



## WORLD MARITIME DAY CELEBRATED

This year's World Maritime Day was celebrated throughout the international maritime community on 24 September 2020. On this day, celebrations are held throughout the world to focus attention on the importance of safety of life at sea, maritime security, protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of the oceans, and further, to emphasize a particular aspect of the work of the IMO.



During the online event, Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO) stated that the theme for this year's World Maritime Day "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet", is of much relevance now and will be for years to come. Mr. Lim noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that shipping, the most reliable, efficient and cost-effective method of international transportation that carries more than 80% of global trade, remains the leading facilitator of the global economy. Consequently, he continued, shipping and maritime will be at the heart of the economic recovery and future sustainable growth far into the future, both at sea and ashore, supporting an inclusive and resilient economy to underpin the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

Mr. Lim further noted that the theme for this year will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and showcase the work that the IMO and its Member States are undertaking to achieve them, stressing that the 2030 Agenda

will only be realized with a sustainable transport sector supporting world trade and facilitating the global economy.

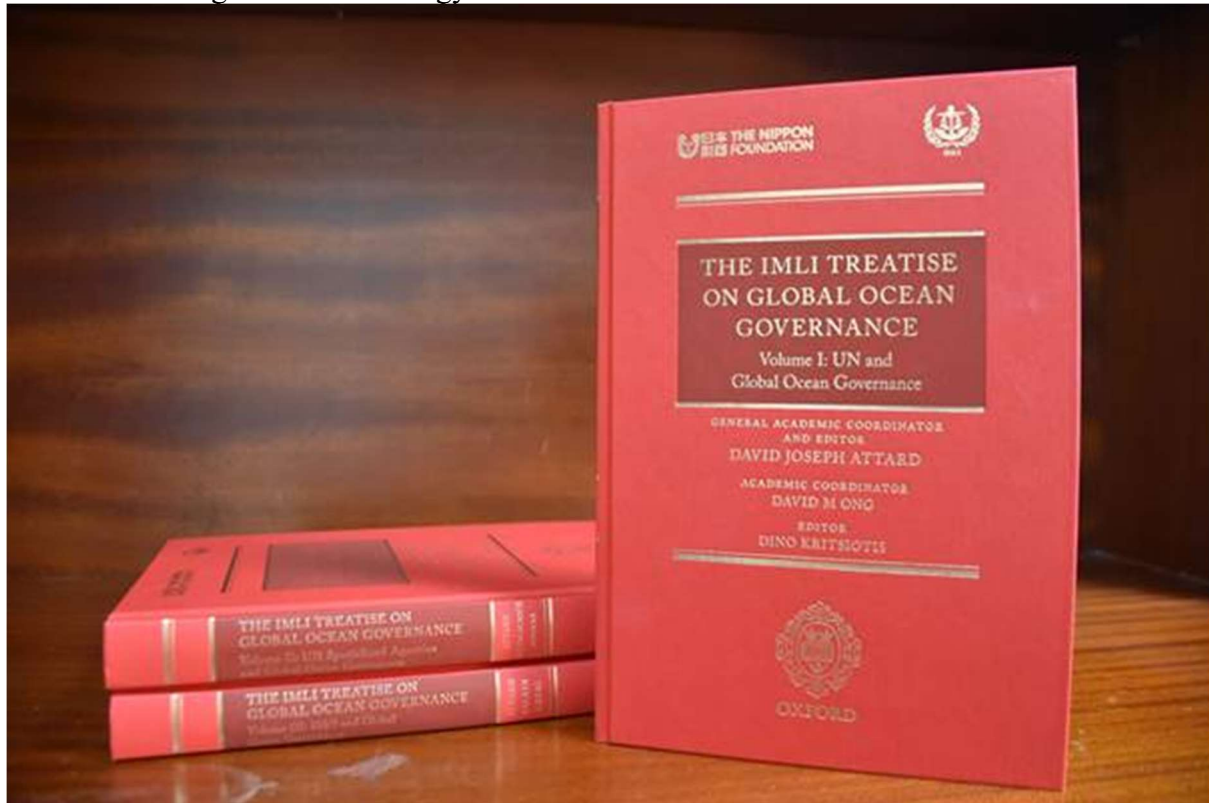


The transition towards sustainability has commenced in the shipping industry, with the support of the IMO regulatory framework. The IMO has adopted several measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the sulphur content of ships' fuel oil, implement the Ballast Water Management Convention, protect the polar regions, reduce marine litter, improve the efficiency of shipping through the electronic exchange of information, meet the challenges of the digitalization of shipping, and enhance the participation of women in the maritime community. The predicament of seafarers during this pandemic has not gone unnoticed by the international maritime community, neither has their commitment and sacrifice to serve on the world's merchant fleet. They have also been in the forefront of transporting vital medical supplies, food and other basic goods that are critical for the COVID-19 response and recovery.

IMLI celebrates World Maritime Day by affirming its commitment to providing the means towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, through its intensive education, training, and research agenda, IMLI has enhanced its efforts to assist governments with developing the cadre of specialists necessary to shape national policies designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals encapsulated in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a more effective global ocean governance in the interest of present and future generations.

Undeniably, the Institute's comprehensive training contributes toward the implementation of Goals 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16 and 17 bearing in mind the requirements of developing countries, particularly Least Developed States. In particular, IMLI has contributed to the achievement of SDG 14 through its quality training and research in the areas of global ocean governance and law of the sea. Its major research project undertaken with the support of The Nippon

Foundation, led to the publication in 2018 by the Oxford University Press of the seminal work entitled “The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance”. Written by 58 world leading experts, the three-volume Treatise examined the current state of ocean governance, its limitations including the lacunae and the weaknesses, and proposes actions to ensure an effective future governance strategy.



The reason for which the Institute was established in 1988 is best reflected in Goal 4. The vision of its founding fathers was for IMLI to provide the platform necessary to enhance capacity-building, particularly in the developing world, through quality training in international maritime law for sustainable development across the globe. The participation of students from 147 States and territories bears testament to this commitment.

In the light of the Institute policy, dating back to 1988, of reserving fifty per cent of the places in its programmes for qualified women candidates, female participation, throughout the years, continued to grow. The Institute has trained nearly 500 women – many of them occupying leading positions in the maritime sector – thereby contributing to the realization of SDG 5.



The Institute also mirrors the international concern for seafarers and has, since its early years of operation, raised awareness in its students of their peculiar status in the maritime industry. In recent years, the Institute in collaboration with The International Transport Worker's Federation (ITF) Seafarers' Trust has allowed students hailing from developing countries to participate in the IMLI training thereby meeting their needs to develop capacity in international maritime law to ensure safe and decent working conditions on board vessels.

In continuation of its contribution to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), IMLI prepares to welcome on 12 October 2020 the 32nd generation of students who will attend its programmes and courses and, at the end of the academic year, will join a formidable network of nearly 1,100 maritime professionals who are serving proudly the rule of international maritime law for sustainable shipping and sustainable planet.

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