



## **JAPANESE PROFESSOR LECTURES AT IMLI**

Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Chief Researcher, National Policy Proposal & Planning Office, Daiwa Institute of Research and Visiting Professor, University of Kobe) visited recently the Institute and lectured to the 24th generation of IMLI lawyers on “The Use of Armed Guards to Defend against the Threat of Piracy”. Mr. Hasebe’s lecture was delivered within the framework of the International Maritime Security Law Course of IMLI’s LL.M. programme.

During his lecture Mr. Hasebe discussed the serious threat that piracy and armed robbery are posing to ships playing international waters. Upon providing the students with relevant information on the types of ships affected and the most frequent areas where piracy and armed robbery take place, Mr. Hasebe introduced the students to the successive measures taken to combat the threat. He explained that one of such measures is the employment on board ships of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP).



*Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Chief Researcher, National Policy Proposal & Planning Office, Daiwa Institute of Research and Visiting Professor, University of Kobe) with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and the Class of 2012/2013*

Mr. Hasebe discussed in details the legal admissibility of PCASP on board ships, the existing situation of PCASP, the Agreement concluded at the 90<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Marine Safety Committee and the Agreements in relation to the rights of Coastal and Port States. Mr. Hasebe then explained to the students the legislation enacted by different countries for the employment on board ships of PCASP. He gave an overview of the Japanese draft law on the same issue and of the Japan's contribution to improve law enforcing abilities of coastal States in high risk areas. Mr. Hasebe explained that Japan, perhaps more than other countries, depends on international trade and international shipping and it is in the interest of the country the protection of ships which play international waters. After the sad experience of World War II, Japan, as a very peaceful country, is one of the few States that has thus far not considered the employment of PCASP on board ships. He stated that, however, the international tendency on the issue, especially of developed countries, is the protection of ships engaged in international trade not only for the benefit of Port and Coastal States but also for the benefit of developing countries.

In concluding his lecture, Mr. Hasebe made special mention to the role played by The Nippon Foundation through the "Coast Guard Capacity Improvement Program to Secure Safety and Environmental Conservation in Asian Oceans" held at the Japan Coast Guard Academy since

April 2011, and “The Summit Meeting of Commanders of Asian Coast Guards” held since 2004.

When asked how he sees IMLI, Mr. Hasebe, whose last visit to IMLI was in 2006, stated that, “I recognize that IMLI is developing in every aspect. One can see such development in the Institute’s facilities as well as in the networking of its visiting professors and the growth of its students’ body which is always attracting new countries. It is always a pleasure to meet such a diverse body of students who contribute to the development of the graduates’ network. Another satisfying observation is the increased female representation which contributes to equal opportunities for women. I noted with pleasure the monument on climate change inaugurated by the UN Secretary-General during his visit to IMLI which celebrates a great initiative of the Director of the Institute, Professor David Attard.”



*Mr. Masamichi Hasebe with the Nippon Foundation scholars for the academic year 2012/2013*

Mr. Hasebe who is a member of the Nippon Foundation’s Selection Body of scholarship candidates studying at IMLI stated that, “The Nippon Foundation places a significant importance to IMLI and wants to establish significant links with developing countries’ governments. The Nippon Foundation appreciates students working with private companies, but the main purpose of the Foundation is assisting the capacity building process of developing countries, to enable these countries to have fine lawyers who can advice Presidents and Ministers how to best comply with international standards. We consider the Institute’s emphasis on the preparation of maritime

legislation drafting as a very good exercise which contributes not only to the students' domestic legislation but also to the achievement of IMO goals, and which ultimately benefits the international maritime community. I have the impression that international maritime law is not so popular with developing countries, and through IMLI and its training, such countries become aware of its importance.”

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