

PREFACE

This book seeks to examine the constitution, jurisdiction and procedure of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (the Tribunal), keeping in view the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of which the Statute of the Tribunal is an integral part; the Rules of the Tribunal; the Resolution on the Internal Judicial Practice of the Tribunal; the Guidelines concerning the Preparation and Presentation of Cases before the Tribunal; and the practice of the Tribunal. Additionally, the book attempts a critical analysis of the role of the Tribunal in the settlement of law of the sea disputes.

The articles contained in this book are written by sitting judges of the Tribunal. They are based on articles published in the *Indian Journal of International Law*. The views expressed in the articles are the personal opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Tribunal.

The manuscript of this book was delivered to the publishers in October 2000. Since then, the Tribunal delivered judgments in the “Monte Confurco” Case on 18 December 2000 and the “Grand Prince” Case on 20 April 2001, both under article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. At the request of Chile and the European Community, the Tribunal, by Order dated 20 December 2000, formed a special chamber of five judges, in accordance with article 15, paragraph 2, of the Statutes, to deal with a case concerning the conservation and sustainable exploitation of swordfish stocks in the South-Eastern Pacific Ocean. Again, at the request of the parties, the President of the Special Chamber, by Order dated 15 March 2001, extended the period for filing of preliminary objections until 1 January 2004.

On 15 March 2001, the Tribunal amended articles 111 and 112 of its Rules in the light of the experience gained in the handling of prompt release applications under article 292 of the Convention.

I and Professor Rahmatullah Khan, my co-editor, wish to express their appreciation of the co-operation extended to us by the judges of the Tribunal and Ellen Nas, my secretary. We would also like to thank Julian Schulze De la Cruz for the help received from him in formatting materials in this book.

P. Chandrasekhara Rao
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