The University of Virginia Distinguished Lecture
I am honoured and delighted to be here again at the Center for Oceans Law and Policy of the University of Virginia School of Law, mingling with eminent academicians and their bright-eyed students.

From where I stand I can see familiar faces among the members of the Center’s Board of Directors. I do recognize Prof. John Norton Moore and Prof. Myron Nordquist who, through their writings, have contributed tremendously to the promotion of law and order at sea.

My being here today gives me a sense of *déjà vu*: the time I spent on this campus was filled with intellectual excitement and remains a very important part of my life. When I left after completing my studies in 1988, I brought with me not only pleasant memories of the University of Virginia and Charlottesville, but also a fine sense of anticipation that much can and should be done for the cause of law and order in a world that is mostly oceans, seas and waterways.

The world has radically changed since then – it has become so much more complex. New issues, new ideas and new realities are now prevailing in international affairs. A much welcome reality has been the coming into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.\(^2\)

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1. Statement given by Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda at the University of Virginia School of Law on September 30, 2009. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda was the Foreign Minister of Indonesia from 2001 to 2009. Currently he is a member of the Council of Presidential Advisors of the Republic of Indonesia and patron to the Institute of Peace and Democracy, Bali Democracy Forum. A lawyer by training and a diplomat by choice, Dr. Wirajuda has held several important posts including Director-General of Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2000–2001), Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva (1998–2000), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Egypt (1997–1998), and Director of International Organizations of the Department of Foreign Affairs (1993–1997). Mrs. Suryana provided the footnotes for this paper.

In 2011, Dr. Wirajuda was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Bintang Mahaputera Adipradana, by the President of Indonesia.