

International Ocean Institute - Canada

ALUMNI NEWS

No. 5, 2018

Independent Perspectives on Ocean Affairs

A Practitioner's View of the IOI Learning Experience

I was honoured to participate in the 2018 IOI-Canada program at Dalhousie University. As an Indigenous member of the Canadian Federal Public Service working at Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of Canada's role in supporting good governance and management of oceans will go a long way towards providing services to the various fishery sectors, and in particular Indigenous communities seeking a greater role in the management and governance of our oceans. The multi-disciplinary and fact based approach to delivery of the IOI program provided information that allowed me to understand the broader principles, and then form my own opinions about what was presented and how the information could be potentially used.

I particularly enjoyed the presentations from the various participants of developing countries seeking regional and international cooperation, and the many parallels with Canada's Indigenous Peoples, as they seek full participation with Canada on a Nation to Nation basis. By sharing some of their own challenges, innovative approaches, as well as regional management models, these participants provided a very global view of their own reliance on Oceans as a source of employment and sustenance and the human impacts that threaten them, including, to mention a few, unregulated/unreported fishing, ship source pollution, and climate change, which is a common issue for all Humanity.

As one of the newest members of the IOI family I am proud to have participated in such a prestigious and informative program in support of what is our common heritage. I would recommend the IOI program to anyone seeking to broaden their perspective in support of sound governance, international cooperation, and in the use and protection of our oceans and maritime sectors.

Michael Ballard
Campbell River, British Columbia
Canada



The founder's message continues to touch and inspire participants including Michael, shown here at the 2018 Closing Ceremony reception.

News from IOI-Japan

Masako Otsuka, Class of 2000, looks back at the beginnings and toward the future

The encounter with IOI totally changed my life. In 1993, being president of a small communications company, I was asked to organize the *Pacem in Maribus* (PIM 21) conference in Japan. It was very successful. On a personal level, I found the people of IOI, including Elisabeth Mann Borgese and Anton Vratusta, to be impressive; deep, excellent, visionary and yet humble. Thankfully, they also

seemed to like me. It became my life mission to try and help promote their activities in Japan.

In 1999, at an IOI meeting in Fiji, I was asked to become the director of IOI-Japan. At that point I knew very little about ocean policy, so in the summer of 2000 I decided to participate in the IOI Training Course in Halifax. The course was extremely well designed. We learned a lot about UNCLOS and Agenda21. The field trips taught us how to combine theory with reality. The course also provided us a chance to meet very active trainees from all over the world, some of whom I am still in contact with. It was the year when UNICPOLOS, the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, finally held the first meeting which Elisabeth had worked hard to realize, and all of us, staff and trainees, delighted in seeing her happy face. Elisabeth invited the trainees to her home, the very next day after returning from a long overseas trip. Appreciating her salmon dish, I remember how impressed we all were by her stamina and kindness.

On my return to Japan, I became deeply involved with IOI activities. I planned and organized a session entitled "Dialogue between the Ocean and the Fresh Water" at the Third World Water Forum, held in Kyoto, and supported financing for the Eco Village Project of IOI-India. I participated in the design and conduct of the "Sea and the Human Security" series by United Nations Institute for Training and Research in Hiroshima, and coordinated and video-taped seven integrated coastal management (ICM) sites with the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, now OPRI, in partnership with PEMSEA.

This year, Mr. Hiroshi Terashima, former executive director of OPRI and I also finished the Japanese translation of *The Oceanic Circle*, written by Elisabeth. It was published in February this year by OPRI, with the help of the Nippon Foundation. We felt we had completed one of the tasks given us by Elisabeth. In 2017, I moved from Tokyo to Shima City, one of the ICM model sites. This has allowed me to support ICM activities from within the city itself. In 2018, the Japanese government selected Shima City as one of the "Future Cities" under the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are hopeful to see how this unfolds. In a similar way, towns and municipalities around the world must shoulder the task of implementing SDGs.



