

Dr. Murat Sümer



The Nippon Foundation Assistant Professor in International Maritime Law / Coordinator of Academic Affairs, IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), Malta

murat.sumer@imli.org

Education: Dr. Sümer holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the Faculty of Law of Maastricht University, where he conducted his doctoral research at the Institute for Transnational Legal Research. He also holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, and a Master's Degree from the Defence Sciences Institute in Ankara, and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Ankara University.

Advanced Academic and Professional Training:

- Summer Course in Public International Law and Directed Studies, The Hague Academy of International Law, The Hague, the Netherlands, 6-24 July 2026;
- The International Arbitration Training Course, Leiden Law School in cooperation with the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague, the Netherlands, 1-5 July 2024.
- Introduction to Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundary Delimitation: Professional Training Workshop, Durham, UK, 11-13 September 2023.
- Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye, 29 December 2008 – 1 June 2009.

Professional Qualifications: Advocate admitted to practice in Türkiye; included in the List of Arbitrators of the OIC-AC.

Academic Experience: The Nippon Foundation Assistant Professor in International Maritime Law (2026-present); The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law (2019–2026); Visiting Lecturer at World Maritime University (2024-present); Lecturer in the International Fisheries Law Training Course organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (2021-present); Visiting Lecturer, International Ocean Institute (2022-present); Moot Court Competition Organizer, IMLI (2021-present); Supervisor of Maritime Legislation Drafting Projects and Dissertations/Research Projects, IMLI (2019–

present); External Examiner for the Faculty of Law, University of Malta (2019-present); Visiting Fellow at Ankara University National Center for the Maritime Law (DEHUKAM) (2019-2023); Moot Court Judge, The Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS) (2022); Semi-final Judge, Telders International Moot Court Competition, The Hague, 2026.

Coordinator of Academic Affairs (2026-present)

Academic Coordinator of IMLI's Master's Programmes (2022-2025);

Coordinator of the Specialized Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries (2022-present);

Coordinator of the Specialized Course on the Law of Ports (2020-2026);

Public Service: Head of Maritime Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye (2018-2019); Deputy Head of Mission, Turkish Embassy in North Macedonia (2017-2018); Head of Maritime Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2015-2017); First Secretary, Turkish Embassy in London – Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO (2013-2015), Vice Consul – Deputy Head of Mission, Turkish Embassy in the Republic of South Sudan (2011-2013); Legal Advisor for European Court of Human Rights cases, Deputy Directorate General of Human Rights and the Council of Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010-2011); Legal Advisor, Department of International Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2008-2010); Lawyer (2007-2008); Intern Lawyer, Bar Association in Ankara (2006-2007).

Professional Membership: UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) Pool of Experts; Ocean Expert directory of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO; IMO Roster of Experts; International Law Association (Malta), Maritime Law Association (Türkiye) and Turkish Bar Association.

Projects: Various UN and EU projects regarding maritime affairs

Internship: Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Vienna, Permanent Mission to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and Ankara Bar Association in Türkiye.

Publications: Numerous articles on the public aspects of international maritime law in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Sümer is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Peace & Security - Paix Et Sécurité Internationales (EuroMediterranean Journal of International Law and

International Relations).

Selected Chapters in Books:

- Port State Jurisdiction and Remotely Controlled Ships, in James Kraska & Khanssa Lagdami (eds), *Marine Technology, Ocean Development and the Law of the Sea* (Cambridge University Press, 2026).

- The Jurisdictional Reach of Flag States over Remote Operation Centres, in Zuzanna Pełowska-Dąbrowska & Igor Vio (eds), *Regulating Unmanned Vessels: Emerging Solutions* (Routledge, 2026).

-The Judicial Treatment of Islands in Maritime Boundary Delimitation, in Hans Kochler (ed.), *Maritime Order in the Global Era: National Interest vs. Common Good of Humanity*, *Studies in International Relations*, (Vienna, 2026).

Selected Articles:

- Protection of Navigational Rights in the Red Sea: Legal Classification of Houthi Attacks under International Maritime Law, 5th Maritime Security Conference Proceedings, NATO Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (2026).

- Interpreting the Territorial Scope of Offshore Investment Disputes under UNCLOS, Cadiz University, *PEACE & SECURITY-PAIX ET SÉCURITÉ INTERNATIONALES* (EuroMediterranean Journal of International Law and International Relations), (2026) (14).

- The Rule of Law at Sea and the Challenge of Non-Compliance: A Decade after the South China Sea Arbitration, *BLR* 3 2 (December 2025): 190-211.

