Partners in Research

Max Planck Society and RIKEN celebrate the 30th anniversary of their cooperation

Around 150 participants recently came together – including the Presidents of both research organizations, Peter Gruss and Ryoji Noyori, as well as leading scientists and high-ranking representatives from politics and business. The ceremony, which took place at the Industry Club of Japan in Tokyo, was opened by RIKEN's President, who is also the Nobel Prize laureate in Chemistry 2001. Noyori pointed out that the research organization he heads was founded in 1917 and modeled on of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, and today continues to be based on the example of the Max Planck Society. He referred to the fact that a new evaluation has underscored the outstanding role of RIKEN within the Japanese science system. The institutional cooperation between RIKEN and the Max Planck Society goes back to 1984 when Presidents Tatuoki Miyazima and Reimar Lüst concluded a framework agreement.

Warm handshake: RIKEN President Ryoji Noyori (left) welcomes Max Planck President Peter Gruss at the Industry Club in Tokyo.

Photos: RIKEN (top), Stefanie Mahler (bottom)

Tailwind for Free Knowledge on the Net

More than 200 participants from 40 countries at the Open Access anniversary conference in Berlin

Ten years after the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities" was first adopted, this Open Access initiative launched by the Max Planck Society has found a strong international following. At the 10th anniversary conference in Berlin, the declaration was also signed by representatives of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, increasing the number of signatories to more than 460. "This is a remarkable development, but Open Access is not a surefire success just yet," said Max Planck President Peter Gruss. The Mission Statement presented at the conference is to act as a guideline for the transition to Open Access. One of the key aspects is to maintain high quality standards and to develop them even further. "When faced with the glut of both information and disinformation on the Internet, it is particularly important for it to be clear which articles meet the most stringent demands of science," emphasized Gruss. To drive forward the international exchange against this backdrop, the Max Planck Society will continue to co-organize follow-up conferences on the "Berlin Declaration," but on a biannual basis.

openaccess.mpg.de

At the Open Access Conference in Berlin, President Peter Gruss takes the opportunity to engage in a lively exchange.

"The Arctic Sunrise is no isolated case"

Conflict surrounding the Greenpeace icebreaker has repercussions for international law

It was a thriller in the Arctic Ocean: In the fall of 2013, Russian Security Service vessels seized the Greenpeace icebreaker ARCTIC SUNRISE during a protest against the Prirazlomnaya oil platform and held the 30-person crew in detention for some time. In response to an application by the Netherlands, which is the ship's flag state, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) ruled that Russia was to release the ship, along with its crew, against bail of 3.6 million euros. Russia delayed this for a considerable time. The crew members were eventually allowed to leave the country shortly after Christmas, but the ship was still being held in January. We interviewed Rüdiger Wolfrum from the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, who was already president of ITLOS at the time, and also one of the judges on the tribunal that passed the current ruling.

Mr. Wolfrum, the media maintains that Russia doesn't accept the tribunal's verdict. This sounds like a violation of international law. What is your view?

Rüdiger Wolfrum: In fact, I consider statements like this to be greatly exaggerated. Russia has its own position, and of course there is a conflict. In any case, no final verdict has yet been passed, and the case will be decided before a court of arbitration. In a public hearing following a request for provisional measures, ITLOS's role was to determine whether such measures were needed to protect the rights of the parties until the court of arbitration could be set up. This involved two key questions that, though of a procedural nature, are of extremely far-reaching significance.

What are these questions?

From the outset, Russia said that it would not take part in the negotiations. It based this on a declaration it had made during ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It was therefore necessary to clarify whether the soon-to-be-established court of arbitration would be rendered incompetent by this declaration. ITLOS refuted this, based on exceptionally brief grounds. It then considered the question of what it means if one party doesn't appear. Here, the judges' deliberations were longer. Two points need emphasizing: first, that a party continues to be a party to the proceedings even if it fails to appear, and second, that it is bound by the court's ruling.

Does this ruling set a precedent?

