



Gujarat National Law University

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

The 2013 Edition of the Maritime Legal Adviser Training Course (25 March to 8 April 2013)

The Gujarat National Law University, Gujarat (www.gnlu.ac.in), India successfully conducted the first edition of the Maritime Legal Adviser Training Course for the officers of Indian Navy, Coast Guard and which was also attended by officers from Maritime Board and a law clerk from the Supreme Court of India, from 25 March to 8 April 2013.

The training course aimed to help the participants in rendering the duties as legal advisor on Law of Sea and Maritime Law issues to the navy and maritime institutions, operations and commanders at sea and understand the evolving developments in these fields to provide theoretical and practical legal input to policy-making institutions and actors of navy and relevant governmental agencies. 20 participants (16 from Indian Navy, 2 from Indian Coast Guard, 1 Maritime Board of Gujarat and one law clerk from the Supreme Court of India participated in the course.

The objectives of the course were to

- To provide knowledge on contemporary and advance issues and practices of the law of the sea and maritime laws in an intensive manner;
- To discuss, analyse and forecast the state practice of India on the law of the sea and maritime laws and future operational challenges and issues at officers level;
- To acquire understanding on the issues and challenges on the law of the sea and maritime laws in major seafaring nations

Duration: The training was conducted over a period of 15 days (6 hours daily) followed by daily group discussion, four lectures, each of 1.5 hours (with 15 minutes break). 39 Sessions focusing on modules identified by the Indian Navy were conducted during these 15 days.

Methodology: 16 resource persons including former Vice-Admiral of Israel Navy, former Real Admiral Indian Navy, senior officers from Indian Navy, Intelligence Bureau, lawyers and judges from High Courts of Mumbai and Gujarat, former Additional Secretary, Ministry of the External Affairs of India, academicians imparted training through lectures (including video lectures), seminar and documentary. Each participant was required to undertake 250 pages additional self-study in advance prior to commencement of the course.

Field Visits: The participants visited the Reliance Petrochemical Complex at Jamnagar and Private Port Complex of Adani Group of Companies at Mundra and Indian Coast Guard Headquarters (Western). The participants also enjoyed sight-seeing visits of cultural, historical and religious places in and around Gandhinagar.

11 documentaries depicting law of sea, maritime laws issues were shown during the training.

Evaluation: An evaluation test was conducted based on the training on the last day of the training. GNLU also conducted end-of-the training program feedback as well as feedback for each of the resource persons.

The training was organized at the GNLU which has a state-of-art modern world class fully IT equipped (wi-fi) 50 acres university campus with residential facilities, sports complex, excellent library and online research services, conference halls, 15 minutes away from Ahmedabad airport and governmental departments, 30 minutes away from the armed forces offices and western region headquarters. The participants were staying at the Cambay Hotel paid from their own TA/DA.

Appreciation:

GNLU would like to express deep gratitude to everyone, starting from former Admiral Shri Nirmal Kumar Verma, former Chief of Naval Staff of India; Vice-Admiral Anil Chopra, FOC-in-C (East), Vice Admiral Anurag Gopalan Thapliyal, AVSM, DG Coast Guard. We are grateful to Rear Admiral Shankar S Mathur, who was kindly nominated by Vice Admiral Shekhar Sinha, FOC-in-C (West) to preside over the valediction function and present certificate to the officers.

On operational front, we are extremely grateful Rear Admiral Harendra Gupta; Commodore R. K. Mehta, JAG Office, Western Command; Captain Sunit Singhal; Commander C. P. Sanga, for facilitating, coordinating and ensuring full assistance to conduct a first ever tailor-made course for our officers in a most effective and efficient manner. We are grateful to Mr Kuldip Singh Sheoran, IG Coast Guard (Western) and his officers for providing assistance. We express deep gratitude to Mr Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group of Companies and Mr Parimal Nathwani, Vice-President, Reliance Industries for providing excellent hospitality and facilitating visits of the state of art petrochemical complex at Jamnagar and the private port at Mundra.

We take this opportunity to express deep gratitude to Dr Sudhir Kumar Nanda, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat and his entire team for providing most valuable assistance, including last minute support to organize transfer of participants by boats from Jamnagar to Mundra. Dr Nanda took deep personal interest in ensuring that the course and the participants obtain best possible training and enjoy hospitality on behalf of the State Government of Gujarat.