Masako enjoying a hands-on introduction to Nova Scotian marine life



Masako Otsuka and Hiroshi Terashima translated *The Oceanic Circle* into Japanese

From 2019 onward, IOI-Japan will have a new structure. There are many fellow professionals around me: Hiroshi Terashima, Gunnar Kullenberg, Nassrine Azimi, Chua Tia-Eng, Toshio Yamagata, Fujiko Hara, Tsutomu Fuse, as well as wonderful IOI alumni Eiji Sakai, Keiichiro Fujikawa, Emi Shimada, and other experts in Japan who want to help advance the legacy left by Elisabeth and the message of *The Oceanic Circle*. Having spent so many years on its translation, I remain astounded by its scope, depth and foresight; not only did she understand the present, she was also prescient about the future. For me, *The Oceanic Circle* resembles a blueprint. It takes us back to where we all started, with a sense of urgency that Elisabeth distilled in her work. Together with other IOI members we now hope to carry its message to the next generation.

Masako Otsuka

IOI-Japan, Shima City, Japan

Email: ioijapan@qb3.so-net.ne.jp

Visiting China: Notes from an IOI Host Family

Brent and Dawn Hobson had a joyful reunion with course participants in Beijing and Xian

Editors' Note: Some years, course participants can opt to be linked with "IOI host families" to enjoy local hospitality and enrich their experience of life in Nova Scotia. Some hosts have generously volunteered year after year and forged many warm and lasting friendships with "their" participants. The following article by one such couple shows what can happen when the hosts end up becoming the visitors... and are themselves generously hosted!

Our long-planned trip to visit China started in Beijing, then off to Xian to see the Terracotta Warriors, followed by Chengdu and the Panda Research Centre, a Yangtze cruise to the Three Gorges Dam area, Shanghai and finally Hong Kong. The trip itself was amazing, but the real highlight was meeting with some of the IOI course alumni while in China.

Having started with the host family program in 2007, we have had the pleasure of hosting many participants over the years and after each year's program ended, we managed to stay in touch with a number of them, including a dozen or so participants from China. Thus when we knew the dates and itinerary for the trip we sent out emails to our "Chinese Kids" hoping we would be able to meet one or two of them along the way. Imagine our surprise when we had an almost instant response from one of our first students - Yu Xinwei. She indicated that she and Wan Fang Fang worked together in Beijing and they would try to organize a mini-reunion during our stay there.



Brent and Dawn Hobson, one of IOI-Canada's host families, and their Chinese "children" enjoying a reunion in Beijing.



The IOI-Canada Class of 2018



Group photo of course participants, IOI-Canada staff, lecturers, course director, and the President of Dalhousie University.

Photo credit: Nick Pearce

We were therefore very excited the day after our arrival when Xinwei and Fang Fang met us at our hotel and took us on a tour of Beijing. It was terrific getting to see them again and that afternoon, a third student, Xu Heyun, brought her daughter by train to meet us for coffee. We returned to the hotel to have a rest and then met Xinwei again for dinner at a nearby restaurant. On arrival we were escorted back into a private dining room where to our surprise there were four more ex-students with their families. This group included Meng Qinglei, Huang Renwang, Wang Dakui and Feng Lei. Completely taken aback by the warmth of this welcome, we spent the next few minutes just hugging, talking and laughing.

Then the food started to arrive, and both Dawn and I were convinced this banquet was meant for the emperor. As the night progressed we were introduced to the local custom of three toasts per person and Qinglei explained the fine art of drinking Moutai. Needless to say the conversations got more animated as the toasts started to pile up but in the end, I stood up to thank all our assembled "Chinese Children" and to tell them that even if it

was only Day 1 of our trip, their incredible efforts to welcome us to China would be the highlight of our trip. Unable to sleep that night both Dawn and I spent a long time revisiting the events of this incredible day and marvelling at how you don't really appreciate what impact a little hospitality has on a group of students when they are far from their home. In the end we felt incredibly grateful for the opportunity to re-connect with a wonderful group of friends.

This incredible welcome behind us, we began our tour looking forward to meeting one more of our Chinese friends, Chang Hong, in Xian. We were just thrilled to see her. She was excited to tour us around the city and to introduce us to the local specialty, Mongolian Hot Pot. After our evenings with Hong, we completed our Chinese journey. All in all it was one of the best trips we have ever taken, made all the more special by getting to renew and strengthen the connections with some of our Chinese IOI children.

*Brent and Dawn Hobson
Dartmouth, N.S., Canada
Email: hobson@ns.sympatico.ca*

Elisabeth Mann Borgese Centenary 2018

A new four-panel display highlighting the life and accomplishments of IOI founder Elisabeth Mann Borgese (1918-2002).

