Ms. Sakura Kuma (Executive Director, Yokohama-Kawasaki International Port (YKIP)) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 6 February 2020 and delivered a lecture to the IMLI Class of 2019-2020. Her lecture which formed part of the Institute’s specialized short course on “Law of Ports”, addressed environmental initiatives at ports which correspond to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2020 Global Sulphur Cap.
Ms. Kuma started her lecture by giving a brief introduction on the establishment and operation of the YKIP, referring to funding, location, management and strategic goals of the Port. She introduced the students to the on-shore power supply facilities already available at the Port and those preparing to enter into operation. Additionally, Ms. Kuma presented the hydrogen experiment conducted by the Port so as to supply facilities and equipment at the port with energy produced from solar and wind powers contributing to the achievement of corresponding IMO goals. She also covered the 2020 the LNG Bunkering Development Plan of YKIP.

Ms. Kuma informed the students of the work of the Clean Marine Fuels (CMF) Working Group of the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH). She elaborated on the definition of the Working Group, its mission, intended ways to achieve the mission and related tools such as IAPH safety checklists for LNG bunker operations and IAPH CMF audit toolkit for LNG bunker operators. Ms. Kuma also gave an overview of the next initiatives of the Working Group such as IAPH Marine Fuel Gap Analysis Tool for Ports and invited all the students to ‘bring their ideas on the subject to the table’ and participate to achieve common goals. Ms. Kuma concluded her lectures by highlighting the role of women in ports and inviting the IMLI female students to embrace the opportunities and to lead future initiatives.
Ms. Kuma is the Executive Director of Yokohama Kawasaki International Port Corporation (YKIP). Her main responsibilities cover marketing and sales, terminal development as well as LNG bunkering related business. She has been seconded from Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) to YKIP since January 2017. Since joining NYK in 2001, she has spent about 13 years on container shipping and terminal business both internationally and domestically, building up professional skills over a number of oversea container terminal M&A projects. The rest of the years were dedicated to project cargo oversea marketing, global human resource management etc.

As part of the endeavours toward the LNG bunkering development at Port of Yokohama, Ms. Kuma actively cooperates with industrial associations, ports in Europe/North America/Asia, lobbying organizations, in order to seek collaborations. She is Director of Eco Bunker Shipping Ltd which was established in 2018, and Director of the International Propeller Club of Japan (IPCJ).
Ms. Kuma is a key member of Investment /Infrastructure/ Stakeholder Committees under SEA\LNG, as well as IAPH working group on Clean Marine Fuel. She holds a Master’s Degree of Business and Administration from Tokyo Metropolitan University.

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