

## **THE NIPPON FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA TO RECEIVE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PRIZE**

The IMO Council has decided to bestow the International Maritime Prize for 2014 on Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman of The Nippon Foundation), in recognition of his contribution to the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The International Maritime Prize is awarded annually by IMO to the individual or organization judged to have made the most significant contribution to the work and objectives of the Organization. In awarding the prestigious Prize, the IMO Council recognizes Dr. Sasakawa's personal commitment to the development of future maritime leaders and his contribution to the enhancement of safety and security in vital shipping lanes.



*Dr. Yohei Sasakawa delivering a speech during a Commemorative Seminar held at the IMO Headquarters in London on 5 May 2009 to celebrate IMLI's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Dr. Sasakawa's long-standing dedication to capacity building, particularly in developing States, is evident in his devotion to maritime training and education through the initiatives of the Nippon Foundation and his unwavering support to the academic activities of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), World Maritime University (WMU) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

In this respect, IMLI notes with pride the joined programme entitled *Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Legal Order for the Oceans* which was launched in 2004 by Dr. Sasakawa during his visit to the Institute. Over the last eleven years, the Foundation's generous funding has enabled the training of 116 lawyers from 52 countries from around the globe.

The IMLI-Nippon Foundation Alumni are making their contribution in the shaping of national maritime policies and adoption of robust legal frameworks. They are being instrumental in their respective regions and are playing an important role in international diplomatic conferences which lead to the adoption of international regulations.

The Project was further extended in 2009 with the establishment of two teaching posts at IMLI, namely the Nippon Foundation Professor in Marine Environmental Law and the Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Security Law.

Recognizing the support of The Nippon Foundation to the Institute's activities, the Institute awarded the IMLI "Award for Meritorious Contribution towards the Dissemination, Harmonization and Implementation of International Maritime Law" to Dr. Sasakawa during a Seminar held in London to celebrate IMLI's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



*Dr. Yohei Sasakawa with the first beneficiaries of the 'Human Resources Development Project for Advancement of a New Legal Order on the World's Oceans' Project during his visit to the Institute in 2004 to officially launch the Project*

In the field of safety and environment, he supported actively the establishment of the Cooperative Mechanism in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, through which Governments and industry are working together to protect the environment and enhance navigational safety.

Under his leadership, The Nippon Foundation has also supported research and technological development projects on maritime safety and marine environment protection. It is worth of note that the research on the Northern Sea route, in collaboration with institutions in Norway and the Russian Federation, has been shared with the international maritime community, thereby directly contributing to the development and subsequent adoption by IMO of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code).

The International Maritime Prize consists of a sculpture in the form of a dolphin and includes a financial award, upon submission of a paper written on a subject relevant to IMO. The Prize will be presented to Dr. Sasakawa at a special ceremony, to be held later in the year.

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*\*\* For further information please contact Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Editor, IMLI e-News) at [publications@imli.org](mailto:publications@imli.org)*

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