The Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy is an international collegial institution that offers a three-week summer course in Rhodes, Greece, to promote the rule of law in the world’s oceans. The Academy provides an educational forum on the principles of modern oceans law and policy, thereby fostering a broader common understanding of and adherence to the rule of law as set out in international agreements and state practice.

The Rhodes Academy is a cooperative undertaking sponsored by the Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia School of Law (Charlottesville, USA); the Aegean Institute of the Law of the Sea and Maritime Law (Rhodes, Greece); the Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland (Reykjavik, Iceland); the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (Heidelberg, Germany); The Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea, Utrecht University (Utrecht, The Netherlands); and the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore (Singapore). The Korea Maritime institute (Seoul, Republic of Korea) and the Research Center of the Sea and Maritime Law and Policy, Ankara University (Ankara, Turkey), are associate sponsors. For many years the International Seabed Authority has provided science scholarships for developing country students. The current directors are Robert Beckman, Tomas H. Heidar, John Norton Moore, Alex Oude Elferink, Nikos Skourtos, and Rüdiger Wolfrum. Administrative activities outside Rhodes are coordinated by the Center for Oceans Law and Policy, while the Aegean Institute coordinates local arrangements.

BACKGROUND

The foundations of ancient maritime law are linked to the development of the Rhodian Sea Code (Lex Rhodia), dating to around the 8th century B.C. The roots of modern oceans law are often traced to the early 17th century treatise by the Dutch scholar Hugo Grotius titled Mare Liberum (Freedom of the Seas). As maritime relations evolved, the concept of the freedom of the seas became the guiding principle under which nations conducted their activities in the oceans.

The basic rules of oceans law underwent a transformation in the 20th century, beginning in 1930 when the subject of the law of the sea was taken up by the League of Nations as part of its codification work on international law. The period following World War II saw a proliferation of expanded maritime claims over ocean space as well as advances in marine technology. These developments led to an extensive diplomatic negotiation through the United Nations spanning three international conferences, culminating in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982.

The 1982 Convention establishes an umbrella agreement for contemporary oceans law by setting out rules governing the rights and jurisdiction of nations in various maritime zones and the seabed area beyond national jurisdiction. These include rights over living and non-living resources, and the rights of freedom of navigation enjoyed by the entire international community. Built around existing international agreements and state practice, the 1982 Convention covers virtually all activities in the oceans. The Convention thus provides the framework for the progressive development of international law for the oceans and its uses.

The 1982 Convention has 166 parties, and is widely considered as reflective of customary international law in almost all respects. Global acceptance of the Convention places increased importance on promoting a common understanding of the principles and rules embodied in the Convention. It also highlights the need for more uniform adherence to the rule of law in the oceans as reflected in the Convention and in a growing number of implementing agreements as well as in state practice and judicial decisions.
THE 2015 SESSION

The twentieth academic session of the Rhodes Academy comprises an intensive three-week program of lectures and workshops given by a world renowned faculty of leading scholars and jurists. The outline for the 2015 program (subject to minor change) scheduled for July 5–July 24 is as follows:

**Week 1**

**LOS INTRODUCTIONS, NAVIGATION, MARINE SCIENCE AND DEEP SEALED**
Territorial sea, UNCLOS, navigation and passage regimes, exclusive economic zone, living and non-living resources, marine science, deep seabed minerals, islands, submarine cables, sea floor mapping, and global climate change.

**Week 2**

**MARITIME DELIMITATION, CONTINENTAL SHELF, FISHERIES, AND BIODIVERSITY**
Maritime delimitation overview, baselines, dispute settlement cases and state practice, outer limits of continental shelf, common heritage of mankind, piracy, exclusive economic zone and high seas fisheries, IUU fishing, biodiversity, and whaling.

**Week 3**

**MARINE ENVIRONMENT, MERCHANT SHIPING, AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**
Marine environment, deep seabed mining, ISA regulations, ship-source pollution, maritime safety, arbitration, ethics and fraud before tribunals, ITLOS cases and decisions, coastal state EEZ laws, sovereign state litigation, and warship immunity.

