

The INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE IOInforma 0315

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Visit by delegates from the
Executive Board of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand
to discuss **Ocean Governance and Capacity Building**
International Ocean Institute and University of Malta
6th May 2015, Malta



The PTT delegation; officials from the University of Malta and IOI; PTT sponsored MAOG student Ratchanok Towong.

A group of delegates from the Executive Board of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) led by H.E. Dr. Piyasawat Amranand, Chairman and Former Minister of Energy; and including the CEO of PTT, Mr. Pairin Chuchotethaworn, and other members of the Board, visited the International Ocean Institute in Malta on the 6th May. The group met with IOI Honorary President, Dr Awni Behnam and IOI Managing Director, Antonella Vassallo as well as with high officials from the University of Malta including Rector Professor Juanito Camilleri; Pro-Rector for Academic Affairs, Professor Alfred Vella; Professor Simone Borg, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Laws and Coordinator of the MA Degree in Ocean Governance, as well as others.

During the very cordial meeting, presentations on the International Ocean Institute, the University of Malta, and the Master of Arts Degree in Ocean Governance were provided to the PTT delegation in view



of their interest and support to this MA degree course being offered jointly by the Faculty of Laws of the University of Malta and the IOI. The Petroleum Authority of Thailand, following on the Royal visit of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to the IOI and the University of Malta last August 2014, have already kindly provided two full scholarships to outstanding Thai students to attend the MA Degree in Ocean Governance in Malta. Other discussions centred on the IOI's Regional Ocean Governance Training Programme planned in Thailand for launch in 2016/2017.

L-R: Dr Awni Behnam, Honorary President of the IOI, Prof Juanito Camilleri, Rector, and Prof Alfred Vella, Pro-Rector for Academic Affairs, University of Malta.



Photo credits: University of Malta

Ms Ratchanok Towong currently attending the MA Degree in Ocean Governance as a student sponsored by PTT shares her thoughts; in her own words:

"My name is Ratchanok Towong. I am from Thailand where I study Law at Assumption University (ABAC). I applied for the PTT international scholarship program [which is provided with the collaboration of International Ocean Institute (IOI) of Thailand] because I always dreamed to challenge my skills by studying abroad and learning a lot by immersing myself into a whole different culture, thus I was sure this was my opportunity to do so. My experience in Malta was awesome because I made a lot of friends from around the world, I learned new things from other cultures and the courses I took are going to be very helpful for my professional life ahead. The thing that I am going to miss most from studying in Malta is the hospitality and kindness of all the professors and the academic staff that made this experience enjoyable. It was a great chance for me to study at the University of Malta in the middle of Mediterranean Sea and to follow this special post graduate degree course about how to manage the sustainable development of the oceans. It is a unique course that combines principles of maritime law with those of sustainable development, and the science backing it, and we learn how to manage or govern the several problems of the oceans. I want to thank PTT Public Company Limited, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the University of Malta for letting me be part of their family and for giving me the opportunity to experience such an amazing international student experience in Europe"





IOI prepares to launch a new Regional Training Programme in South America and the Caribbean in 2016

Planning Meeting
21st April 2015; Geneva

IOI prepares to launch a new Regional Training Programme in South America and the Caribbean in 2016; the IOI Operational Centre in Brazil will spearhead the training, supported by the IOI Centre in Costa Rica. Report of the Planning Meeting.

In order to further strengthen the implementation of IOI's strategy on capacity building and the provision of the regionally focussed training programmes in ocean governance a meeting was convened in Geneva to discuss the proposal for a new training programme on ocean governance for South America and the Caribbean. The meeting, which built on the momentum generated earlier in Malta for the IOI training support centres, was attended by Mahin Faghfour, Vice President, IOI; Awni Behnam, IOI Honorary President; Peter Leder, Treasurer; Eduardo Marone, Director, IOI Operational Centre in Brazil and Antonella Vassallo, Managing Director at the IOI HQ. The new regional Training Programme in South America and the Caribbean is planned for launch in 2016 and it will be coordinated and offered through the IOI Operational Centre in Brazil with the close support of the IOI Centre in Costa Rica.



A pause for coffee during the meeting; from L-R: M Faghfour, A Behnam, P Leder, E Marone. Photo Credit A Vassallo

The planned two to three week training programme was discussed intensively by the group, based on the draft programme prepared by IOI Brazil Director Dr Eduardo Marone, and a number of innovative proposals were discussed, amongst them the possibility of offering the training programme in rotation amongst the target countries surrounding the regional oceans in order to maximise the opportunities for interested participants to attend. Another proposal which fitted very closely with the IOI training philosophy was the possibility to offer special topics or seminars in addition to IOI's core content to reflect the interests, issues and current realities faced by each programme host country thus making the training programme especially relevant and targeted year on year. As foreseen in the IOI Strategy adopted by the Governing Board in December 2014, this proposed training programme already benefits from the close support offered through the IOI Centre in Costa Rica, directed by Dr Alejandro Gutierrez, to synergise efforts in coordinating the programme and to publicise it through joint networking and outreach actions. The Geneva meeting follows on the actions already planned during the meeting of the IOI Directors held in Malta last March and reported in the IOInforma 0215.



The Honorary President of the IOI invited to give a presentation to the UN Nippon Foundation Fellows of 2015

10th April 2015, New York

During his visit to New York to represent the IOI at the 16th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process (ICP) on Oceans and the Law of the Sea Dr Awni Behnam was also invited to speak to the 2015 group of Nippon Fellows.

Dr Behnam gave a presentation about Maritime Transport and Seaborne Trade, giving a brief history of the development of maritime law as well as touching on the biggest challenges currently being faced. The Fellows provided very positive feedback on the presentation and appreciated, in particular, the information shared by Dr Behnam based on his long-standing experience and insight on maritime transport, but also on the negotiations leading to the adoption of UNCLOS and the development of the law of the sea in general.

Photo: UN-Nippon Foundation Fellows with Dr Awni Behnam (centre) and the Programme Advisor, Valentina Germani (3rd from right). Photo Credit: UN Staff.



This year's Nippon Fellows hail from Bangladesh, Brazil, Cook Islands, Cuba, Georgia, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, and Tunisia.