- ICJ's Judgment on the Merits in the Case Concerning Land and Maritime Delimitation and Sovereignty over Islands (Gabon/Equatorial Guinea), *LEXPERA*, 4 June 2025

- Geometry of Equitable Principles: The Role of Appropriate Base Points in the Three-Stage Delimitation Process (2024) 7 *DEHUKAMDER* 1

- Applicability of the Right of Innocent Passage to MASS: Exploring the Potential Role of Advisory Opinions, ASCOMARE Yearbook on the Law of the Sea (2024) (ASCOMARE Award)
- Equitable Considerations in the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf, INTERNATIONAL LAW STUDIES 100.1 (2023): 23.
- Circumnavigating the Aegean question: Joint development of the Aegean Sea by Greece and Türkiye, PEACE & SECURITY-PAIX ET SÉCURITÉ INTERNATIONALES (EuroMediterranean Journal of International Law and International Relations), (2023) (11).
- The Role of IMO as the Competent Organization in Regulating Shipping under UNCLOS – Integration of MASS (DEHUKAM, Conference Proceedings, Budva) (2023)
- The Relevance of the Law of Treaties in the Introduction of MASS Operations, (RINA Conference Proceedings, London) (2022)
- Maritime Boundary Delimitation Process 2 DEHUKAMDER 2 (2019)

Dissertations:

PhD: Overcoming the Legal Challenges of MASS and Compliance with UNCLOS and SOLAS - Designation of a Remote Master to Assume the Safety Duties of a Master

Master`s Degree: Achieving an Equitable Result in Maritime Boundary Delimitation

Master`s Degree: An Examination of the Decisions of the ECtHR Concerning the Freedom of Expression

Maritime Legislation Drafting Project: A By-Law to Incorporate the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004

Selected Conferences/Meetings/Seminars as Speaker/Panelist:

- Panelist, International Maritime and Transport Law Conference, “Implementation of the Barcelona Convention”, 7-8 September 2026, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Speaker, International Symposium on the Legal Regime of Ports, “Ports and the Law of the Sea”, 3-4 September 2026, Mersin, Türkiye.
- Speaker, WMU Maritime Affairs Conference, “Search and Rescue in the Era of MASS”, World Maritime University, 26-28 August 2026, Sweden.
- Speaker, Philippines International Law of the Sea Academy, “Maritime Dispute Settlement Mechanisms under UNCLOS” 20 June 2026.
- Trainer, Understanding Contemporary Challenges in Protecting the Right to Life at Sea, Blue Rights, Malta, 26-27 May 2026.
- Speaker, 8th UN FAO International Course on Fisheries Law, “Introduction to the Law of the Sea” and “Baselines, Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone”, Malta, 21 April 2026.
- Panelist, Maritime Security Regimes Roundtable (2025) hosted by the NATO Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE), “Maritime Disputes and the Reach of Law: South China Sea Arbitration and the Challenge of Compliance”, Norfolk, Virginia, USA, 28-29 October 2025.
- Speaker, 7th UN FAO International Course on Fisheries Law, “Sources of International Law”, “Law of Treaties”, “Baselines” and “Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone”, Malta, 20-21 October 2025.
- Panelist, 5th Maritime Security Conference convened by the NATO Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE), “Protection of Navigational Rights in the Red Sea” Istanbul, Türkiye, 24-25 June 2025
- Speaker, International Conference on The High Seas Treaty and its Importance in the Peruvian Context – BBNJ Agreement co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, SPDA, FUNDAMAR and WMU, Settlement of Disputes under the BBNJ Agreement, 13 May 2025.
- Speaker, University of Malta Conference, MASS and the Evolution of State Jurisdiction under International Law, 9 May 2025.
- Speaker, World Maritime University, Implementation of IMO Conventions: Law in Action, Malmo, Sweden, 8 April 2025.
- Speaker and Panelist, 7th AAMA Conference, co-organized by the IMO and the Association of African Maritime Administrations in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 29-30 November 2024.
- Speaker, 7th Ocean Governance Course, co-organized by the Turkish Marine Research

Foundation (TÜDAV) and the International Ocean Institute (IOI), “High Seas Treaty and its interplay with IMO regime”, 20 November 2024.

-Maritime Security Regimes Roundtable 2024 hosted by the NATO Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE), Norfolk, Virginia, USA, 29-30 October 2024.

-Speaker, 6th UN FAO International Course on Fisheries Law, “Public International Law”, “Sources of International Law”, “Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone” and “Landlocked States”, Malta, 22-23 October 2024.

