Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, NS, Canada, 21-22 June 2012


The Center for Oceans Law at the University of Virginia and the Marine & Environmental Law Institute at Dalhousie University announce the convening of an international conference on “The Regulation of Continental Shelf Development: Rethinking International Standards,” Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 21-22 June 2012. The conference is part of a major global series of annual conferences on the law of the sea and oceans.

The purpose of this conference is to convene leading experts from around the world to consider the state of existing and further need for international regulation of continental shelf activities, focusing in particular on the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons. In 2010 the Deep Water Horizon casualty in deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico triggered widespread concern over the regulatory and management regime with far reaching implications for safety, environmental and economic impacts. In addition to concerns raised by drilling in deep waters, there are also other concerns over new uses of the seabed and subsoil within national jurisdiction and the applicable standards to be addressed at the conference.

The opening address will be delivered by Professor S. Jayakumar, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Senior Minister, Republic of Singapore. The speaker program is by invitation only with an emphasis on individuals who are internationally-recognized experts in their field. Speakers and moderators include top experts in the international law of the sea, oil and gas law, maritime law, environmental law, insurance and risk assessment from academia, international organizations and industry.

The conference audience will comprise professionals, practitioners, international lawyers, judges, policy makers, representatives of international organizations, academics and university students. Information on the conference program, registration and accommodation is available at the conference website: http://www.continentalshelfconference.ca/

Major co-sponsors from around the world include the Dalhousie University, University of Virginia, National University of Singapore, University of Bergen, Korea Maritime Institute, National University of Ireland (Galway), and McInnes Cooper (Halifax, Nova Scotia).

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