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JAPAN HOSTS WORLD MARITIME DAY PARALLEL EVENT 2015

The 2015 World Maritime Day Parallel Event was hosted by the Government of Japan and the IMO in Japan's port city of Yokohama and its capital Tokyo. The event which took place between the 20-21 July, was attended by many distinguished personalities in the maritime community from all over the world. These include government representatives and representatives from the maritime industry, non-governmental organizations and academia. The Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General, IMO).



(L-R) Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General, IMO), Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President Designate, World Maritime University) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) during the Special Session

The theme for World Maritime Day 2015 is “Maritime Education and Training”. It aims to shed light on the broader aspect of maritime education and training, especially for its adequacy and quality. It sees the importance to maintain the quality, practical skill and ability of qualified human resources as a solid foundation for ensuring its sustainability of a safe and secure maritime

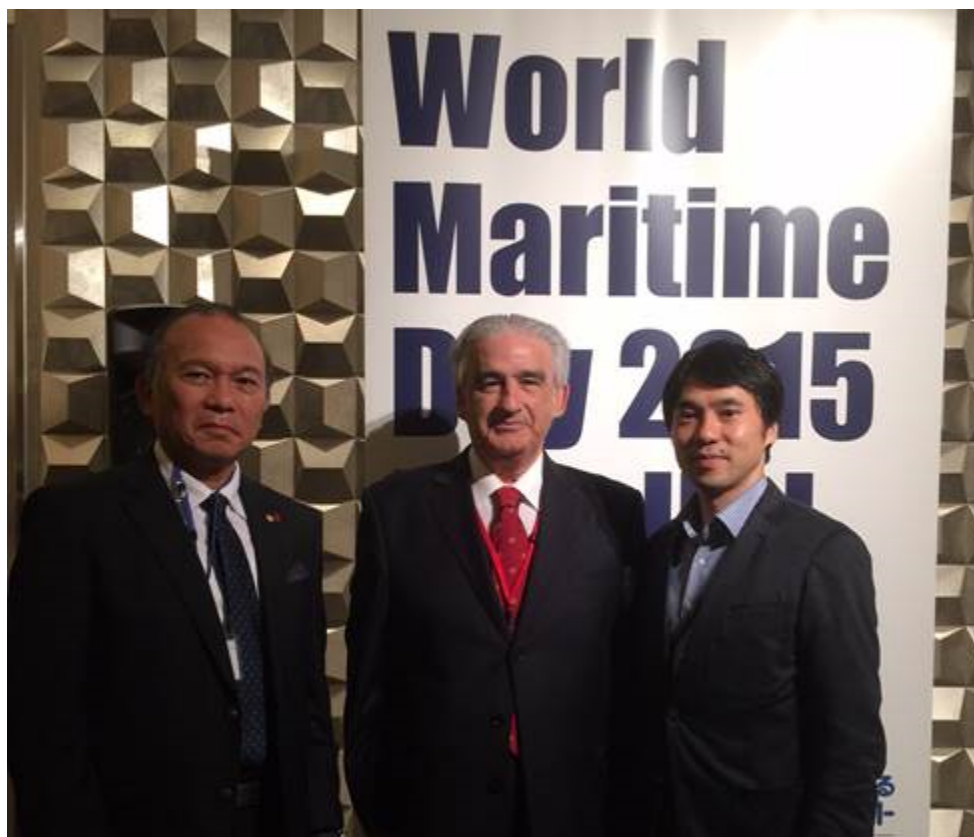
industry. Thus, the main focus of the international symposium held during the Event was on maritime education and training needs.

A Special Session was held, which was presided over by Mr. Sekimizu. This session addressed the future needs of the industry. The speakers at the Special Session were Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President, World Maritime University (WMU)).

The aim of this Session was to discuss how educational organizations could go about educating and training high quality maritime human resources, necessary for quality shipping and how they could attract the interest of future generations towards the seas and the oceans.

Mr. Sekimizu stated that IMO's role in being the global body that make maritime rules will not be altered in the future. He guaranteed that IMO will make even stronger efforts in the activities of monitoring implementation by IMO Member governments. For this reason, he said that the IMO has recently adopted an audit system. This is a major achievement for the IMO as well as a challenge for the future. In this regard, capacity building becomes very important as it will allow, not only developing countries, but also advanced countries, the capacity to implement IMO conventions.

Professor Attard stated that IMO set up IMLI to train lawyers to understand the rules of international maritime law and who would be able to advise their governments on the incorporation of IMO rules into domestic laws. He noted that IMLI has trained over 600 lawyers from over 125 countries, who speak the same language of law and therefore encourage the unification and harmonization of international maritime law.



*Professor David Attard with IMLI Graduates at the 2015 World Maritime Day Parallel Event
(L&R) Mr. Gilberto Asuque (the Philippines) and Mr. Takashi Arikawa (Japan)*

Dr. Doumbia-Henry stated that WMU is an academic Institution, which also offers professional development courses. She discussed at length, the importance of the recently approved eight recommendations in the sustainability study of WMU. She concluded by stating that it her duty as President to take this action plan forward, which she has initiated, together with her staff and the IMO.

At the commencement of the Special Session, Mr. Sekimizu announced the launching of the IMO Maritime Ambassador scheme, in furtherance of the maritime industry. He explained that in this scheme, each IMO Member state would appoint an IMO Maritime Ambassador, who will be tasked with the responsibility to promote seafaring professionals and maritime business in their country. The target group of the scheme is the younger generation, in order to increase the number of young people interested in working for the shipping industry.

The World Maritime Day 2015 Parallel Event culminated with a closing speech by Mr. Sekimizu and the ceremony marking the passing of the flag of the World Maritime Day 2016 Parallel Event by Japan to Turkey.

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