

# IMLI<sup>e</sup>-News

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## ***NIPPON FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT IMLI FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR***

The Nippon Foundation (one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world) based in Tokyo (Japan) and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) launched in 2003 their *joint “Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Legal Order for the Oceans”* which is to continue also in the current academic year.



*Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos (Secretary – General, IMO) with Mr. Masazumi Nagamitsu (Executive Director, Nippon Foundation) and Mr. Mitsoyuki Unno (Manager of the Overseas Programme Sector within the Department of Maritime Affairs, Nippon Foundation) at the 2005 Graduation Ceremony*

The major aim of the project is to contribute to the promotion, adoption, effective implementation and enforcement of international maritime conventions adopted under the aegis of the United Nations (UN) and of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and to encourage a greater participation by developing States, particularly Asian, in the major international maritime law conventions and legal instruments.

The realization of this project, administrated by IMLI, would not have been possible without the generous contributions of funds by the Nippon Foundation.

An important feature and integral part of this project is to provide scholarships for deserving lawyers from developing countries, especially from the Asia region, to study at IMLI.



*Mr. Masazumi Nagamitsu (Executive Director, Nippon Foundation), Mr. Mitsoyuki Unno (Manager of the Overseas Programme Sector within the Department of Maritime Affairs, Nippon Foundation) and Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Legal Counsel to the IOPC Funds) with the Nippon Scholars 2004/2005*

In the previous academic years 17 lawyers from all over the globe were awarded Nippon Foundation Scholarships to pursue a postgraduate training in International Maritime Law at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute in Malta.

Another important part of the project is the “*Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholars*” which is awarded every year to the Nippon Scholar, who has the best overall performance in the LL.M. Programme. The 2005 Sasakawa Prize was presented at the 2005 Graduation Ceremony to Ms. Rusudan Tushuri (Georgia).

This year another 8 lawyers from 7 different countries are benefiting from the Nippon Foundation scholarship at IMLI.

The 2005/2006 Nippon scholars are:

*Ms. Paula Beatriz Grillo (Argentina)*  
*Mr. Yongsheng Cai (China)*  
*Ms. Thandar Oo (Myanmar)*  
*Ms. Geraldine Vasquez Ruiz de Castilla (Peru)*  
*Mr. Leo Tito Ausan (Philippines)*  
*Mr. Ramon E. Reblora (Philippines)*  
*Ms. Kerryyn Kwan (Samoa)*  
*Mr. Riyaz Hamza (Sri Lanka)*

IMLI is supporting the proposals which were put forward by the Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, *Dr. Yohei Sasakawa*, during his address to the IMO Council in July 2005 wherein he referred to the oceans as the common heritage of mankind and stressed that they are not only the common property, but also the common responsibility of the humankind. Consequently, we should all be contributing to develop solutions to the uncountable problems (ranging from environmental degradation to piracy) which the oceans and their users face today.

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