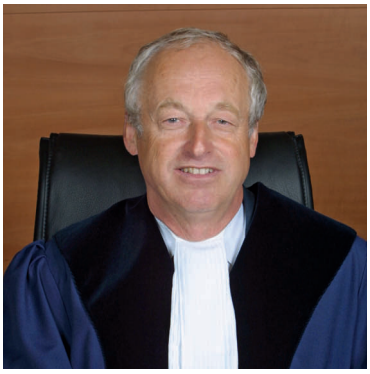
Indeed it does. Even if there have been similar cases, no court in this form has yet grappled so profoundly with the question of what a failure to appear really means. In this regard, ITLOS made a decision that plays an important role in the future of international law and that will encourage other courts to pass exactly the same ruling in similar situations.

Why is Russia refusing to appear anyway?

With its declaration on the ratification, Russia wants to stop any coercive measures that it takes within its exclusive economic zone from being challenged internationally. And this can't be done in such broad strokes – it applies only to fishing and research. The ARCTIC SUNRISE was doing neither. What is important in this context is the general ruling of the UNCLOS. It distinguishes between coastal waters, where a coastal state is fully competent to pass and enforce laws, and the aforementioned economic zone, in which the coastal state has only limited rights to do so. The situation differs only in the area surrounding artificial structures located within this zone, such as oil rigs: the coastal state can set up safety zones within a 500-meter radius of these structures, where it retains full competence, including policing powers.

And is this particular point significant in the present case?

Yes, because it now appears that the ARCTIC SUNRISE didn't enter the safety zone around the oil rig; at least, the ship was outside it when it was seized. And this, of course, raises the question: Was Russia within its rights to seize the ship? ITLOS commented only indirectly on this: while it assumed that the legal position is unclear in this respect – that being up to the court of arbitration to decide – it did still see problems as regards the seizure of the ship in the economic zone. For this reason, and on humanitarian grounds, it ordered the release of the ship and crew. This is a conclusion with far-reaching consequences, and will not be welcomed unreservedly by all coastal states. There is a tendency to extend coastal state competencies, particularly policing powers, into the exclusive economic zone.



Rüdiger Wolfrum

So, does ITLOS see a bias in favor of Greenpeace?

I wouldn't say so; both sides have legal arguments in their favor. Before the ARCTIC SUNRISE was stopped, its inflatable boats had entered the safety zone – two people were attempting to climb onto the rig. They were apprehended and brought back on board. Moreover, the ARCTIC SUNRISE is no isolated case. Greenpeace has taken a similar stand against a series of oil drilling operations in the Arctic. There are national rulings that prohibit Greenpeace from entering the safety zone of a platform off the coast of Greenland.

What is the next step in this specific case?

I'm assuming that, having released the crew, Russia will also hand over the ship, fully accepting the ITLOS ruling on this matter. But no official statement has been issued as yet. Russia can't stop the court of arbitration from being set up. The procedure – including the appointment of the arbitrators – is designed so that the ITLOS President determines the arbitrators, who, in principle, are to be jointly appointed by both parties. There is thus an anti-blocking mechanism in place that stops one party from impeding the dispute resolution procedure by failing to appear.

Interview: Jens Eschert

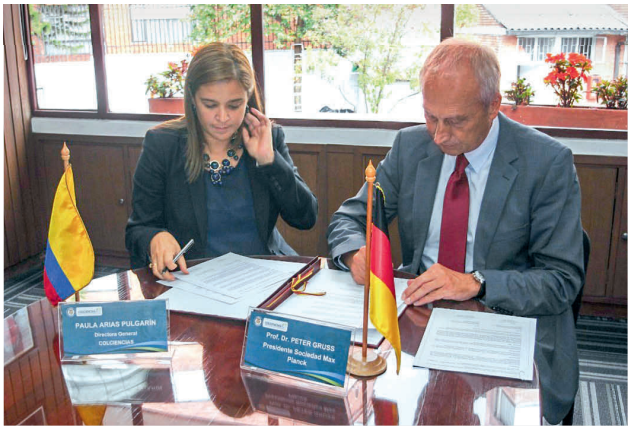
Photo: ITLOS

Breaking New Ground in Latin America

Laying foundations for cooperation with Colombia and Peru/Max Planck office opened in Buenos Aires

On his first visit to the South American countries of Peru and Colombia, which are increasing their focus on research and development, Max Planck President Peter Gruss signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the research councils of both nations. This sets up a legal framework that allows interested Max Planck institutes to build up cooperative networks in these countries. "These states are showing a lot of interest. They are seeking advice and models for establishing their own research structures," said the President. The plan is to support evaluation of the research system with the aid of an international committee of experts, or to set up national scholarships allowing doctoral students and postdocs to take up residencies at Max Planck institutes in Germany. The Max Planck Society is also seeking to expand its involvement in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, and has opened a Latin America office in Buenos Aires with this aim in mind.

