



IMLI COMMENCES ITS LAW OF TREATIES PROGRAMME

IMLI's first dedicated programme on the Law of Treaties, commenced today 30 November 2020. During the opening ceremony, the initiating remarks were given by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and the welcoming address delivered by Mr. Frederick J. Kenney Jr. (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division), on behalf of Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO).



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) giving the opening remarks

Professor Attard warmly welcomed the 148 participants who comprised current IMLI students together with other participants from all over the world, including Ambassadors, Representatives of Permanent Missions to IMO, IMO Regional Offices Coordinators, Foreign Officers, Maritime Administrations Experts, academics and other practitioners to the programme. He informed that IMO is the world leading Organization with over one hundred

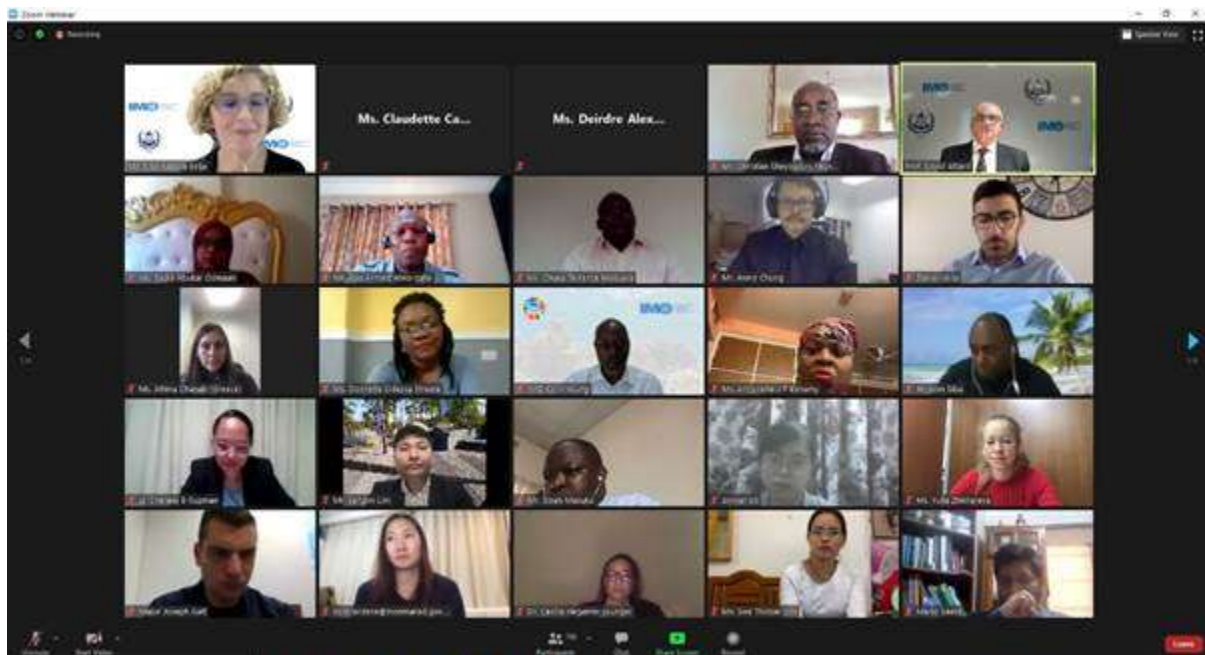
rules and instruments under its belt. He stated further that except for one of these instruments, IMO has no enforcement powers and depends on individual States to enforce the obligations enshrined in them. Therefore, he noted, that efforts must be made to give States the expertise necessary to give force of law to these instruments. Professor Attard remarked that building such expertise in the drafting of legal instruments and transposing them into national laws has been the hallmark of the Institute for over 30 years. He noted that the Programme on the Law of Treaties will also be a tool to empower and build expertise in the area of the Law of Treaties.



Mr. Frederick J. Kenney Jr. (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) delivering the welcoming address

Mr. Kenney, in his welcoming address, on behalf of the Secretary-General, welcomed the participants to the programme. He registered his delight that Professor Attard has turned a mere conversation held between them earlier this year into this esteemed programme. Mr. Kenney reminisced his observation during the mentioned conversation, on how the technical committees of the IMO were frequently seeking legal advice on the application of treaty law to proposals under consideration by them. He noted further that it was his belief that all IMO delegates will benefit by having more information available to them on the principles of Treaty Law that applies in the development of IMO regulatory regime. He registered his satisfaction at the fact that many current IMO delegates are attending the programme. He assured them that

the information which they will gather from the lectures will help them considerably with their work at IMO.



Mr. Kenney remarked that the programme has come at an opportune time, especially in relation to the devastating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on seafarers, which has been a regression in the rule of law in the maritime sector. He noted that had the appropriate principles of Treaty Law been applied, much of this human suffering would have been avoided. He encouraged the participants, who would have acquired vast knowledge in this subject area, to address similar situations in the future in a manner that will uphold and bring about growth in the rule of international maritime law.

Mr. Kenney concluded by noting that IMLI has developed a comprehensive and exciting syllabus for the programme. He assured the participants that with the distinguished group of lecturers and experts that will address the programme, all, including himself, will be able to learn something valuable.

Ms. Elda Belja (Senior Lecturer, IMLI) discussed administrative matters relating to the programme, which was followed by the and closing of the opening ceremony.

** If you do not want to receive IMLI e-News in future, please return this message to the above address with request to DELETE in the subject field.*

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