

### DELIBERATIONS ON THE BLUE ECONOMY AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTE UNDER ONE ROOF

GNLU INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ACADEMY 2016

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Centre for Public International Law of the Gujarat National Law University ([www.gnlu.ac.in](http://www.gnlu.ac.in)) inaugurated its 2016 International Maritime Academy on Sunday, 6 March 2016.

**Vice Admiral Mr A. K. Chawla, AVSM, NM, VSM, Director-General of Naval Operations, Indian Navy** inaugurated the Academy in the presence of Ambassador Mr Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director-General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICW) and Professor James Kraska, US Naval War College, Rhode Island, USA.

Vice Admiral Mr Chawla complimented the GNLU for conducting teaching, research and training programs on law of the sea and maritime laws and making the University a hub for bringing international and national policy-makers, think-tanks, academicians and students on the subject. He emphasised the enormous importance given by the Government of India to reap the benefits of the oceans for economic, strategic and security purposes. He mentioned the importance of International Fleet Review, Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, and several other bilateral and multilateral naval engagements. Ambassador Mr Kumar, Deputy Director-General, ICWA gave an overview on the importance of ocean diplomacy and foreign policy and urged the Academy to deliberate on issues and bring out recommendations which can be useful to realise the true potential of Blue Economy or Ocean Economy. Professor James Kraska, US Naval War College, on behalf of the President, US Naval War College, congratulated the University for organising the 2016 Edition and expressed deep satisfaction on the collaboration between the two institutions. Professor Kraska emphasised on the importance of continuous dialogue between the oceanic policy-makers and professors and researchers of law of the sea and maritime law.

Professor Bimal Patel, welcomed the resource persons and participants from India and 12 other countries, including USA, Republic of Korea, China, Japan, Thailand, Somalia. He summarised the policy and general research, teaching and training courses offered by the GNLU in this vital area of knowledge since 2011. Among others, he identified the contribution of GNLU in contributing to

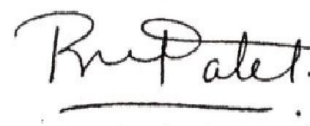
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the Draft Deep Seabed Mining Act of India, Antarctica Act of India, Private Maritime Security Companies Regulations and review of major maritime laws of India. Dr Thomas Mathew, Registrar, GNLU proposed vote of thanks. Assistant Professor Mr Sushil Goswami and Mr Chotelal Yadav, Research Associate, together with the team of GNLU students are taking care of all arrangements concerning the Academy.

GNLU International Maritime Academy 2016, 5<sup>th</sup> in the series, is organised in collaboration with the US Naval War College, Forum for Integrated National Security, Indian Council of World Affairs, Gujarat Maritime Board, Gujarat Tourism and the Adani Group of Companies. 35 participants from various countries mainly from the Indian Ocean Region are participating in the Academy. Officials from Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Maritime Boards, Foreign Ministry, think-tanks, researchers are participating in the Academy. The Academy has twin focus on – Maritime Developments and Blue Economy. The Academy has started deliberations and lectures on national interests, international maritime disputes, such as South China Sea, maritime agreements in general, issues pertaining to Island States, Archipelagic states such as Indonesia, the Philippines, US non-membership of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Seabed Minerals, Freedom of Navigation among others.

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