15:30-15:45</p> <p>Break</p> <p>15:45-16:15</p> <p>Regional Presentation (East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands - Gloria Yona, Tanzania)</p> | All   |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <p>16:15-16:45<br/>Oil Spills: Lessons Learnt and Applied<br/>Gunther Handl</p> <p>16:45-17:15<br/>Q&amp;A</p> <p>17:15-18:00<br/>Resource Persons' Commentaries</p> <p>18:00 – 19:00<br/>Video recording</p>   |   |
| <p>Wednesday, AM<br/>(12/12)</p>                 | <p>10:00-10:30<br/>Regional Presentation (Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas - Elchin Ganjaliyev, Republic of Azerbaijan)</p> <p>10:30-11:00<br/>Regional Presentation (Arabian Peninsula - Mustafa Al-Nabhani, Oman)</p> <p>11:00-11:30<br/>Regional Presentation (Indian Sub-Continent and Bay of Bengal - Mohammad Mohiuddin, Bangladesh)</p> <p>11:30-12:30<br/>Resource Persons' Commentaries</p> |   |
| <p>Wednesday, PM<br/>(12/12)<br/>14:00-18:00</p> | <p>14:00 – 15:30<br/>Law of the Sea Dispute Settlement<br/>Ronan Long</p> <p>Alumni Network and the Academic Network:<br/>Continuing Opportunities for Collaboration</p> <p>Lessons learned and way forward: the Alumni</p>   | <p>Alumni<br/>Resource Persons as appropriate</p> |

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|  | Representatives' Perspective<br><br>Lessons learned and way forward: The Web and Newsletter teams |                               |
| Wednesday, PM (12/12)<br>(following close of GA meeting) | Organized Interaction with Diplomatic and UN System Community<br>(DOALOS Conference Room)         | Diplomats<br>UN System<br>All |
| Thursday, 13/12  | Departure day   |                               |

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

| Participant Name                  | Country/Institute                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Alumni Representatives</b>     |                                    |
| Mr. Andrei Polejack               | Brazil                             |
| Mr. Abbas Daher Djama             | Djibouti                           |
| <b>Regional Representatives</b>   |                                    |
| Ms. Sampan Panjarat               | Thailand                           |
| Ms. Anama Solofa                  | Samoa                              |
| Ms. Lilian Yon                    | Guatemala                          |
| Mr. Me Chinho Costa Alegre        | Cape Verde                         |
| Mrs. Gloria Yona                  | Tanzania                           |
| Mr. Elchin Ganjaliyev             | Azerbaijan                         |
| Mr. Mustafa Al-Nabhani            | Oman                               |
| Mr. Mohammad Mohiuddin            | Bangladesh                         |
| <b>Editors</b>                    |                                    |
| Mr. Andi Arsana                   | Indonesia                          |
| Ms. Maria Cecilia Engler          | Chile                              |
| <b>Programme Coordinator</b>      |                                    |
| Dr. François Bailet               | DOALOS                             |
| <b>Resources persons</b>          |                                    |
| Prof. Biliانا Cicin-Sain          | Global Forum on Oceans             |
| Prof. Tony Charles                | Saint Mary's University            |
| Prof. Ronan Long                  | National University of Ireland     |
| Mr. Stephen Smolinsky             | Wharton University of Pennsylvania |
| Prof. Gunther Handl               | Tulane University                  |
| <b>2012-2013 Fellows</b>          |                                    |
| Ms. Maria Cecilia de Castro       | Brazil                             |
| Mr. Godwin Dzah                   | Ghana                              |
| Ms. Senia Febrica                 | Indonesia                          |
| Ms. Fiona Indu                    | Solomon Islands                    |
| Dr. Joytishna Jit                 | Fiji                               |
| Ms. Teresa Guia Monje             | Philippines                        |
| Ms. Mmadi Kaouthara               | Comoros                            |
| Ms. Nicole Parris                 | Barbados                           |
| Mr. Jean Randrianantenaina        | Madagascar                         |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>              |                                    |
| Dr. Ansy Mathew (Previous fellow) | India                              |

**Appendix 3: Group Picture**

