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## **IMLI GRADUATES ESTABLISH THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION**

IMLI Graduates from the Pacific Region have recently established the Pacific International Maritime Law Association (PIMLA). The new association was officially formed at the *IMLI Alumni/Maritime Legal Seminar* held in Suva – Fiji (under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community) and is the product of intensive discussions and initiatives by IMLI graduates from the Pacific area.



*IMLI graduates from the Pacific area and other guests at the IMLI Alumni/Maritime Legal Seminar held in Suva, Fiji between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2005.*

Some of the objectives of the Association are to provide legal and maritime assistance to member States of the Pacific Community and to the Regional Maritime Programme (RPM), as well as to bring together under one umbrella all maritime professionals from the region in order to foster and share their maritime expertise and experience. The establishment of PIMLA is also keeping with the objectives of the Pacific Plan for strengthening regional cooperation and integration.

Since the establishment of the Institute in 1988, 18 lawyers from the Pacific area have graduated in international maritime law at IMLI. Graduates come from Fiji (4), Papua – New Guinea (4), Samoa (3), Vanuatu (2) and one each from Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Marshal Islands and New Zealand. Most of them are currently holding high positions within their respective governments or with regional or international organizations.

There has been great interest from the maritime sector in the Pacific to join the new Association which is expected to play an instrumental role in assisting Pacific governments reviewing their maritime legislation.

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