

GRADUATION ADDRESS BY MR. KOJI SEKIMIZU, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF IMO AND CHAIRMAN OF THE IMLI GOVERNING BOARD



Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Members of the Faculty, Visiting Fellows and the IMLI Class of 2013-2014 during the 25th Graduation Ceremony

President Emeritus, Honourable Speaker, Ministers, Ambassadors, Excellencies, IMLI Director, ladies and gentlemen, students,

It is a genuine pleasure for me to be here today. I am honoured to be able to share with the students what, I am sure, will be one of the most important occasions of their lives to date: graduation from the International Maritime Law Institute – IMLI.

Graduations are always a cause for celebration, but it is celebration based on hard work and dedication. This year's event is given extra significance by the fact that IMLI is this year marking its twenty-fifth anniversary; indeed, just a few weeks ago we held a celebratory event at IMO headquarters in London to commemorate IMLI's 25 years in the service of the rule of international maritime law and again we did the same yesterday evening at the Institute here in Malta.

I always find it inspirational to see members of the younger generations actively engaged in developing their knowledge base and skillsets within their chosen career path. By so doing, they equip themselves with the foundation to explore their lives and to face the challenges that will inevitably come their way.

I am a great believer in the value of education and training. Time spent learning is never time wasted; and in the maritime world, the need for high-quality, well-educated people at all levels, in all sectors and at sea and on shore is as great as it has ever been.

The world's seas and oceans constitute a truly vital resource. They provide mankind with raw materials, energy, food, employment, a place to live, a place to relax and the means to transport about 90% of global trade. Although once a largely unregulated space, the seas and oceans of the modern era are surrounded by a multi-layered legal edifice that is both extensive and deep.

To promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation, IMO has adopted an array of the highest practicable standards of maritime safety and security, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of pollution from ships.

The comprehensive portfolio of IMO treaty instruments do an excellent job of defining the rights and privileges and, at the same time, the duties, obligations and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's seas and oceans.

The true value of these legal instruments is reflected in their effective, thorough and uniform implementation throughout the world. In order for them to be truly effective, States, in their turn, need to enact appropriate domestic legislation to reflect their provisions and provide, thereby, a mechanism for implementation and enforcement.

Indeed, this year's World Maritime Day theme is "IMO conventions: effective implementation". It therefore seems befitting that the same theme is used to underscore the fundamental role of IMLI. Since its inception, the Institute has been one of the cornerstones of IMO's mission to enhance and build global capacity within the maritime sector.

By providing a steady influx of highly trained legal professionals, IMLI has been instrumental in the effective implementation of international instruments and has thereby played a central role in helping to establish the solid legal foundations needed for the maritime sector to thrive.

IMLI graduates now occupy positions of great responsibility throughout the world and their knowledge, expertise and influence has been of immense and tangible benefit, particularly for the developing world, and indeed for all the economies and communities that rely on the safe and secure passage of their goods across the seas. The contribution of IMLI graduates to the international maritime community serves also as a testament to the Institute's success in achieving the objectives for which it was created.

Let me turn my attention now to the most important people here today – the graduating students who constitute the class of 2014. This is a day that marks the ending of one chapter of your lives, and the beginning of another.

You will be aware that one of IMO's most important functions is to develop and maintain conventions, codes and other legal instruments dealing with shipping safety, the prevention of marine pollution and other matters. Maritime lawyers are essential when it comes to implementing these treaties and experience has shown that the lack of appropriate legal expertise is a major obstacle in many developing countries.

But you, the students and graduates from IMLI, are helping to overcome this problem and the entire maritime community is benefitting as a result. Shipping is such an international activity that all those involved must be able to reach the high standards that the global community demands. This year's graduates will help to ensure that this is achieved. I applaud them for their success – and the Institute for teaching them so well.

As a graduate of IMLI, you will have a bright future – because IMLI is a unique educational institution established by IMO. Its strength is that it is a part of IMO: a formal educational institution where maritime law professionals are fully trained to support the objectives of IMO. As graduates of IMLI, your status will be properly recognized in the maritime communities and your skills and knowledge will be invaluable when it comes to implementation of IMO Instruments.

So I urge you: throughout your careers, please, continue to support the ideals and objectives of IMO; and continue to support international shipping. You will have a great future, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have helped to maintain and strengthen the established system that regulates international shipping.

