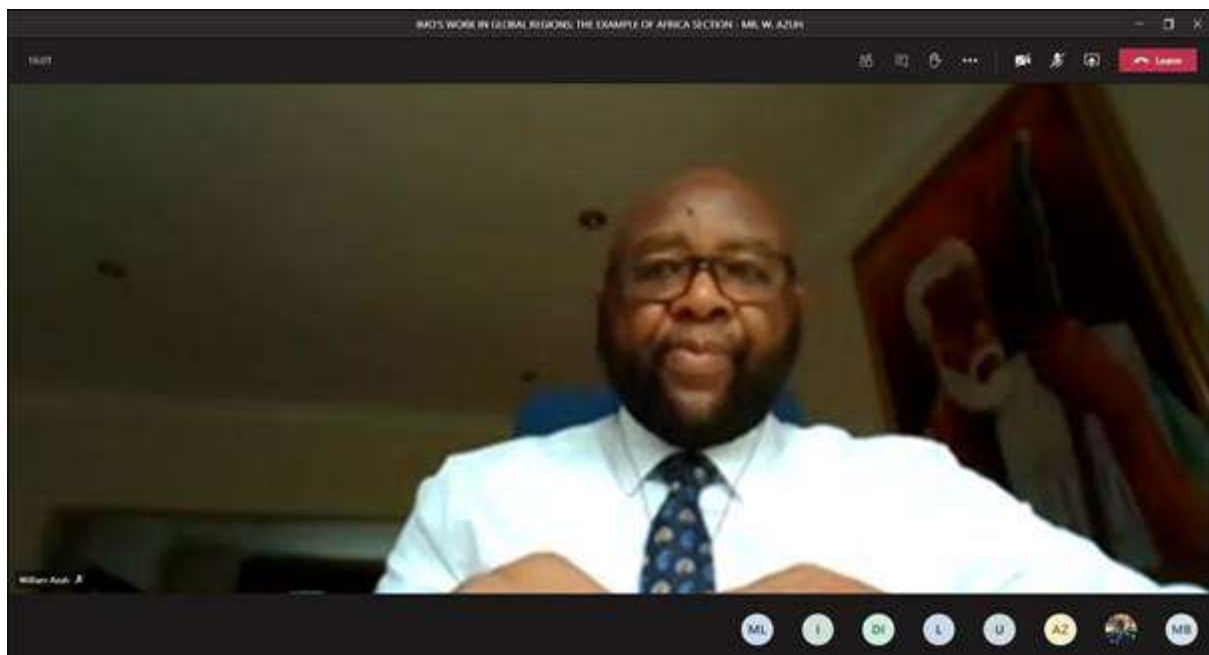




HEAD OF THE AFRICA SECTION, SUBDIVISION FOR MARITIME DEVELOPMENT, IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION LECTURES AT IMLI

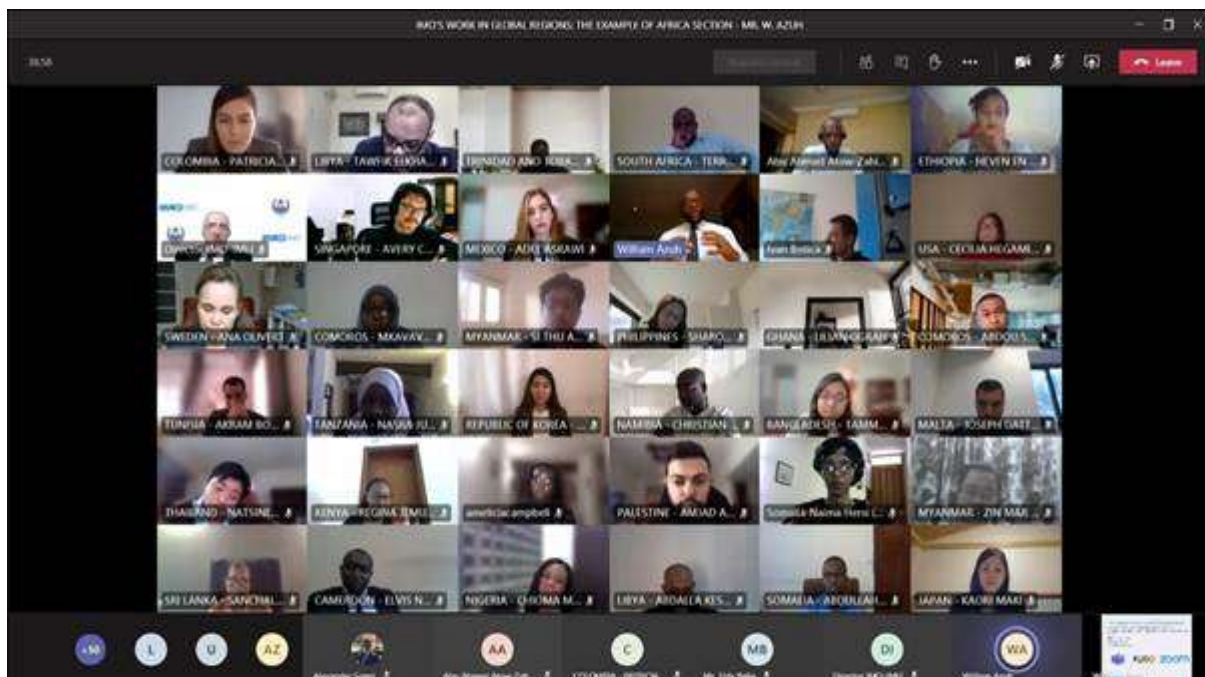
Mr. William Azuh, (Head, Africa Section, Subdivision for Maritime Development, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) delivered a lecture to the students of the IMLI Class of 2020-2021 on “*IMO's Work in Global Regions: The Example of Africa Section*”.