Design: Grant Murray



CURRENT AFFAIRS

2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Elisabeth Mann Borgese. Her vision, legacy and international cadre of Ocean Mafia continue to have an important influence on the world's ocean and deserve to be remembered and celebrated. She would probably be pleased just to be toasted with a commemorative glass of her beloved scotch or remembered over some Niederegger marzipan. But we didn't want to stop there.

IOI-Canada organized a special Public Lecture Series in conjunction with a display on EMB's life and work, and an extensive volume of essays in her honour. The lectures took place at Dalhousie University, starting with a panel discussion on June 8, World Ocean Day, on the topic of **Peace and Equity in Ocean Governance - Possibility or Pipe Dream?** On September 21, Dr. Nele Matz-Lück of Kiel University, Germany, delivered a lecture on **Peaceful Oceans? The Role of International Dispute Settlement in Ocean Governance.** Dr. Jan-Stefan Fritz of the German Marine Research Consortium, Brussels, Belgium, then gave a talk on October 4 on **Governing Ocean Plastics: Between Action and Anarchy** in collaboration with the ESS Lecture Series. For a video recording of this

lecture, go to: <https://vimeo.com/294370005>.

To conclude the EMB anniversary year, IOI-Canada organized a panel discussion on **The Future of the Ocean** in conjunction with a book launch (see page 6). The panel featured five distinguished members of the Halifax ocean community, all of whom contributed to the book, and was moderated by an alumnus of the 2018 course. A video recording of the November 1 event is available online at: http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/EMB_book_launch.mp4.



Panel discussion at Dalhousie on **The Future of the Ocean**

ENDNOTES

Germany issues a commemorative EMB stamp



On April 18, 2018, the Deutsche Post, Germany's mail service, issued a stamp in memory of Elisabeth Mann Borgese's birthday 100 years ago. The quote on the stamp reads "We must save the oceans if we want to save ourselves." True then, even more so now..

4th China/ASEAN Academy on Ocean Law and Governance

The fourth Academy was delivered to 28 participants from November 12 to 21, 2018 at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCSS) in Hainan. IOI-Canada is one of three institutions providing academic and administrative support to the NISCSS. Three

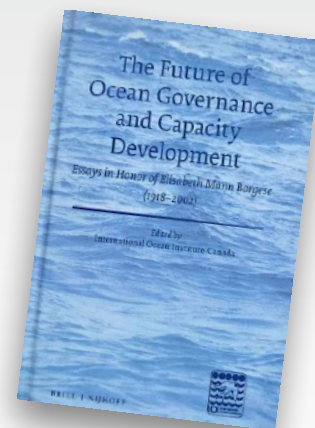
alumnae from the IOI-Canada training programme – Dr Hong Nong, Ms Zhang Xinyue and Ms Yu Qian – play important roles in the delivery of this annual course.

Book Launch: "The Future of Ocean Governance and Capacity Development - Essays in Honour of Elisabeth Mann Borgese"

After more than a year in the making, IOI-Canada launched this commemorative volume on November 1 at Dalhousie's University Hall. The dozen editors of the book include many of IOI-Canada's senior research fellows. More than 90 authors, among them a number of IOI alumni, contributed essays on topics related to ocean governance and capacity development. Much of the content of this 560-page volume follows recent IOI-Canada course curricula. The book was published in hard-copy and electronic form by Brill Nijhoff (see *image at right*). IOI-Canada has launched a fund-raising campaign to have all the essays of the book available online through "open access" sometime in 2019.



Download the IOI-Canada 2018 Course Report at
internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca



Explore IOI-Canada's 'The Future of Ocean Governance' at
<https://brill.com/view/title/36420>



Some guidelines for **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 welcomes and will accommodate short feature articles, approximately 500 words in length, with useful links and illustrations that fit the modest space available on these pages. Small news items and notices for upcoming events will also be considered.

ALUMNI NEWS is issued annually by IOI-Canada. Back issues are available online at <http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/alumninews.html>. Please note that the editorial content of this newsletter does not represent official positions of the IOI or its organizational units. This issue was produced by Dirk Werle, Michael Butler and Madeleine Coffen-Smout.

DW 2018