IOI-Canada’s Summer Course Thrives, 30 Years On

Earlier this year IOI-Canada celebrated the completion of the 32nd Ocean Governance Training Program in Halifax. After more than three decades, we have seen over 600 alumni from almost 100 countries complete the program.

Hopefully you all have happy memories of your stay at Dalhousie University and particularly of the IOI Training Program, which has gradually evolved to keep abreast of developments in ocean governance. Please take a few moments to review the recently circulated 2012 Course Report highlighted on Page 4. If reading the report brings on feelings of nostalgia, try the website, still lovingly maintained by Madeleine Coffen-Smout, the IOI-Canada Programme Officer.

The institute’s founder, Elisabeth Mann Borgese, stressed the importance of maintaining contact with the participants. So, to complement the widely distributed IOInforma, published by Headquarters in Malta, IOI-Canada is introducing the Alumni News. The newsletter will be published twice yearly in digital format and distributed to IOI-Canada alumni. We felt it was timely to actively link all of you, a potentially influential body of ocean ambassadors!

The alumni represent many ocean professions, sectors, and geographic regions, a global network that has been, to our knowledge, relatively inactive to date. We feel that the benefits alumni and IOI alike can derive from an active network must be put to practical account, for example, through collaborative research programs, the dissemination of best practices in relation to policy development and its implementation, and of course reviving long-lost but not forgotten social contacts.

Please enjoy this inaugural issue of IOI-Canada’s Alumni News and consider the many ways you can contribute to the issues scheduled for 2013, and hopefully many more to come! You are invited to send information on your activities and on ocean developments in your country and we shall add information about IOI initiatives.

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LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD

Vignettes of IOI-Canada’s Summer Course

In her 1982 paper “Training Programme for the Management and Conservation of Maritime Resources” Elisabeth Mann Borgese is looking back at the origins of the IOI summer course*: “The concept of the training programme of the International Ocean Institute (IOI) arose in the context of the Law of the Sea negotiations. Already the early drafts of the negotiating texts made extraordinarily high demands on the qualifications of experts to be elected or appointed as members of various organs... Thus we went ahead with the training programme in ocean mining, a twelve week course in Malta in the Spring of 1980... Dalhousie University hosted the Exclusive Economic Zone Management Class in the summer of 1981. The Centre for Foreign Policy Studies sponsored the programme. Included in the international staff of lecturers were several from Dalhousie and the Dalhousie Ocean Studies Programme (DOSP), Bedford Institute of Oceanography and local government and private organizations.” The paper also reminds us that “Programmes need to be updated continuously as the perspectives of ocean management keep changing.” The rest, as we know, is history. In 2013 IOI-Canada will be holding the 33rd Ocean Governance Training Program at Dalhousie University. The eight-week course now covers all aspects of ocean governance and is considered to be the flagship training program offered by the global network of IOI Operational Centres.

THE YEAR AFTER...

Parinda Ranasinghe writes from the Attorney General’s Department in Sri Lanka

We still have wonderful memories of Dalhousie and Halifax, both in terms of what we learned during the course and the people we met. I am so glad that I attended the program, and I have been encouraging others to apply for the same. Recently my Government in Sri Lanka appointed an inter-ministerial committee with the mandate to advise Government on ocean affairs. I have been appointed to this committee, along with four of my law colleagues. Three of them are junior members, but this is a good thing. They are also very enthusiastic, and we can pass on our experience in the years to come... More news: I successfully applied for the Maritime Law LL.M. Program in Malta, www.imli.org, with help from the Nippon Foundation. So I’m packing my bags again. Leaving the family is a bit sad though. Although I had done heaps of ocean related work, I never had a proper academic qualification in this area of the law. Now I have the opportunity to put it right. It was the IOI-Canada Program last year which inspired me to apply, that is for sure!

Parinda Ranasinghe, Class-of-2011
Deputy Solicitor General
Attorney General’s Department
Sri Lanka

Rosemarie Kishore reports on applying her newly gained skills “on the job” in Trinidad

Besides my fisheries research at the Institute of Marine Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago www.ima.gov.tt, I got engaged in two projects related to marine invasive alien species (IAS) research. Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean is partially funded by UNEP and I am the project leader for the marine IAS component in my country. We are developing national and regional strategies and action plans. Of course the simulation exercises from the Summer Course helped a lot here. The other project is the GloBallast partnership project globallast.IMO.org in which developing countries are preparing, with the help of the IMO, for the Ballast Water Management Convention of 2004. I am the IMA representative on the Cabinet-appointed National Task Force for implementing...
A LECTURER OF RECORD

Lecturer Award for IOI President A. Behnam for 30 years of Dedication and Commitment

When you come to think about it, there are a lot of years between 1981 and 2009. So imagine the dedication and commitment involved in flying to Canada in each and every one of those years to volunteer your time and expertise as a lecturer in the IOI-Canada training program at Dalhousie University — and juggling this around your not insignificant duties at the UN and then at IOI HQ, even if this means taking personal vacation time to do so. In recognition of this outstanding contribution, IOI-Canada was very pleased to honour Dr. Awni Behnam, President, for being the only lecturer to participate in each of its annual training programs since the course’s inauguration in 1981. Dr. Behnam was presented with a commemorative plaque as a token of appreciation for this unbroken run of lectures over almost three decades. He has generously shared his knowledge and experience with 600 course participants, thereby furthering Elisabeth Mann Borgese’s vision of promoting *Pacem in Maribus* through the IOI training programs.

