

Mr. Christophe Bertrand BITSE EKOMO (Cameroon)
2007-2008 United Nations – The Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellow



Bio-Sketch

Christophe Bertrand BITSE EKOMO graduated in 2003 from the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC) where he completed his international studies with the award of *Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées (D.E.S.S.)* in International Relations, Section Diplomacy and Holder of a Master's Degree of Public Law from the Faculty of Laws and Political Sciences/ University of Yaounde II (Cameroon). He began his professional life at the Cameroonian Ministry of External Relations in Yaounde. He has served in the Department in charge of the relations with International Organizations of la Francophonie, the Department of Asian Affairs and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the General Secretariat of the Ministry into which a Unit in charge of boarder issues and the Law of the Sea has recently been established. In the latter, the great interest he has always shown for the Law of the Sea and related fields including the follow-up of the implementation process of the judgment delivered by the International Court of Justice on 10 October 2002 concerning the maritime and land dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria; issues concerning the movement of persons and goods over the Cameroonian maritime territory; the analysis of the reports of Cameroon's participation in international conferences concerning maritime issues; the passage through the Cameroonian territory of transit goods of landlocked States of Central Africa within the framework of the implementation of their right of access to the sea. Since 20 July 2007, Christophe Bitse is holder of a diploma in Law of the Sea from The Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy (Greece).

Fellowship Host Institutions and Supervisors

1. Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany (Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Wolfrum, President of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea)
2. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (Dr. François Bailet)

Research Abstract (draft)

The Atlantic coast of Cameroon and the land-locked States of Central Africa: evolution and challenges regarding access to the sea

The problem of access to the sea for States without sea coast is not recent in Law of the sea. This issue, which has known a positive evolution in the course of the twentieth century, has shown by the codification process that has lead to the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, Part X more specifically, remains however current but raises today in different terms depending on the geographical areas. In the Central Africa's case, and particularly with regard to the relations between Cameroon and the landlocked States of this area (Chad and Central African Republic), the analysis shows that if the sovereignty of transit State remains a main point in this matter, the influence of new actors (multinational firms), as regard the transport by pipeline notably, tends to be superimposed on, if not supplant the sovereignty, putting thus into perspective the purpose behind the idea of right of access. The present study which examines this new development also gives an overview of how the transit passage is organized through the Cameroonian territory.

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