



IMLI ALUMNI IN PACIFIC REGION

IMLI Alumni from Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT), with the assistance, and under the auspices, of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Maritime Programme (SPC-RMP), have organized themselves to form the Pacific International Maritime Law Association (PIMLA), which was set up in July 2005.



PIMLA Members during the joint PIMLAR Review and ILO Seminar-Workshop held in the first week of October 2006, in Suva, Fiji

PIMLA, a legal entity under Fiji laws, is the principal forum for international professionals in the maritime sector of the PICT. Its main objectives are to: discuss and pursue maritime issues of concern to the region; give advice to regional and national governments and other organizations in enhancing the uniformity and harmonization of maritime practices; and promote and enhance maritime capacity building.

PIMLA aims to promote legal maritime interests within the region through advocacy roles and dissemination of information to relevant legal counterparts in the region. The main purpose of the Association is to assist the SPC-RMP and other regional organizations as well as national institutions in the implementation of obligations under

international maritime conventions. SPC-RMP is the focal point for coordinating the approved action plan.

Regular membership in PIMLA is principally composed of graduates of IMLI from Fiji Islands, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; but the roster of regular members is not limited to IMLI graduates and also include other lawyers working within the maritime sector in the Pacific region. Associate membership extends to any maritime professional who applies in writing to the secretary of the Association and whose application is accepted and approved by the Association.

PIMLA has been invited by the SPC-RMP to assist in the review of the Pacific Islands Maritime Laws and Regulations (PIMLAR). They also have been requested to review the new ILO Maritime Labor Conventions. PIMLA has submitted their recommendations to the PIMLAR Review Committee in a recent seminar conducted in the first week of October 2006, at SPC-RMP in Suva, Fiji.

The IMO has recognized the importance of PIMLA especially with respect to the review of maritime legislation of the region and has allocated funds to the SPC-RMP to ensure the success of the project.

PIMLA is also presently engaged in extending assistance in the field of maritime law, particularly in reviewing and drafting laws to incorporate relevant international maritime conventions into the domestic laws of the Pacific Island Countries of Tuvalu, Niue, Marshall Islands and Cook Islands. Other States in the region have realized the value of the services being extended by PIMLA and have sent requests for assistance; these requests are currently being prioritized by the Association.

This initiative by the SPC-RMP to organize IMLI Alumni, which gave rise to the creation of PIMLA, is an excellent example of a regional effort to utilize human resources available and for capacity building for the benefit of the general maritime sector in the region. The effort of PIMLA to provide their expertise to the maritime transport sector of the PICT is remarkable because it perfectly encapsulates IMLI's raison d'être. PIMLA has succeeded in congregating like-minded persons to work and contribute towards a common goal: the better governance of the sea, albeit within a regional context. This undertaking underscores the importance for IMLI graduates to remain in touch and to share their respective experiences and expertise towards this common goal. This, in essence, is the role that the global network of IMLI graduates are called to fulfill.

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