Dr. Larry Hildebrand introducing the 2012 EMB Lecture on Rio+20.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Blue Planet Under Threat: Challenges and Opportunities at Rio+20

Under this topic the 8th annual EMB Lecture - held on Oceans Day, June 8th - focused on important issues relating to the oceans and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro. *Rio+20* was held from June 20th to 22nd this year. The EMB Lecture *Blue Planet Under Threat* featured four distinguished panel members: Dr. Awni Behnam, President, International Ocean Institute; Dr. Susanna Fuller, Marine Conservation Co-ordinator, Ecology Action Centre; Ms. Megan Leslie, Member of Parliament for Halifax, Deputy Leader and Environment Critic, New Democratic Party; and Hon. David MacDonald, Commons Group. The panel was chaired by Dr. Larry Hildebrand (Senior Research Fellow, IOI-Canada). Approximately 100 people participated in a lively discussion about the practical steps required to turn around prevailing environmental and political trends.

The public EMB Lecture Series was launched in 2005 to commemorate Elisabeth and the 25th anniversary of the Training Program in Halifax. By inviting internationally renowned speakers IOI-Canada intends to generate awareness among stakeholders, academics, students and the general public about important ocean issues.

Introductory remarks and information on the 2012 EMB Lecture are available at the *IOI-Canada website.*
HOOKS, LINES AND FLOATERS

Brief Announcements and other Oceanic Tidbits

In 2012, the Buddenbrookhaus Museum in Lübeck, Germany, curated an exhibit about the life and work of IOI founder Elisabeth Mann-Borgese (1918-2002), with contributions from Dalhousie University’s EMB Archives and IOI-Canada. The exhibit will also be open to the public in Kiel and Berlin during 2013. Details are available at http://buddenbrookhaus.de/de/476/ asid:71/archiv.html.

IOI-Southern Africa has developed a course on Ocean Governance, to be delivered annually over a 4-5 week period, targeting professionals with interests or needs in this field. IOI-SA also offers short courses under the Ocean Learn and Train-Sea-Coast systems in several disciplines of marine and coastal management. Details at http://www.ioisa.org.za.

Building on the success of the last three years, plans for the Halifax Oceans Film Festival in 2013 are already underway. We anticipate another stimulating program of free film screenings, short presentations and open discussion. Further details are posted at the IOI-Canada web site.

Catching the communication technology wave, IOI-Canada now has an Alumni Facebook Page and Group. For upcoming events and keeping in touch with the IOI and other alumni be sure to check out http://www.facebook.com/ ioicanadaalumni.

The IOI-Malta Operational Centre at the University of Malta is offering the Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas. Presented over a five-week period in November and December, the annual course consists of four main modules. See http://oceania.research.um.edu.mt/cms/ioicourse/ for details.

Jiyeon Choi, IOI-Canada Class of 2010 and IOI Focal Point at the Korea Maritime Institute, visited IOI-Canada in October to consult with ICOM experts in the Halifax region. Jiyeon was a visiting researcher at IOI-Canada in 2010, and she is currently contributing to the establishment of a Coastal Management Services Centre in Korea. For more detail on KMI see http://www.kmi.re.kr/kmi/en/.

For further information on the ALUMNI NEWS please contact IOI-Canada by e-mail at ioi@dal.ca or telephone +1 (902) 494-1977

Some guidelines for IOI-Canada ALUMNI NEWS contributors

Articles and news items of various kinds by and for IOI-Canada Alumni, friends, and affiliates are welcome at any time and should be sent to the editors at ioi@dal.ca. ALUMNI NEWS will gladly accommodate short feature articles (~ 500 words) with useful links and illustration material that fit the modest space available on these pages. You may also consider small news items and notices for upcoming events, keeping in mind the publication schedule. ALUMNI NEWS is issued twice a year by the International Ocean Institute - Canada. Back issues will be available at the website of IOI-Canada at www.internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca. Please note that the editorial content of this newsletter does not represent official positions of the IOI or its organizational units.

This issue of ALUMNI NEWS was edited and produced by Dirk Werle, Chelsa Pelrine and Michael Butler.

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