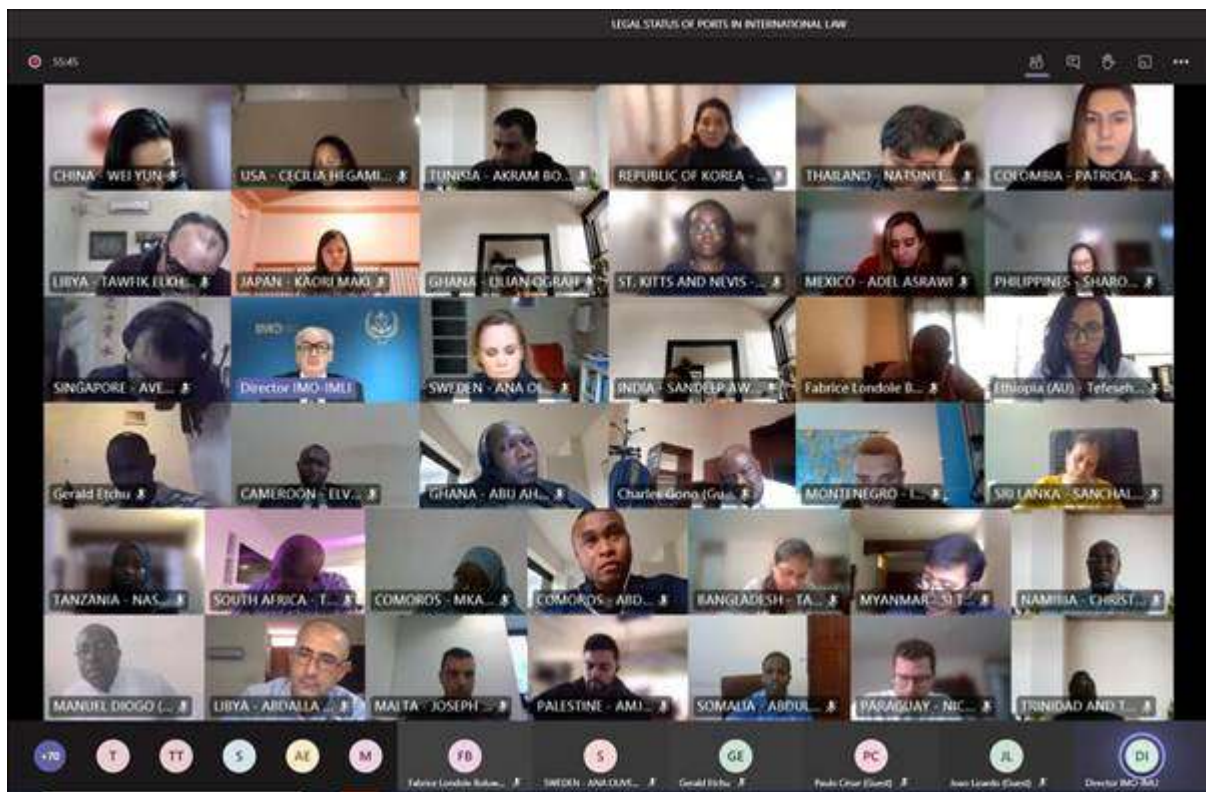


# IMLI e-News

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## IMLI'S UNIQUE COURSE ON THE LAW OF PORTS COMMENCES

IMLI's second annual Course on the Law of Ports, commenced yesterday, 1 February 2021. The Course was inaugurated by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), who warmly welcomed the IMLI students and the international participants who hail from all over the world.



*Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), delivering the inaugural lecture*

Professor Attard informed the participants that the inception of this Course is as a result of the initiative taken by IMLI two years ago at the IMO, when, during the London Shipping Week, a Seminar by IMO, IMLI and Hutchinson Ports was organized for stakeholders with respect to ports. Given the importance of developing expertise in the area, Professor Attard reiterated IMLI's commitment to continue its capacity-building and training with regards to ports.

Professor Attard registered his great pleasure at the number of female participants, especially considering that IMLI was the first UN Organization to reserve 50% of its places for deserving women. This, he stated, has been quite a success, especially so, as it was noted at the London Conference, there is an increased participation of women in the area of ports. He therefore called for more female participation in this field.

Professor Attard then proceeded to address the participants on the topic of the “*Legal Status of Ports in International Law*”. His inaugural lecture will be followed by numerous other lectures which will be delivered by members of the IMLI Faculty and eminent expert speakers in this area of study. The Course will address comprehensively many aspects of ports operations, as well as numerous areas covered by IMO conventions and prescriptions which are of vital importance to the law of ports.

As the IMLI course on the Law of Ports addresses many aspects of port operations, including facilitation and crew change arrangements, in concluding his lecture, Professor Attard showed a video message from Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO), which was created for the Technical Cooperation Division regional webinars on the crew change crisis. The message and video showcased IMO's efforts towards finding a solution to the crew change crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Lim noted that international trade in goods and transport of crucial medical supplies did not stop during the pandemic, thanks to the more than one million seafarers on board merchant ships. He also noted that their dedication and professionalism in the face of mounting challenges is worthy of our great admiration and gratitude.



He stated that the current situation of having over 400 hundred thousand trapped seafarers at sea is unsustainable, stressing that seafarers are to be classified as keyworkers. Mr. Lim then discussed the work of the IMO in ensuring the cessation of the current crisis, including the several Maritime Safety Committee's resolutions geared at facilitating crew change, access to medical care and seafarers travelling during the pandemic. He further called for the cooperation of IMO Member States to facilitate crew change. He concluded by stating that seafarers should not be the victim in this pandemic.

IMLI is proud of the positive response to its second annual Course on Law of Ports which is demonstrated by the large number of participants who are Permanent and Alternate Permanent Representatives of States to IMO, Diplomats, Directors, Heads of Department and Legal Officers of various Maritime Transport Departments and Ports, Heads of Shipping Institutions, Foreign Officers, Maritime Administrations Experts, academics, and other practitioners in the field.

There are still few places available for anyone who wishes to benefit from this programme. To do so, you can contact Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja at [admissions@imli.org](mailto:admissions@imli.org) for the relevant application form.

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