

IMLI *e*-News

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IMO FOCAL POINT FOR WOMEN IN MARITIME LECTURES AT IMLI

Ms. Helen Buni (Focal Point, the Women in Maritime Programme, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 26 April 2019 and held a dialogue on “IMO’s Women in Maritime Programme in the Promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals” with the IMLI Class of 2018-2019.



Ms. Helen Buni (Focal Point, the Women in Maritime Programme, Technical Cooperation Division of the IMO) with the IMLI Class of 2018-2019

Ms. Buni began her lecture by making reference to the study, “The Bottom Line: Corporate Performance and Women's Representation on Boards” which confirmed that countries, companies and parliaments with more gender equality have better economic growth, better performance and better legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support, respectively. Therefore, equality for women means progress for all.

Ms. Buni described the current theme of World Maritime Day, “Empowering Women in the Maritime Community” as an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to highlight the important contribution of women within the maritime sector. She stated that the theme gives IMO the opportunity to work with various maritime stakeholders towards achieving SDG 5 which

calls for an environment where women are identified for career development opportunities in maritime administrations, ports and maritime training institutes.



Ms. Helen Buni signing the IMLI Visitors Book

On Why a Goal on Gender Equality is included in the SDGs, Ms. Buni explained that Women and girls represent half of the world's population, but evidence revealed that the rights and opportunities of women and girls are not equal to those of men and boys in areas of social and economic development. Therefore, addressing this inequality gap is pertinent.

She briefed the students on IMO's continuous support for the participation of women in both shore-based and sea-going posts under the slogan: Training-Visibility-Recognition. IMO supports

gender equality and the empowerment of women through gender-specific fellowships; by facilitating access to high-level technical training for women in the maritime sector in developing countries.

Ms. Buni also discussed the challenges facing women around the world such as Gender-based violence, Economic empowerment, Access to justice, Access to land and credit and Access to education and opportunities, among others.

Ms. Helen Buni joined IMO in 2003. As Focal Point for the Women in Maritime Programme, she delivers capacity-building technical assistance activities that promote women in the ports and maritime sector around the world. She graduated with a BA (LLB) (Honours) in Law and Spanish from Bristol University, United Kingdom and undertook the Legal Practice Course at BPP Law School in London, training to be a lawyer specialising in commercial litigation and maritime law.

When she joined IMO, it was still a largely male-dominated environment, prompting her to take a pivotal role in the development of a strategy for the integration of women in the maritime sector.

She is fluent in English and Spanish.

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