



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES LECTURESHIP ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW

The Nippon Foundation wishes to extend its contributions to IMLI beyond funding students following the Institute's programmes and the establishment of a Professorship on Marine Environmental Law within the Institute's Faculty by establishing a Lectureship on International Maritime Security Law.

Presently there are more than 85,000 ships (of more than 100 GT) plying the world's oceans, loading and unloading different kinds of cargoes in over 3,000 ports, including the utilization of 13 million containers. This represents more than 90% of the world's trade in goods carried by sea which virtually makes maritime transport the lifeblood of the world's economy. The disruption of this lifeblood is therefore ideal for terrorist and criminals.

Traditionally, maritime security encompassed human trafficking, smuggling, piracy, and the movement of illicit materials such as narcotics and weapons. This changed in 1985 when the *Achille Lauro* was taken over by a group of terrorists in Mediterranean Sea and in the process killed one of its passengers. Another event that changed the outlook of maritime security is the tragedy of 9/11. In both instances, the maritime industry through the IMO reacted by adopting necessary measures that would enhance maritime security both on ships and in ports.

Another recent and urgent maritime security concern is the piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Aden, particularly in the coast of Somalia which are making headlines everyday where pirates are taking over vessels passing through the Gulf, taking all crew as hostages and releasing them only after the ship-owners pay ransom demand.

IMO has adopted the necessary international instruments to ensure that the flow of goods necessary for the functioning of the world economy will not be disrupted. However, considering that the IMO has no enforcement powers, it is necessary for these international instruments to be domesticated by individual States so that an effective enforcement of these instruments at national level will be attained.

In the light of the foregoing circumstances, the Nippon Foundation Lectureship on International Maritime Security Law established at IMLI aims at the promotion of improved legal framework for the enhancement of maritime security both on ships and ports; the promotion of cooperation between States to put an end to the ongoing piracy and armed robbery in many parts of the world specifically on the Straits of Malacca and off the coast of Somalia; and the promotion of the adoption of international regulations relating to maritime security with emphasis on the recent events on the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.

The Nippon Foundation Lectureship on International Maritime Security Law will attain its objectives through the development of a detailed course on International Maritime Security Law at IMLI; the promotion of research in international maritime security law; and the incorporation of international conventions on all areas of international maritime security law into domestic laws through maritime legislation drafts prepared at IMLI.

The deadline for submission of applications for The Nippon Foundation Lectureship on International Maritime Security Law is 9 August 2010.

For further information please visit our Institute's website at <http://www.imli.org/lmenu7.htm>.

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*** For further information please contact Ms. Elda Belja (Editor, IMLI e-News) at publications@imli.org*