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PRESS RELEASE

**Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration
between Bangladesh and India
(Bangladesh v. India)**

The Arbitral Tribunal Commences Hearing on the Merits

THE HAGUE, 9 December 2013

On Monday, 9 December 2013, the Arbitral Tribunal commenced the hearing on the merits in the matter of the Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The hearing will end on 18 December 2013.

History of the Proceedings

On 8 October 2009, Bangladesh instituted arbitral proceedings concerning the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and India pursuant to Article 287 and Annex VII, Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Parties have subsequently exchanged written pleadings.

In October 2013, the Arbitral Tribunal also conducted a site visit to relevant areas of the Bay of Bengal.

The Rules of Procedure and the Tribunal's Procedural Orders are available on the website of the PCA at http://www.pca-cpa.org/showpage.asp?pag_id=1376.

The President of the Arbitral Tribunal is Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany). The other members of the Tribunal are Judge Jean-Pierre Cot (France), Judge Thomas A. Mensah (Ghana), Dr. Pemmaraju Sreenivasa Rao (India), and Professor Ivan Shearer (Australia). The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague acts as Registry in the arbitration.

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About the PCA

The PCA is an intergovernmental organization with 115 Member States. Established by treaty in 1899, it provides a variety of dispute resolution services to the international community. For further information please visit the PCA website at www.pca-cpa.org or e-mail at bureau@pca-cpa.org