

IMLLe-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 15, Issue No. 19) 9 January 2018

IMLI GRADUATES ATTEND CONFERENCE ON THE CREATION OF NEW 'WOMEN IN MARITIME' NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA

Three IMLI graduates (S.P. Paula Beatriz Grillo from Argentina (Class 2005-2006) CC. JT. Carolina Riesco Fuenzalida from Chile (Class 2009-2010) and Lt. Liliana Díaz Medina from Mexico (Class 2016-2017)) participated in a Regional Conference on "Women in the Maritime Authorities of Latin and Central America" held in Valparaíso, Chile between 13 and 15 December 2017.



IMLI graduates (left to right) Lt. Liliana Díaz Medina from Mexico (Class 2016-2017), S.P. Paula Beatriz Grillo from Argentina (Class 2005-2006) and CC. JT. Carolina Riesco Fuenzalida from Chile (Class 2009-2010)

The Conference which was organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Ministry of Transport of Malaysia and the Maritime Authority of Chile was attended by delegates from 18 countries in Latin America, namely Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. Each delegation presented the activities driven by women in the maritime sector of their country, including port and maritime activities of the public and private sectors.

The three IMLI graduates led the delegations of their respective countries and were part of the editorial group that drafted the Declaration of Valparaíso. The purpose of this document is to create a "Network of Women of the Maritime Authorities of Latin America (the Red de Mujeres de Autoridades Marítimas de Latinoamérica or Red-MAMLa,)" in order to empower them, through their inclusion in the activities of the Maritime Authorities of the region. This initiative in the region will also contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5, which seeks to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. Financial support for the event which was hosted by the Maritime Authority of Chile (DIRECTEMAR), was provided by Malaysia.

During the conference, the IMLI graduates shared their experience at IMLI and discussed issues such as professional development, training and the challenges that women in the maritime field encounter *en route* to success.

The participation of these graduates in such a high-level conference is indeed a clear testimony of the wisdom behind the IMLI policy of reserving fifty percent of the studentship positions to deserving women candidates.

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