Before concluding, taking this opportunity of graduation in the year to mark the 25th Anniversary, I want to give all graduating students, and in fact all the teaching staff and professors, one topic in the field of Law of the Sea for their lifetime study: the relationship between UNCLOS and IMO conventions.

This is a huge field and an evolving field in international law. This is still a new field and will offer you plenty of opportunity to establish your own authority and provide real contributions in the history of the development and formation of Law of the Sea. The key issue is the position of IMO conventions and the role of IMO to provide special international law under the principle of acceptance of ships which comply with the generally accepted IMO conventions, against the framework of general international law embodied in UNCLOS.

If I give you just one example, it seems to me that we have not yet established a robust theory or doctrine over application of national law of coastal States on construction, equipment and manning to ships registered in foreign countries which are making a call at a port in international waters, taking into account the provisions of Article 21, paragraph 2, of UNCLOS and the objectives of the work of IMO.

I do not want to change my celebratory speech into a lecture and I will leave this important issue which is very close to the heart of the objectives of the work of IMO.

I congratulate the 25th graduating class and wish them the very best in their future endeavours, I am confident that they will follow their predecessors and will leave their mark in the development, codification and implementation of international maritime law.

I wish you all, and IMLI itself, the very best of luck for the future; and I look forward to meeting many of you in the future as you progress through the stages of your professional lives.

Thank you.

MR. KOJI SEKIMIZU UNVEILS IMLI'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE



H.E. Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General, IMO), unveiling IMLI's 25th Anniversary Commemorative Plaque

In 2014, IMLI celebrated 25 years in the service of the rule of international maritime law. To mark this momentous occasion, a commemorative plaque was unveiled by H.E. Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General, IMO), at the Institute's premises, on the 6 June 2014, the eve of its 25th annual Graduation Ceremony.

In his address, Mr. Sekimizu stated that he was very proud of the strides which the Institute has made in the past 25 years. He noted that the graduates have been very successful in fulfilling the primary purpose for which the Institute has been established, which is the implementation of IMO conventions, and that he hoped the 2014 graduands will continue in this stead. He ended by wishing the Director more success in the bright future of IMLI.

Prior to this, on 28 April 2014, Mr. Sekimizu convened a Commemorative Seminar at the IMO Headquarters in London in celebration of the Institute's silver jubilee. The Seminar was attended by Members of the IMLI Governing Board, Ministers, Diplomatic Representatives, IMLI graduates from all over the world and several distinguished guests.

The Seminar was presided over by Mr. Sekimizu and the panel of speakers was composed of Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), The Honourable Joe Mizzi, M.P. (Minister for Transport and Infrastructure of Malta), Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation), Mr. Jim Harrison (Group Legal Director, Lloyd's Register Group), Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee), Professor Dr. Frank L. Wiswall, Jr. (Vice President, *Honoris Causa*, CMI) and Mrs. Gabriele Götsche-Wanli (Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations).

IMLI IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION AND OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE IMLI MANUAL ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW



(L-R) Professor David Attard, Judge Peter Tomka (President, ICJ) and Judge Vladimir Golitsyn (President, ITLOS) during the launching of the Manual

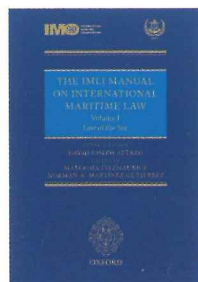
IMLI is proud to announce the publication of Volume I of "The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law" which was published on 30 October 2014. The Manual, published by Oxford University Press, adopts an all-encompassing approach to international maritime law.

The Manual aims to provide both the academic world and practitioners with a source of information on what the law is and on the most up to date theory and research relating to it. It also provides comprehensive references and bibliography on the subjects, so that its users have a single source from which to branch out into even more detailed research in the areas studied. The Manual, therefore, is of fundamental importance for anyone interested in public and private aspects of international maritime law.

The Manual was formally launched during a solemn ceremony held at the International Tribunal for the Law of Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, on Tuesday 27 January 2015. The ceremony was attended by Judges of ITLOS and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps and distinguished personalities in the maritime legal community.

Judge Vladimir Golitsyn (President, ITLOS) and Judge Peter Tomka (President, ICJ) together with Judge Chandrasekhara Rao, Judge José Luis Jesus, Judge Shunji Yanai and Judge Helmut Tuerk, from ITLOS and Judge Hisashi Owada, Judge Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade, Judge Xue Hanqin, Judge Giorgio Gaja and Judge Julia Sebutinde, from ICJ, were all present to grace this august occasion.

