

# IMLI<sup>e</sup>-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 12, Issue No.50) 11 September, 2015

## 123<sup>rd</sup> TOKYO OCEAN FORUM

The Ocean Policy Research Institute and The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) held the 123rd Ocean Forum in Tokyo, on 22 July 2015. OPRI-SPF has been organizing the Ocean Forum for over 12 years now in order to provide information and promote understanding about the ocean to those who are interested in ocean or maritime related matters. During the event, Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) made a presentation on the role of the Institute and its contribution to the international maritime community.



*Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), making his presentation at the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ocean Forum*

In discussing IMLI's training programme, Professor Attard stated that IMLI offers a unique programme which allows students to develop expertise in international maritime law on a comparative basis under the guidance of renowned professors and experts from the major legal systems of the world. Students at IMLI undertake an exceptionally intensive and comprehensive programme covering the whole spectrum of international maritime law. These include Shipping

Law, Law of the Sea, Marine Environmental Law, Maritime Security Law, and Maritime Legislative Drafting.

Professor Attard noted that IMLI's Maritime Legislation Drafting course provides participants with the necessary legal drafting techniques they require to prepare a maritime draft law which incorporates the provisions of an international convention into the domestic law of their respective countries.

In line with the IMO strategy for the integration of women into maritime activities, Professor Attard stated that up to fifty per cent of admissions – under the IMLI Statute – are reserved for deserving women candidates.

He also discussed other programmes undertaken by IMLI, apart from its LL.M. programme for educating and training high quality maritime human resources.

Professor Attard noted that IMLI's role in educating and training high quality maritime human resources is leaving its mark in the international maritime community as confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution A/Res/69/245 entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", adopted on 29 December 2014, which:

“Recognizes the importance of the work of the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, which celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2014, as a centre of education and training of government legal advisers, mainly from developing States confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute.”



*Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) at the 123<sup>rd</sup> Ocean Forum*

In furtherance of the Institute's aim for maritime education and training, IMLI maintains strong institutional links with national and international organizations, institutions and corporations pre-eminent in the field of maritime affairs.

Professor Attard noted further that the Institute has several publications. The IMLI Manual in International Maritime Law, published by Oxford University Press, is a three-volume work which adopts an all-encompassing approach to the subject of international maritime law. Its three volumes are Law of the Sea, Shipping Law, Marine Environmental Law and Maritime Security Law. The Manual provides an in-depth analysis of all the pertinent issues in these fields. The Manual aims at providing both the academic world and practitioners with a source of information on what the law is and 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 will have a single source from which to branch out into even more detailed research in the fields.

In addition to this Manual, IMLI has also, since 2010, launched the IMLI Studies in International Maritime Law, which is dedicated to publishing original, scholarly contributions which analyze key issues in international maritime law.

Professor Attard in concluding remarked on IMLI's contribution to the international maritime community in terms of education and training, stating that due to the specialized training provided

at IMLI, graduates have gone on to become Heads of State, Ministers, Chief Justices and senior Members of the Judiciary (both national and international), Attorneys-General, Ambassadors and high-ranking officials in Maritime Administrations.

After his presentation, Professor Attard answered a number of questions from participants ranging from government officials to NGO representatives.

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