

CIL-MPA Workshop on Ocean Governance and International Shipping

21 April 2017

Brief Remarks by Prof Tommy Koh, Chairman, CIL Governing Board

Salutation/Welcome

Mr Koji Sekimizu, Professor Lucy Reed, Professor Bob Beckman, and Mr Martin Marini representing the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and Singapore Maritime Institute

Ladies and Gentlemen

- It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Workshop on Ocean Governance and International Shipping, jointly organised by the Centre for International Law and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. This workshop is being held during MPA's Maritime Week.
- The award of a three-year research grant by MPA, through the Singapore Maritime Institute, took place on 21 April 2016, exactly a year ago. I was a happy witness to the signing of the cooperation agreement. The CIL-MPA Research Programme focuses on three areas, namely:
 - Arctic shipping governance;
 - Transit passage regimes under UNCLOS; and
 - Marine environmental governance.

- The objective of this workshop is for CIL's and MPA's interested partners and stakeholders to discuss our research activities and research findings in those three areas.
 - We are very honoured to have my good friend, Mr Koji Sekimizu, former Secretary-General of the IMO with us today. Mr Sekimizu retired in 2015 after a distinguished career, spanning nearly 3 decades, with the IMO. He has left a legacy he can be proud of. We are very pleased that he has agreed to spend some of his time in Singapore, with the Rajaratnam School of International Studies. We thank him for his willingness to share his vast experience and knowledge with us.
 - This Workshop will be followed by a book launch on "Navigational Restrictions within the New LOS Context" edited by Captain J Ashley Roach. I would like to use this opportunity to thank Captain Roach for helping us at CIL on ocean law and policy. He is a fountain of knowledge and wisdom.
 - CIL will be holding a two-day International Conference on High Seas Governance: Gaps and Challenges on 24-25 April, next Monday and Tuesday. This Conference will explore some of the gaps in the governance of the high seas in UNCLOS. It will examine the relationship between UNCLOS and other existing international instruments and mechanisms that protect the sensitive marine areas. It will also explore the nexus between law of the sea and marine environmental governance.
-