



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

(Issued by the Registrar)

MR. GUANGJIAN XU (CHINA) ELECTED AS NEW MEMBER OF TRIBUNAL

On 16 May 2001, the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea elected Mr. Guangjian Xu (People's Republic of China) to fill the vacancy left by the death on 10 October 2000 of Judge Lihai Zhao (People's Republic of China). In accordance with article 6 of the Statute of the Tribunal, Mr. Guangjian Xu will hold office for the remainder of his predecessor's six-year term, which would have ended on 30 September 2002. Mr. Guangjian Xu was the only candidate, obtaining 92 votes out of 94 ballots cast with 1 invalid ballot and 1 abstention.

Until his election, Judge Guangjian Xu was a legal adviser with China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He had served as a vice-president and senior adviser to the Chinese Society of International Law. He has represented his country at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the informal consultations of the Secretary-General on Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and annual sessions of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative meeting. Biographical information of Judge Guangjian Xu is provided below.

Mr. Guangjian Xu

Born: Sichuan Province, China, 15 August 1931. **Education:** Department of International Politics, Qinghua University, Beijing (1950–1952); Master of Laws, Foreign Affairs College, People's University of China, Beijing (1956). **Professional Experience:** Lecturer and Associate Professor of International Law, Foreign Affairs College, Beijing (1956–1964); Deputy Director and Director (1965–1985) and Deputy Director-General (1985–1990), Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China; Consul-General of China in Sydney, Australia (1990–1992); Director-General, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China (1992–1995); Adjunct Professor of International Law, Foreign Affairs College, Beijing (1985–present); Legal Adviser and Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China (1995–present). **Member:** Alternate Representative, Chinese Delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1976–1982); Head of Chinese delegations to the following meetings: Annual sessions of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (1985–1989, 1994–1995, 1998–

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For information media - not an official record - also available at <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/>

1999), Sessions and informal consultations of the Fourth Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting on Antarctic Mineral Resources (1985–1988), Sessions of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee (1985–1989), First and second sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification (1993), Informal Consultations by the United Nations Secretary-General on Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1993), Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994), Thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (1994–1995); Chief Chinese Representative, Joint Committee of Sino-Pakistan Boundary Inspection (1985–1987); Chief Chinese Representative, Joint Committee for the Demarcation of the Eastern Section of the Sino-Russian Boundary (1992–1995); Special Adviser, Chinese delegation to the United Nations General Assembly (1993–1994); Representative of China, Sixth Committee of the General Assembly (1993–1994); Alternate head of the Chinese delegation to the inaugural meeting of the International Seabed Authority (1994); Senior Expert, Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea (1993–present); Head of the Chinese Expert Group on Marine Issues in the Sino-Vietnamese Boundary Delimitation Negotiations (1994–present); Senior Legal Adviser, Chinese Expert Group on the Delimitation of the Sino-Vietnamese Boundaries in the Beibu Gulf (1995–present); Vice-President and Senior Adviser, Chinese Society of International Law; Vice-President, Chinese Society of the Law of the Sea; Senior Researcher, Hainan Research Institute of the South China Sea; Senior Adviser, Chinese Institute of Marine Affairs. **Publications and Lectures:** Various lectures and articles on international law and law of the sea, including: *Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and UNCLOS*, Chinese Yearbook of International Law, 1983; *New Developments in the International Law of the Sea*, Foreign Affairs College, 1983; *International Seabed Development Regime in UNCLOS*, Chinese Society of International Law, 1985; *International Law and Diplomacy*, Chinese Society of International Law, 1993; *Legal Issues on the Agreement Implementing Part XI of UNCLOS*, Chinese Society of the Law of the Sea, 1994.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Mr. Robert van Dijk at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: (49) (40) 35607-227/228, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275; or United Nations DC-1, suite 1140, New York, NY 10017, Tel.: (1) (212) 963-6480, Fax: (1) (212) 963-0908, E-mail: press@itlos.org