On the 6 January 2015, Volume I of the Manual was presented to the Honourable Prime Minister of Malta, Dr. Joseph Muscat, at his office in Auberge De Castille, by Professor David Attard, accompanied by the academic staff of the Institute.



Volume I of "The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law: Law of the Sea"

During this presentation, the Director stated that it was important for IMLI, in recognition of the support and commitment of the Government of Malta as the host country of the Institute, to share with him this great achievement.

The Honourable Prime Minister thanked the Director and the Institute for presenting the Manual to him, which he received on behalf of the Government of Malta. He reiterated his Government's pride and commitment in hosting such a prestigious institution of learning. He stated that with the excellence and expertise put into the work, he had no doubt that the IMLI Manual will be a great addition to legal literature and wished the Institute the very best for the future.

Under the General Editorship of Professor David Attard, the Manual comprises three volumes: Volume I is dedicated to the Law of the Sea, Volume II focuses on Shipping Law, whereas Volume III is devoted to Marine Environmental Law and Maritime Security Law.

It is expected that Volume II and III will be published later in the year.

CHAIRMAN OF THE IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE LECTURES AT IMLI



Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee) lecturing to the IMLI Class of 2014-2015

The Director, staff and students of the IMLI Class of 2014-2015 had the pleasure of welcoming recently Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee) who delivered a lecture on the topic: *The Work of the IMO Legal Committee: Challenges and Prospects*.

During his lecture, Dr. Mbiah provided the students with an overview of the history, mandate and structure of the IMO. He then went on to discuss the reasons for the establishment of the IMO Legal Committee and the mandate of the Committee, which is to deal with all legal matters within the scope of the Organization. Dr. Mbiah continued by outlining the work of the Committee, which includes, among others, the promulgating of IMO conventions on safety, security and liability and compensation. He also discussed the issues which need to be considered for new instruments.

Dr. Mbiah further reviewed the challenges and prospects of the Legal Committee. He concluded by noting that as this year's theme for World Maritime Day is "IMO Conventions: Effective Implementation", he can confirm that due to the adoption of many international conventions, the rules that have been put in place for the implementation of these conventions, have led to the reduction of major health and safety risks.

Dr. Mbiah is a distinguished alumni of the Institute, having graduated with distinction in the 1990-1991 academic year. He was also the proud recipient of the IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Overall Performance.

DONORS 2014-2015

IMO

The International Maritime Organization continues to support IMLI's funding requirements. The Organization annually provides scholarships intended for deserving government-nominated candidates wishing to pursue studies in international maritime law at a post-graduate level at the Institute. This academic year, it awarded six full scholarships and a partial scholarship. Recipients of the full scholarships are Mr. Efreem Makonnen Teclé (Eritrea), Mr. Abebe Tefera Tebeje (Ethiopia), Ms. Raquel Malaika Forbes (Jamaica), Lt. Johanson Abainza Fabilane (the Philippines), Mr. Lansana Kotor-Kamara (Sierra Leone) and Ms. Leticia Michael Mutaki (Tanzania). Ms. Danijela Babic (Serbia) was awarded the partial scholarship.

At the end of every academic year, the IMO-Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation is awarded to the student who writes the best dissertation. In 2014, this Prize was awarded to Ms. Terri Nicola McMillan (Trinidad and Tobago).



(From left to right) Mr. Efreem Makonnen Teclé (Eritrea), Ms. Raquel Malaika Forbes (Jamaica), Ms. Leticia Michael Mutaki (Tanzania), Mr. Lansana Kotor-Kamara (Sierra Leone), Mr. Abebe Tefera Tebeje (Ethiopia), Ms. Danijela Babic (Serbia) and Lt. Johanson Abainza Fabilane (the Philippines)

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

The Nippon Foundation through its joint Project with IMLI, known as "The Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of More Effective Legal Order for the Oceans" continues to effectively support government-nominated scholars.

