



The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 13, Issue No. 11) 11 December 2015

**MR. KOJI SEKIMIZU RECEIVES THE IMLI AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW**

On 2 December 2015, the IMLI Award for Meritorious Contribution towards the Progressive Development and Codification of International Maritime Law was conferred on Mr. Koji Sekimizu (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board). Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI) presented the Award to Mr. Sekimizu at the IMO Headquarters in the presence of many distinguished personalities from the diplomatic corps and the maritime world. The Award was bestowed on Mr. Sekimizu in recognition of his significant contribution to the international maritime community during his tenure as Secretary-General of the IMO and his endless efforts, in his capacity as the Chairman of IMLI Governing Board, to ensure that the Institute rises to the fore in the capacity-building process that complements the work of IMO.



*Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI) presenting the IMLI Award for Meritorious Contribution towards the Progressive Development and Codification of International Maritime Law to Mr. Koji Sekimizu (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board)*

In conferring the Award, IMLI acknowledges that Mr. Sekimizu has been an inspiring, dedicated and outstanding beacon of light to the international maritime community during his tenure as Secretary-General of IMO. The Organization has under his stewardship traversed historic milestones, in the process codifying international maritime rules into landmark conventions, recommendations and guidelines concerning the whole realm of international maritime law. He has thus, contributed directly and in a meaningful manner towards the progressive development and codification of international maritime law.



*(From left to right) Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President of WMU), Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to the IMO), Mr. Koji Sekimizu (IMO Secretary-General), Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI), Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Senior Legal Counsel of the Japan Association of Maritime Safety) and Mr. Nicolaos Charalambous (Director of the IMO Technical Cooperation Division)*

Mr. Koji Sekimizu was educated at the elementary and secondary school levels in Yokohama. He graduated in March 1975 with a Bachelor's Degree in engineering at the Engineering Faculty of Osaka University, and obtained a Master's Degree in engineering with a thesis on "One method for vibration analysis of a uniform beam with vibrating sub-structures" in March 1977 at Osaka University.

In April 1977, he entered the Ministry of Transport of Japan (MOT) and was appointed as a Ship Inspector in the Nagasaki district branch of Kyushu District Maritime Bureau. In April 1979, he

moved to the Headquarters of MOT and acted as the Chief Officer in charge of IMO regulations in the Safety Planning Section of the Ship Bureau and drafted various proposals to IMO's technical sub-committees.

In July 1980, he was transferred, under a special arrangement, to the Shipbuilding Research Association of Japan to engage in his duties to attend committees and sub-committees of IMO. In April 1982, after gaining the experience of participation in various IMO meetings, he was promoted to Deputy Director of the Environment Division, MOT.

He temporarily moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1984 and was appointed as Deputy Director, Second International Organizations Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, in charge of OECD related issues. On his return to MOT in September 1986, he was appointed Deputy Director, Safety Standards Division, Maritime Technology and Safety Bureau.

On 2 July 1989, he joined IMO as Technical Officer in the Sub-Division for Technology, Maritime Safety Division of IMO. In 1992 he was promoted to and appointed as Head of the Technology Section. After this, he worked for the Maritime Safety Division until October 1997.

During the above-mentioned period, he performed among other things secretariat functions to the MSC Working Group on SOLAS amendments dealing with new fire protection measures for passenger ships proposed in the wake of the *Scandinavian Star* incident and the MEPC/BCH Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, which developed the framework of MARPOL Annex VI adopted at the Marine Pollution Conference in 1997.

In October 1997, Mr. Sekimizu was promoted to Senior Deputy Director of the Marine Environment Division, and was then appointed as Director of the Marine Environment Division in August 2000. In his capacity as Director of the Marine Environment Division, he led the Marine Environment Division in discharging its responsibilities to support the work of among other things the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in dealing with the phase-out schedule of the single-hull tankers and the Condition Assessment Scheme proposed in the aftermath of the *Erika* (1999) and *Prestige* (2002) incidents and handling a number of emerging new environmental issues including harmful anti-fouling paints, ballast water management, ship recycling, particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs) and greenhouse gas emissions from ships.

In January 2004, he was appointed as Director of Maritime Safety Division and has contributed to the activities of IMO in preparation, adoption and implementation of international rules and regulations including:

- Implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code;
- Development of the Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) system;

- Development of the Goal Based Standards; and
- The comprehensive review of the 1978 STCW Convention.

Among some of the activities related to the efforts to protect vital shipping lanes, Mr. Sekimizu has made major contributions to the creation of the Cooperative Mechanism established by the three littoral States in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore; and the adoption of the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

On 28 June 2011, Mr. Sekimizu was elected Secretary-General by the 106th session of the Council and, having been approved by the 27th session of Assembly, appointed, on 1st December 2011, the seventh Secretary-General of IMO by the 107th session of Council for the period from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2015.

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