

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER VISITS IMLI

Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Senior Legal Counsel, Japan Association of Marine Safety and Member of the Nippon Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee), visited IMLI on 14 November 2016 and had the opportunity to meet the Director, the academic staff and the Nippon Foundation scholars for the academic year 2016-2017.



Professor David Attard presenting a gift to Mr. Masamichi Hasebe on behalf of the Nippon Foundation scholars (present in the photo) for the academic year 2016-2017

The purpose of Mr. Hasebe's visit was to familiarise himself with this year's scholars and to hold tête-à-tête conversions with each of them.

In an interview with the editor of the IMLI e-News, reproduced below, Mr. Hasebe expressed his appreciation to the staff of IMLI for what he described as a well co-ordinated and sincere assistance provided to the students in order to make them concentrate on a very intensive curriculum. He admitted that he was "truly satisfied."

What is the purpose of your visit to IMLI?

I am a member of the Nippon Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee and am in charge of facilitating the network of the IMLI –Nippon Foundation graduates. In the past, I have just visited IMLI at the time of graduation, but I felt that it is quite important to know each of the Nippon Foundation scholars and possibly at the beginning of the academic year. This is why I decided to embark on this visit. The Nippon Foundation is not only financially contributing to the students, but also the Foundation would like to support the Nippon Fellows' career building in the medium and long term and that is why it is important to know each other and to know what kind of assistance may be offered to the Fellows.

Why is The Nippon Foundation encouraged to be engaged with IMLI?

The Nippon Foundation has a very wide range of relationships with established maritime organisations, not just IMLI (but also WMU, ITLOS, DOALOS, etc.) Among these organisations, I may say that IMLI is one of the most important organisations because most of the graduates from IMLI will assume senior positions of responsibility once they return to their home country. This is why the Foundation considers IMLI as a priority. Also, in general, The Nippon Foundation places importance on capacity building. For example, many large economies want to provide aid to developing countries, but they do so by building infrastructure such as railway, etc. On the other hand, the Nippon Foundation wants to build capacity because infrastructure can deteriorate but capacity, when built, will last forever. This is quite a meaningful assistance and investment for the Foundation.

What would you like to see improved or developed in the relationship between The Nippon Foundation and IMLI?

Frankly, I think that not so many people, even within the IMO society have realized the importance of IMLI. I would like to contribute to expanding and maintaining the network of the IMLI alumni; I would also like to contribute to increasing awareness of the importance of IMLI, as widely as possible in the international fora, and if IMLI should come up with ideas that will help to expand this awareness, the Nippon Foundation may support that.

What is your impression of the current Nippon Foundation Fellows?

In the past, I only met them at the graduation, when they tend to be tired and busy. This is why I decided this time to be here at the beginning of the academic period. And I must say, I am very grateful to see all of the Nippon Fellows really enjoying studying here and communicating with each other. For most of them, this is a first time experience studying in such an international

atmosphere, cooperating with students from other countries. All of them speak good English and they are happy to study here and are enjoying life in Malta. I found it very gratifying that all the students highly appreciate the sincere hospitality and assistance given by all IMLI staff. This is very much appreciated by the donors who value a well-coordinated and sincere assistance provided to the students in order to make them concentrate on a very intensive curriculum. I am truly satisfied.

What is your message to the Nippon Fellows and other IMLI students?

I studied my Master's Degree in Law at University College London, one of the best in maritime law in the world. Even so, as far as professors and lecturers are concerned, IMLI students have an added benefit as they can meet many internationally well-known professors and lecturers. It is an exceptionally good opportunity for them to get to know and being taught by such professionals; it is quite an amazing chance. After the completion of their study at IMLI, I would like all our alumni to utilise not only their knowledge but also this kind of network, whether the one established among themselves or the network established between the students and the visiting fellows, as this will help them in their career development. I want IMLI graduates to contribute not only to their government but also to IMO, ITLOS, DOALOS, to mention a few.

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