For the academic year 2014-2015 the following students were awarded scholarships under the project: Ms. Tahiana Fajardo Vargas (the Dominican Republic), Ms. Mavis E.V. Joseph (Fiji), Ms. Anoushka Kishtoo (Mauritius), Lt. Mayette M. Mendoza (the Philippines), Mr. Yannick Jude Roucou (Seychelles), Mr. Warnakulasuriya Nuwan Chinthaka Peiris (Sri Lanka), Mr. Vipat Rujipavesana (Thailand), Mr. Murat Sumer (Turkey), Ms. Sandra Munduru (Uganda), and Mr. Do Duc Quang (Vietnam).

At the end of every academic year, the Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholar is awarded to the Nippon Scholar who has the best overall performance in the LL.M. programme. The 2014 Sasakawa Prize was awarded to Ms. Georgina Adiya Nyadia (Ghana).



(From left to right) Mr. Vipat Rujipavesana (Thailand), Ms. Mavis E.V. Joseph (Fiji), Mr. Do Duc Quang (Vietnam), Lt. Mayette M. Mendoza (the Philippines), Ms. Tahiana Fajardo Vargas (the Dominican Republic), Mr. Murat Sumer (Turkey), Ms. Anoushka Kishtoo (Mauritius), Ms. Sandra Munduru (Uganda), Mr. Yannick Jude Roucou (Seychelles), and Mr. Warnakulasuriya Nuwan Chinthaka Peiris (Sri Lanka)

LLOYD'S REGISTER FOUNDATION

The Lloyd's Register Foundation continues to support training at IMLI. The Foundation's quest, among others, is to support education and research relating to development that enhances the safety of life at sea, land and air.

The students who have benefited from the Foundation's support for the 2014-2015 academic year are Ms. Dinan Jing (China), Mr. Mahmoud Faisal Mahmoud El-Habashy (Egypt) and Ms. Beatrice Settanni (Italy).



(From left to right) Ms. Dinan Jing (China), Mr. Mahmoud Faisal Mahmoud El-Habashy (Egypt) and Ms. Beatrice Settanni (Italy)

DELEGATION FROM THE NIPPON FOUNDATION VISITS IMLI

As a result of the fruitful cooperation between The Nippon Foundation (NF) and the Institute, a joint project was launched in 2003 entitled "Human Resources Development Project for Advancement of a New Legal Order on the World's Oceans." This Project provides scholarships for deserving candidates to be trained at the Institute. Since 2014 marked the 10th year of this Project, a delegation from the NF comprising of Captain Koichi Akatsuka (Member of the Nippon Foundation Evaluation Committee) and Mr. Tomoyuki Hashimoto (Manager of the Maritime Affairs Department of the Nippon Foundation), visited the Institute between the 7 and 9 February 2014, to evaluate the progress of the Project.

Their visit commenced with a meeting of the IMLI Class of 2013-2014. This was followed by a welcome address by the Director, who told the delegates of the origin of IMLI and the main purpose for which it was set up. He recalled that because the IMO has no enforcement powers, it relies on States for enforcement of its conventions and unless States domesticate them, they have no force of law in that particular country. He recalled that the founders of the Institute intended IMLI to be set up to train a group of lawyers who understand the whole spectrum of maritime law and who can draft domestic legislation. The Director further stated that it was also the intention of the founders of the Institute to interest young people who would stay with their Governments as opposed to Consultants who leave after the duration they were contracted for. He reiterated his deepest gratitude to Malta for offering to host the Institute.

The Senior Lecturer of the Institute, Dr. Norman Martinez, further elaborated on the role of the Institute in serving the rule of international maritime law. He also explained to the delegates the management and organization of IMLI and the reason why it is a unique institution of training in the field of maritime law.

Mr. Riyaz Hamza, the NF Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law made a presentation on IMLI's visiting fellows, who are experts in different spheres of maritime law and some of whom have been coming to IMLI since its inception. One important thing to note is that these visiting fellows offer pro bono lectures ranging from a day to two weeks. His second presentation was on the IMLI-NF Cooperation. He also made a presentation on the annual schedule and life at IMLI of the NF scholars.

Ms. Elda Belja, Lecturer and Admissions Officer, did a presentation on the selection process and evaluation of eligible students for scholarship to study at IMLI. This was followed by a presentation on IMLI's success stories. In this presentation, she showcased several IMLI- NF scholars who have attained positions of prominence, not only in their respective countries, but also on the international plane.

Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice, the NF Professor in Marine Environmental Law, had the honour of introducing the IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law, Volumes I-III. She highlighted the contribution of The Nippon Foundation to the publication of the Manual by stating that both herself and Mr. Riyaz Hamza, being Nippon Foundation lecturers, are contributors to the Manual and more importantly, that she is editor of all volumes.

The visit continued on Saturday 8 February 2014 starting with a short meeting with the Director and the delegates. The rest of the day was dedicated to interviews conducted by the delegates of the IMLI-NF scholars 2013-2014 at the Institute.

On the final day of the Nippon Foundation visit, a meeting was held with the NF students and the delegates together with the Director. Ms. Terri McMillan, on behalf of her fellow Nippon Foundation scholars, presented the delegates with a gift as a token of their appreciation.

The afternoon session was the launching of the IMLI- NF Alumni Website. This website was created solely as a forum wherein IMLI- Nippon Foundation scholars can network.

On being interviewed by IMLI's media office, Captain Akatsuka said that since he got involved in the NF selection process some ten years ago, he had been looking forward to coming to IMLI on such a visit. He said that he was very happy with everything he had witnessed, from the well organised running of the Institute to the students' contentment and happiness to study under the instructions of resident professors. Captain Akatsuka gave a heartfelt thanks to the Director and all concerned for the Institute's hospitality. He hoped this would not be his last visit to the Institute.

Mr. Hashimoto, in his interview noted that he attended IMLI's 19th graduation ceremony, which was held at the end of the academic programme of the Institute. However, this year, he continued, he feels fortunate to visit the Institute when the academic year is in its most active stage. Mr. Hashimoto said that he is very pleased to have witnessed first-hand the bond between the students and the resident faculty lecturers. He says that is the nicest memory he would take back with him.

The curtain was drawn on their visit with the delegates requesting a photo to be taken next to the statue of Arvid Pardo (The Father of the New Law of the Sea) just outside the premises of the Institute.

During the visit the delegates were also very privileged to meet with the then President of Malta, Dr. George Abella at his official residence, the San Anton Palace.



Mr. Tomoyuki Hashimoto (Manager, Maritime Affairs Department, The Nippon Foundation) and Captain Koichi Akatsuka (Member, The Nippon Foundation Evaluation Committee) with the Nippon Scholars of the IMLI Class of 2013-2014

ACADEMIC YEAR 2014 – 2015 LL.M. PROGRAMME



Genae Nottage
(the BAHAMAS)



Abdulla Al-Hasan
(BAHRAIN)



Nayef Alshaikh
(BAHRAIN)



Dinan Jing
(CHINA)



Tahiana Fajardo Vargas
(the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)



Mahmood El-Habashy
(EGYPT)



Efreem Teclé
(ERITREA)



Abebe Tefera
(ETHIOPIA)



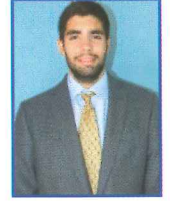
Gilbert Addo
(GHANA)



Joshua Nimako
(GHANA)



Mavis Joseph
(FIJI)



Charalampos Kazantzis
(GREECE)



Albert Lazarus
(INDIA)



Beatrice Settanni
(ITALY)



Raquel Forbes
(JAMAICA)



Simon Manduca
(MALTA)



Edward Camilleri
(MALTA)



Anoushka Kishtoo
(MAURITIUS)



Yassine Boumaden
(MOROCCO)



Osvaldo Bendzane
(MOZAMBIQUE)



Mariam Abiola Afolabi
(NIGERIA)



Adaeze Okeke
(NIGERIA)



Leonard Onoja
(NIGERIA)



Johanson Fabilane
(the PHILIPPINES)



Mayette Mendoza
(the PHILIPPINES)



Joel Peralta
(the PHILIPPINES)



Danijela Babic
(SERBIA)



Yannick Roucou
(SEYCHELLES)



Lansana Kotor-Kamara
(SIERRA LEONE)



Nuwan Peiris
(SRI LANKA)



Leticia Muraki
(TANZANIA)



Vipat Rujipavesana
(THAILAND)



Murat Sumer
(TURKEY)



Sandra Munduru
(UGANDA)



Do Duc Quang
(VIETNAM)

**ADVANCED
DIPLOMA
PROGRAMME**



Akanksha Choubey
(INDIA)



Francis Fernandes
(INDIA)



James Grech
(MALTA)



Sergey Zaytsev
(RUSSIA)