**LECTURERS**

The lecturers for the twentieth session in 2015 are drawn from an international cross-section of prominent and knowledgeable scientists, scholars and judges in the field of oceans law and policy. Interaction between students is emphasized in workshops focused on specific subjects. Workshops encourage the exchange of competing ideas and the application of information presented in the lectures. The faculty expected for 2015 includes:

- **Douglas R. Burnett**
  *International Cable Protection Committee*
- **Jean-Pierre Cot**
  *Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*
- **Maria Gavouneli**
  *Professor, International Law, University of Athens*
- **Vladimir Golitsyn**
  *President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*
- **Tomas H. Heidar**
  *Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and Director, Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland*
- **Albert J. Hoffmann**
  *Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*
- **Andrew Jacovides**
  *Former Ambassador, Republic of Cyprus*
- **Hakan Karan**
  *Professor of Law, Ankara University, and Director, Research Center of the Sea and Maritime Law and Policy*
- **James Kraska**
  *Professor, International Law, Naval War College, USA*
- **Larry Mayer**
  *Director, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, University of New Hampshire*
- **Fernanda Millicay**
  *Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations*
- **Myron H. Nordquist**
  *Associate Director and Editor, Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia School of Law*
- **Alex G. Oude Elferink**
  *Director, Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea*
- **Jin-Hyun Paik**
  *Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*
- **Paul Reichler**
  *Sovereign States Advocate, Private Practice*
- **J. Ashley Roach**
  *Captain, JAGC, USN (ret.), Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (ret.)*
- **Maria Telalian**
  *Legal Advisor, Greece Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- **Philomène Verlaan**
  *Professor and Sr. Technical Adviser, Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology*
- **Rüdiger Wolfrum**
  *Judge and former President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea*
ADMISSION/TUITION/TRAVEL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

There is no fee to apply for admission to the Rhodes Academy but class size is limited to approximately 48 students. Prospective students are required to submit a complete application together with two brief, signed Letters of Reference. Applicants should fill out an application online and send it (e-mail preferred) to the Center for Oceans Law and Policy (COLP), University of Virginia School of Law. Applications may be found at www.virginia.edu/colf/rhodes-academy.html. Applicants will need to fax or e-mail some of the materials necessary to complete the application process.

Deadline for applications is 1 May 2015. Incomplete or untimely applications will not be considered, absent extraordinary circumstances. Rolling admission is available to highly qualified applicants not applying for travel grants or scholarships who will be notified promptly after receipt of a completed application. Applicants are informed of the Board’s decision on scholarships no later than 22 May 2015. A non-refundable tuition fee of $500 USD is required to reserve a place once an applicant is informed of acceptance to the academic session. Tuition includes registration fees and all course material.

A limited number of scholarships and an even more limited number of travel grants are available to students, based on high academic merit and financial need. The scholarships cover tuition as well as accommodations and half board (i.e. daily breakfast plus one other meal) expenses. In most instances, scholarships will be offered to students who are expected to share a double room. Applicants for travel grants or scholarships assistance are required to provide a verified statement of financial need in support of their application.

Applicants who submit a publishable paper on international law relating to submarine cables may be eligible for guaranteed admission and a scholarship to the Rhodes Academy. Details are available on the websites of The Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS), the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore (CIL), and the Center for Oceans Law and Policy (COLP).

On a case by case basis, the Academy is willing to consider applicants who cannot attend the full three weeks. Such applicants are not eligible for travel grants or scholarships or to receive the Diploma or Attendance Certificate.

All decisions on student admissions, travel grants and scholarships are made by the Directors.

ADMISSION/VISAS

Formal applications to the Academy are to be made through the Center for Oceans Law and Policy while the Aegean Institute assists students with visa applications to Greece.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Classes and accommodations are located overlooking the Mediterranean Sea near Old Town, Rhodes. Accommodations and half board for an anticipated 21-day stay (check-in 5 July, check-out 25 July, 2015) in Rhodes are approximately €1,400 Euros for a single room and approximately €1,100 Euros for a shared room.

RHODES ACADEMY WEB PAGE

Applications and additional information are available at www.virginia.edu/colf/rhodes-academy.html, including a complete roster of former students and recent faculty. Individual questions may be sent via e-mail to Ms. Judy Ellis at jae8n@virginia.edu.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, OR TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT:

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