Mr. William Azuh, (Head, Africa Section, Subdivision for Maritime Development, IMO Technical Cooperation Division)

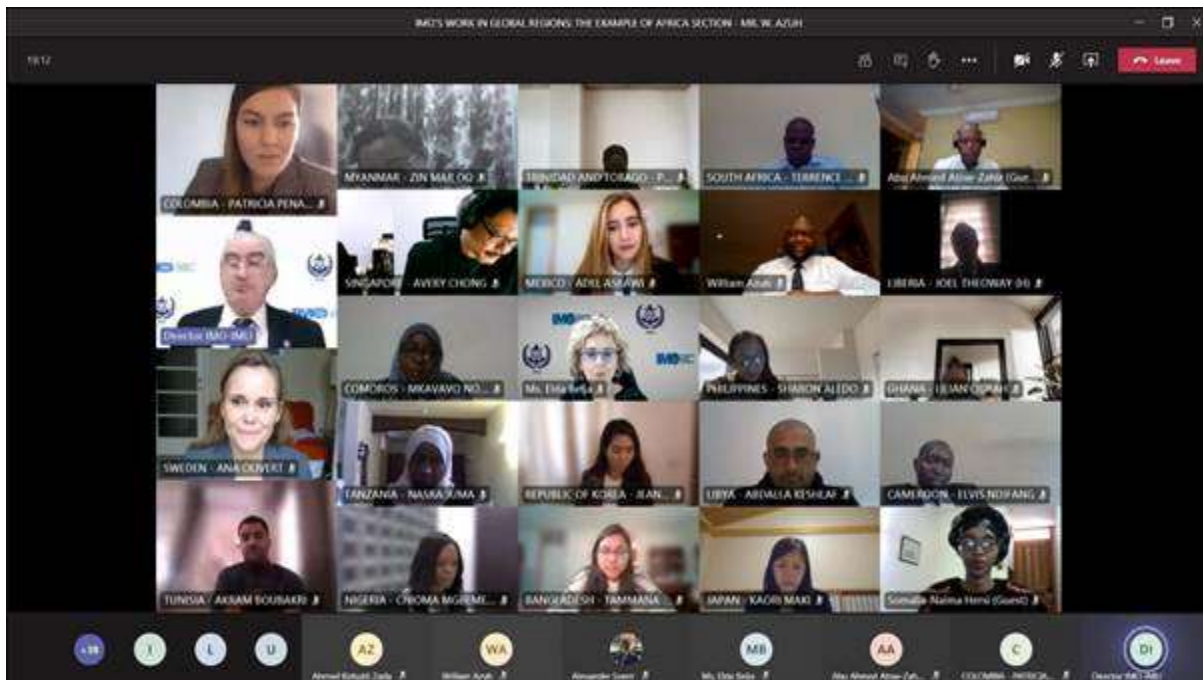
Mr. Azuh commenced his lecture by discussing the IMO Regional Presence Scheme in Africa. He noted that one of the many goals of IMO is to ensure that its instruments are effectively implemented and, to achieve this it relies on building and sustaining the necessary human and institutional capacities for the beneficiary Member States.

Mr. Azuh informed the students that IMO does not have “regional offices” in the true sense of the word but “regional presence” which facilitates the Organization’s input in national and regional development plans and policies. He then explained the role of the Regional Coordinators within the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). Mr. Azuh further discussed the key principles of the ITCP and the swift and early steps that were taken by IMO to ensure the implementation of technical assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.



In his lecture, Mr. Azuh also reviewed and highlighted the importance of the 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy) which he noted is an African-driven, all inclusive, overreaching, coherent and multidisciplinary strategy, with a long-term vision to address the continent’s multifaceted maritime challenges. He also provided timelines and deliverables for the full realization of the Strategy.

He concluded his lecture by informing the students that the focus of IMO is no longer on the promulgation of new instruments but on implementation by States of the existing ones. To this end, he praised and reiterated the role of IMLI in enhancing capacity-building for the realization of the Organization’s objectives. He therefore encouraged the students to put the expertise which they have gained at IMLI into excellent use in their countries and to ensure effective implementation of IMO instruments to which their countries are bound.



In thanking Mr. Azuh for his insightful lecture, Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) also used this opportunity to thank his colleagues for their constant support to IMLI. He noted that the recent IMO audit scheme shows that the lack of human expertise is a root cause for failure of implementation of adopted instruments and hopes that IMLI's contribution will continue to make a positive impact in this regard.

Mr. Azuh has cognate experience in the maritime industry spanning more than 28 years, some of which was spent with his national Maritime Administration (Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency NIMASA), where he was a Director.

From 2000 to early 2011, Mr. Azuh was Deputy and later Alternate Permanent Representative of Nigeria to IMO, a position he held effectively, visibly, and productively for his country. At various times, Mr. Azuh was the President of IMO Maritime Attaches Club, Board Member, WMU, Chairman IMSO Assembly, amongst other high-profile positions within and outside IMO.

Mr. Azuh was also one of the architects of the African Union 2050 Aim Strategy, an African Integrated Maritime Strategy which is one of the most important comprehensive maritime strategies for Africa.

He holds a Masters' Degree in Maritime Policy from the University of Greenwich, London. He brings to the maritime sector, a wealth of hands-on experience. He is responsible for human

and institutional maritime capacity building for 70 countries in Africa, Arab States and the Mediterranean.

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