

Prominent Speaker Elaborates on Maritime Law

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-Grace Chen



From left to right: Mr Gary Cheung, Head of Legal & Commercial Division of TCC Group; Professor Craig Forrest; Mr Pason Cheung, Deputy Manager of Insurance & Claims Department of TCC Group and Dr. Chen Lei

The Hong Kong Centre for Maritime and Transportation Law was honored to invite Professor Craig Forrest from Marine and Shipping Law Unit, TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland to give a public seminar on the Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention 2007.

The Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks was adopted in 2007, having effectively taken almost 40 years to develop. The seminar considers the development of the Wreck Removal Convention, and critically considers its two main aims. First, it seeks to extend the powers of a coastal State to protect its marine and coastal environment and ensure that navigation to and from its ports is unhindered by having a hazardous wreck removed from any waters within 200nm from its coastline. Secondly, the Convention not only empowers a coastal State to have such a wreck removed, but to do so at the shipowner's possible expense, at the same time ensuring that shipowners are able to cover this expense through a system of compulsory insurance. It places significant obligations in respect of the reporting, location, marking and removal of wrecks not only on States but also on shipowners. The seminar has attracted over sixty audiences to attend.

Dr Chen Lei, Assistant Professor of School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, hosted the seminar. On behalf of the School and the Centre, he

warmly welcomed Professor Craig Forrest and expressed his gratitude to the Tai Chong Cheang Group (T C C GROUP) and The K.H. Koo Charitable Foundation for their generous sponsorship to invite leading scholars and experts lecturing and teaching in the School.

Professor Craig Forrest teaches and undertakes research in the areas of private international law, cultural heritage law and maritime law. He was a member of the South African delegation to the UNESCO meeting of experts to draft the international convention on the protection of underwater cultural heritage from 1998-2000 and was a Research Fellow



at the McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge in 2005. In 2009 Professor Forrest was awarded a *Universitas 21* Fellowship to undertake collaborative research at the University of Nottingham. His recent work on maritime law has been published in the *Journal of Private International Law*, *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, *University of Queensland Law Journal* and *Journal of International Maritime Law*. He is a member of the International Law Association's International Committee on Cultural Heritage Law, editor of *LAWASIA Journal* and an associate editor of the *Australian International Law Journal*.