



## IMO CELEBRATES IMLI'S 25 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. To celebrate IMLI's silver jubilee in the service of the rule of international maritime law, H.E. Mr. Koji Sekimizu, the Secretary-General of the IMO, held a Commemorative Seminar at the IMO Headquarters in London on the 28 April 2014. 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.



*Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General, IMO) addressing the delegates at the IMO Headquarters in London*

The Topics and Panel of speakers at the event, presided by Mr. Sekimizu were:

- **Professor David Attard**, Director, IMLI  
*“IMLI – its history, present and future”*

- **The Honorable Joe Mizzi**, M.P., Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Malta  
*“IMLI – the host country perspective”*
- **Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno**, Executive Director, Nippon Foundation, Japan  
*“IMLI – the perspective of the Nippon Foundation”*
- **Mr. Jim Harrison**, Group Legal Director, Lloyd’s Register Group  
*“IMLI – a shipping industry perspective”*
- **Dr. Kofi Mbiah**, Chairman, Legal Committee, IMO  
*“IMLI – its role in supporting developing countries”*
- **Professor Dr. Frank L. Wiswall, Jr.**, CMI Vice President Honoris Causa  
*“Intersecting Lanes of International Maritime Law – Challenges for IMLI and IMO”*
- **Mrs. Gabriele Götttsche-Wanli**, Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations  
*“Emerging trends in the capacity-building needs of developing countries in the field of oceans”*

In his address, Mr. Sekimizu, stated that an array of legal measures, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the comprehensive portfolio of IMO treaty instruments, ensures an excellent job in 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. He added further that for these international legal measures to be effective, States, in their turn, need to enact appropriate domestic legislation to reflect their provisions and provide a mechanism for implementation and enforcement. Mr. Sekimizu went on to commend IMLI for being instrumental in enabling this to happen by providing a steady influx of highly trained legal professionals.

IMLI opened its doors in 1989, welcoming 18 students from 17 countries under the auspices of the IMO. It is an International Centre of Excellence for training specialists in maritime law and the general law of the sea. Special reference is placed on international rules, regulations and procedures for the safety, security and efficiency of international shipping. The protection of the marine environment and rights of seafarers are equally important. This study is offered as a postgraduate education.

IMLI offers a variety of programmes and courses in International Maritime Law. The Institute’s hallmark programme is the Masters of Law (LL.M.) in international maritime law. This programme consists of numerous modules which include international law, law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law, international maritime security law and maritime legislative drafting.

The Institute also offers a Research Degree programme leading to the award of the Degrees of Magister Juris (M. Jur.) and Doctor of Philosophy (PH.D.) in International Maritime Law.

Other programmes of the Institute include the Advance Diploma in International Maritime Law and short courses designed for both lawyers and non-lawyers.

The main purpose of the Institute since its inception has been to assist Governments, particularly those of developing countries, to implement IMO treaties and other international legal instruments. Due to the special training provided at IMLI, graduates of the Institute almost invariably return to their countries and command influential positions in their national administrations. IMLI graduates also hold influential positions in international fora.

It is thus with great pride, having trained 683 students from 130 countries, in all its programmes and courses, that it celebrates 25 years in the service of the rule of international law.

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