



Environmental
Collaboration

Mechanical Engineering Lecture in
Ocean Sciences and Engineering

An Engineer in the World of International Diplomacy and Ocean Politics



Caitlyn L. Antrim

Executive Director

Rule of Law Committee for the Oceans

Friday February 17, 4:00PM, 3-270

Interest in the 1970s in the use and protection of the oceans led to the need for a fair and stable legal regime for the seas. The successful negotiation of this regime rested in part on the contribution of the engineers and lawyers at MIT who created and applied what became known in the United Nations as the “MIT Model” of deep seabed mining.

New interests in governance of high seas fisheries, the Arctic and outer space renew the relevance of the role MIT played in the development of global ocean law. Caitlyn Antrim, co-creator of the “MIT Model” and US delegate to the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, served as a “friend of the conference” in using the model to inform lawyers and diplomats from all nations and to support them in crafting proposals to turn the search for agreement from competition to collaboration for mutual gain.

With firms now moving toward commercial of deep seabed mining, the MIT Model continues to be relevant. Ms. Antrim will use a version of the Model to address issues that arise from deep seabed mining, including socio-economic and environmental impacts and the critical role to be played by substantive expertise in complex diplomatic negotiations.

Caitlyn will also address the importance of the degree of Environmental Engineer, perhaps the rarest of MIT’s graduate degrees, in preparing her for a career as an ocean and environmental diplomat.