

Dr. Murat Sümer

The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law

murat.sumer@imli.org

Education: Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) - Ankara University (Türkiye); Master's Degree - Defence Sciences Institute, Ankara (Türkiye); Diplomacy Academy – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Türkiye); Master of Laws (LL.M.), IMO International Maritime Law Institute (Malta); Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Maastricht University Faculty of Law - Institute for Transnational Legal Research (the Netherlands)

Professional Qualifications: Advocate, Türkiye; Arbitrator, Organization of Islamic Cooperation Arbitration Centre (OIC-AC)

Academic Experience: The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law (2019–present); Visiting Lecturer at World Maritime University (2024-present); Visiting Fellow at Ankara University National Center for the Maritime Law (DEHUKAM) (2019-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); Moot Court Judge, The Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS) (2022).

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

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-present);

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).

Member: 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; 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 articles and chapters:

- 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 International Maritime Organization as the Competent Organization in Regulating Shipping under UNCLOS – Integration of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (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)

Pending publications:

- MASS and Port State Jurisdiction

- The Emerging Role of UNCLOS in Investor-State Arbitration

- Maritime Security Challenges in the Red Sea

- The Jurisdictional Reach of Flag States over Remote Operations Centres

Dissertations:

PhD: Overcoming the Legal Challenges of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (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 at the 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 at the 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 at University of Malta Conference, MASS and the Evolution of State Jurisdiction under International Law, 9 May 2025.
- Speaker at World Maritime University, Implementation of IMO Conventions: Law in Action, Malmo, Sweden, 8 April 2025.
- Speaker and Panelist at the 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 at the 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 hosted by the NATO Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence (CJOS COE) in Norfolk, Virginia, USA, 29-30 October 2024.
- Speaker at the 6th 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 at the 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 at the Istanbul Arbitration Week, "Regionalization of the Maritime Arbitration",

Türkiye, 3 October 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

-Trainer at the 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 at the 46th Conference on Oceans Law and Policy (COLP 46), “Equitable Considerations on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf”, Istanbul, 20-23 September 2023.

- Speaker at the 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 at the 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 at the 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 at the 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 at the 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 at the 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 Legal Committee, 24-28 March 2025, London, UK.

- The International Arbitration Training Course, offered by Leiden Law School in cooperation with the Permanent Court of Arbitration, 1-5 July 2024, The Hague, Netherlands.

-Introduction to Technical Aspects of Maritime Boundary Delimitation: Professional Training Workshop, Durham, UK, 11-13 September 2023.

-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