www.mpg.de/7468478/latin-america



Paula Arias Pulgarín, General Director of the Colombian research council Colciencias, and President Peter Gruss signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

Wonders of Youthful Research

Winners of a junior research competition experience the daily life of a scientist

The 2013 and 2012 winners in the Physics category of Germany's junior science competition *Jugend forscht* already accepted their prize money, donated by the Max Planck Society, during the competition. Now, as an additional "gift," the winners of the State rounds and the all-Germany final also got the chance to gather authentic insight into a scientist's daily life on a trip to Munich: doctoral students at the Max Planck Institutes of Quantum Optics, for Extraterrestrial Physics and for Astrophysics in Garching gave the prizewinners a guided tour of their labs and workshops. Using their actual experimental setups, the researchers directly demonstrated what they were investigating in their current dissertation projects – not exactly easily digestible fare for the 22 rising science stars, all aged between 15 and 20. Undeterred, they followed everything closely, interested and visibly impressed. They also learned how doctoral students finance their lives, how important and stimulating it is to work in a team with fellow scientists, and how the results of their research are published. The many exotic postcards pinned to the bulletin board at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics proved that research trips and conferences can take scientists to many remote corners of the earth.

The young scientists looked particularly impressed by experimental setups at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics.

Photo: OH (top), Susanne Beer (bottom)

Black Holes and Gravitational Waves

European Space Agency selects major missions with key contributions from Max Planck scientists

How were the large-scale structures we see today formed from ordinary matter? How did black holes grow, and what was their impact on the universe? These are some of the most important questions of modern astrophysics. And the next major European Space Agency (ESA) mission could provide the answers we need. "We are very happy that ESA has chosen 'The Hot and Energetic Universe' as one of its main projects," says Kirpal Nandra, Director at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics. Nandra heads an international collaboration that proposed the topic, and has already drawn up plans for an X-ray observatory called *Athena* (Advanced Telescope for High-Energy Astrophysics). Someone else is just as happy, namely Karsten Danzmann, Director at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics and spokesman of the *eLISA* (**e**volved **L**aser **I**nterferometer **S**pace **A**ntenna) mission that the ESA is pursuing as part of its "Gravitational Universe" project. The space-based observatory is going to detect gravitational waves, helping to resolve fundamental astrophysical questions about the Big Bang and the evolution of the universe.

Space scout: While *Athena* (top) is to trace black holes and large-scale structures, the three *eLISA* mission satellites will be listening for gravitational waves.

On the Net

Bienvenidos a Alemania
Excellent doctoral students and postdocs from Spain, who are no older than 30 or 35 years of age, respectively, can now apply for a research residency at a Max Planck Institute. The programme, which was initiated on the occasion of the Prince of Asturias Award to the Max Planck Society in recognition of its international cooperation, provides the young researchers with the unique opportunity to establish scientific contacts in Germany. Closing date for the nomination is 31 May 2014.
www.mpg.de/8034988/Max-Planck_Asturias-Award-Mobility-Programme

Colorful University Life
When Nuno Maulide's Research Group moved from the Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung (coal research) to the University of Vienna, Desislava Petkova was one of those who also came along to the Austrian capital. In her contribution to the "Univienna bloggt" blog portal, she is now introducing her international team and its research projects – a good start in a new place. On the blog portal, researchers, students and alumni tell colorful stories from the university and get a chance to network with each other. A smart color-coding system means that readers can tell right away who is writing at any given time.
http://blog.univie.ac.at/one-for-all-and-all-for-one

History of Emotions
Feelings such as fear, anger and love motivate or inhibit us in our actions. Emotions are learned socially and formed by culture, and they can change: they have a history. But how can the history of emotions be researched? What sources, questions and methods can help? Scientists at Berlin's Max Planck Institute for Human Development explain this on their new web page. They analyze concrete sources, giving the reader insights into their research.
www.history-of-emotions.mpg.de/en

Photos and graphic: Athena (top), AEI/MM/exozet (bottom)