

IMO DIRECTOR OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT DIVISION LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada (Director of Marine Environment Division, IMO) delivered a lecture today 14 December to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021 entitled ‘*The Role and Achievements of the IMO's Marine Environment Division*’. Mr. Yamada was welcomed and introduced to the Class by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), who described him as a man of great experience, whose work dates back to his engagement with the Japanese Ministry of Transport and later as part of the Japan delegation to IMO.

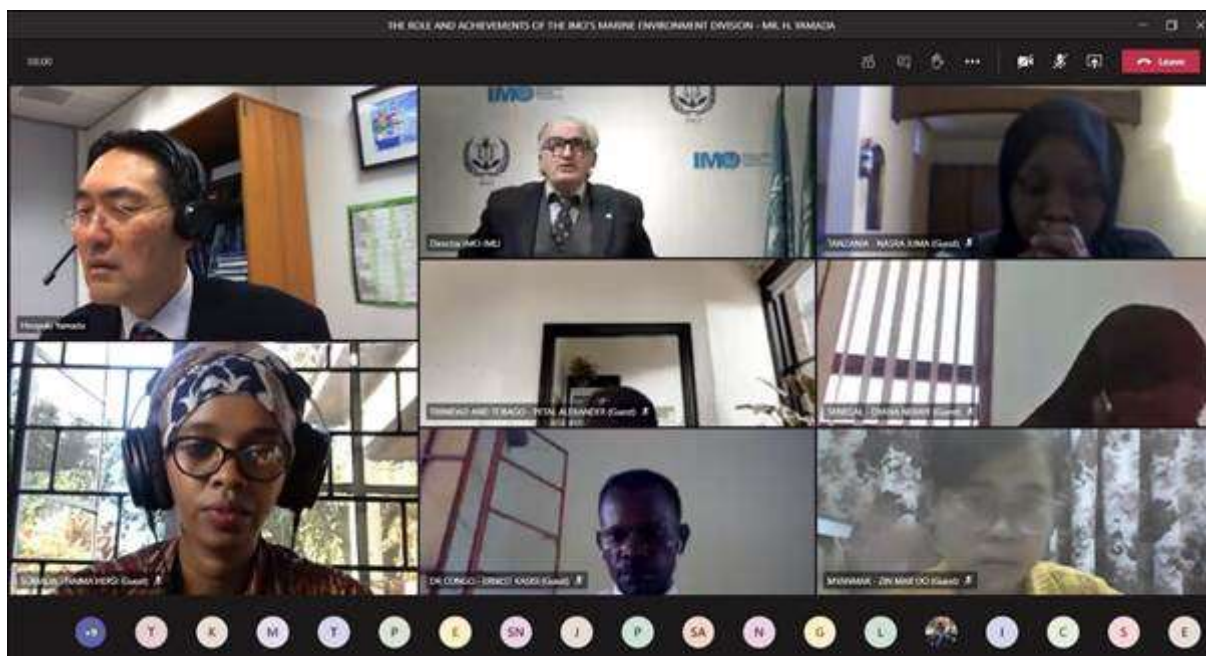


Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada (Director of Marine Environment Division, IMO)

In his lecture, Mr. Yamada focused on the recent and immediate concerns over the decision-making process at IMO under the COVID-19 specific situation. He discussed the move from the normal IMO decision-making meeting process to virtual meetings, which he noted are quite different, in a lot of respects, from normal physical meetings. Mr. Yamada went on to discuss

how the IMO can achieve success using virtual means for its meetings and in doing so, also discussed the Organization's current decision-making procedure and practice, including the platforms used for efficiency. He noted that voting is an established procedure at IMO which is currently being done based on the Interim Guidance for the Committees. Mr. Yamada discussed the Virtual 75th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), which was held from 16 to 20 November 2020. He explained how the adoption of mandatory instruments relating to MARPOL Annex VI and GHG reduction was achieved through this virtual Session.

A series of interesting questions were asked by the students following his lecture which Mr. Yamada tackled brilliantly.



After graduating from Tokyo University in Engineering and Naval Architecture in 1985, Mr. Yamada worked for the Japanese Ministry of Transport (currently the Ministry of Lands, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism). He further obtained a Master Degree in International and Economic Law from Yokohama National University. He occupied several positions at the Maritime Bureau in the Ministry, such as ship surveyor, PSC officer, and posts in planning and legislative sections. He also served at the Japanese Embassy in London, attending most of the IMO meetings from 1997 to 2000.

Mr. Yamada joined the IMO Secretariat in 2005 and engaged in various technical and operational matters in the Maritime Safety Division as the Secretary of some Sub-Committees under Maritime Safety Committee and MEPC. In October 2018, he was appointed as Director

of Marine Environment Division. As the Director of the Division, Mr. Yamada is tasked with many environmental challenges, in particular, reduction of GHG emissions from ships, marine plastic litter and various ocean issues, to name but a few.

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