-Speaker, Ocean Governance Fellowship for Small Island Developing States Fellows of the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) Course, “Jurisdiction, Navigational Rights and IMO”, 7 October 2024.

-Panelist, Istanbul Arbitration Week, “Regionalization of the Maritime Arbitration”, Türkiye, 3 October 2024.

-Panelist, FIATA World Congress, “Legal Currents – Reshaping Contractual Practices in Global Maritime Trade”, Panama, 26 September 2024.

-Speaker, Maritime and Transport Law Course of Inter-University Centre, “Maritime Security Challenges in the Red Sea: Analysis of the Navigational Rights under the Law of the Sea Regime” held in Dubrovnik-Croatia on 18 September 2024.

-Speaker, Maritime Law Colloquium (In Search for Regulatory Approach to Autonomous Vessels), “MASS Remote Operations Centers” held in Dubrovnik-Croatia on 16 September 2024.

-Speaker, ICLP Sri Lanka, “IMO’s Regulatory Role” and the “Maritime Security Challenges in the Red Sea” on 20 June and 9 September 2024.

-Speaker, IMO International Maritime Law Institute’s 35th Anniversary Conference, “Safety Challenges of MASS and Port States” held in Malta on 17 June 2024.

-Speaker, Emerging Technologies & Law of the Sea Workshop, “MASS and Port State Jurisdiction”, World Maritime University in Sweden, 4-5 June 2024.

-Trainer, National Workshop on the Rights of Landlocked States under International Maritime Law, “IMO and its Role in Regulating Shipping, Navigational Rights of LLS under UNCLOS, Rights of Transit, Flag-Coastal-Port State Jurisdiction, Legal Status of Ports under International Law” organized by IMLI in partnership with the Embassy of Malta to Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Ministry of Transport and Logistics in Addis Ababa between 27-29 May 2024.

- Panelist, 46th Conference on Oceans Law and Policy (COLP 46), “Equitable Considerations

on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf”, Istanbul, 20-23 September 2023.

- Speaker, Philippines International Law of the Sea Academy, “The Role of the ICJ and ITLOS in the Settlement of Maritime Boundary Disputes” 9 July 2023.
- Panelist, Regulating MASS within the framework of UNCLOS (IMO Seminar on Development of a Regulatory Framework for MASS), “The Relevance of the Law of Treaties for Integration of MASS into the International Regulatory Framework”, London, 6 September 2022.
- Speaker, International Symposium on the Current Developments in the Sea and Maritime Law, “The Role of IMO as the Competent Organization in Regulating Shipping under UNCLOS – Integration of MASS”, Budva-Montenegro, 2 November 2022.
- Speaker, Autonomous Ships Conference organized by the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA), “Evolutionary Treaty Interpretation in the Context of Compliance of MASS operations with UNCLOS and SOLAS”, Greenwich, 1 April 2022.
- Speaker, Summer Course on International Law organized by the Indian Society of International Law, “Law of the Sea - Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries”, 17 June 2021.
- Speaker, Webinar, “Suez Canal Blockage”, 5 May 2021.

Dr. Sümer also attended numerous international diplomatic conferences, serving as head or member of various delegations on international maritime affairs. From 2013 to 2019, he actively participated in the IMO Assembly, Council and Committee meetings. He also served as the focal point within the MFA (Türkiye), between 2013-2019, for the IMO, IALA, IHO, IOC-UNESCO, Türkiye - EU Maritime Dialogue and EU - Blue Economy of the Black Sea Conferences.

Selected Symposiums/Meetings attended:

- IMO Council, 7-9 July 2026, London, UK.
- IMO Legal Committee, 13-17 April 2026, London, UK.
- IMO Legal Committee, 24-28 March 2025, London, UK.
- Human Rights at Sea special event, the House of Lords, Westminster, London, UK, 6 September 2023.
- IMO and its global maritime training institutions: building cooperation, IMO, London, 13 July 2023.
- Maritime Limits and Boundaries: Delimitation Workshop, IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta, 11-12 May 2023.

- Malta Symposium on the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships organized by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Comité Maritime International (CMI) and the Government of Malta, 26 April 2023.

- UNCLOS at 40 - The Instrumentality of the Convention for Sound Ocean Governance, 16 December 2022.

-IALA's Third Preparatory Conference towards the Change of Status to an IGO, Istanbul, Turkey, 12 - 14 March 2019.

-IALA's First Preparatory Diplomatic Conference, Paris, France, 18-19 April 2017.

Research Interests: Public International Law, Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes, Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, IMO Conventions