



## **IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL EMERITUS DELIVERED THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON THE IMLI COURSE ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE**

Mr. Koji Sekimizu (IMO Secretary-General Emeritus) delivered on Monday, 15 February 2021 the Inaugural Address for the Institute's Course on the Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance. Mr. Sekimizu addressed the participants on *"The Promotion of Study on Maritime Governance by UN and IMO"*.

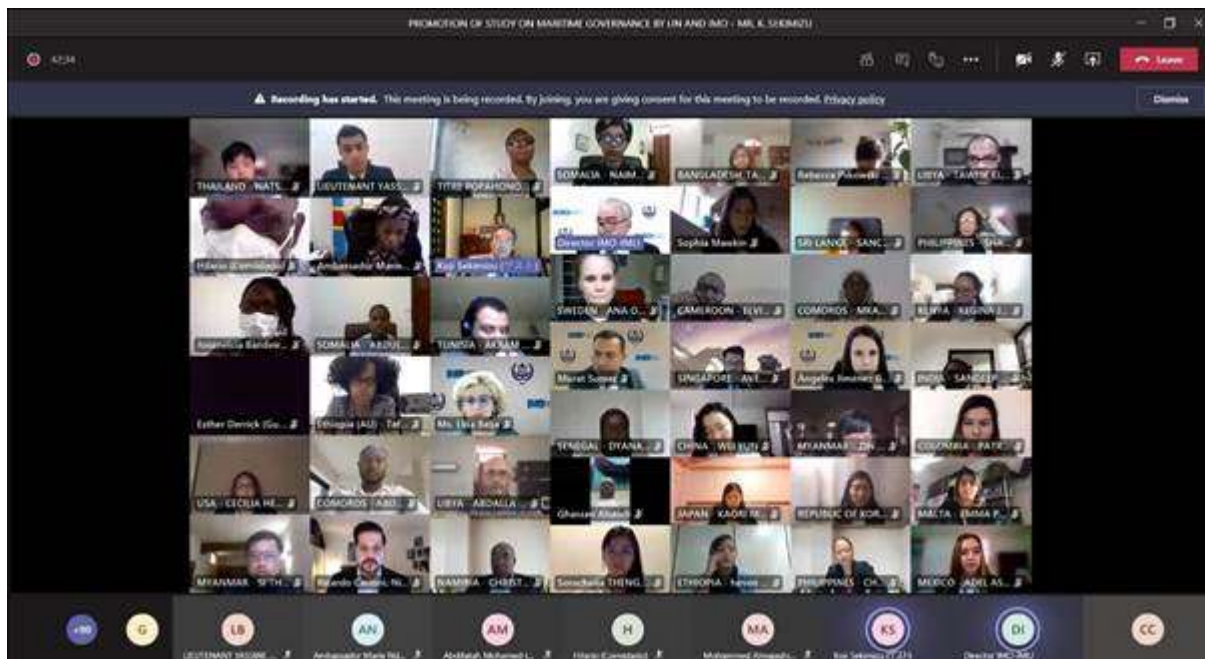


*Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General Emeritus, IMO)*

In introducing Mr. Sekimizu, Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) stated that he is honoured to welcome back Mr. Sekimizu to IMLI, albeit in a virtual environment. Professor Attard noted that Mr. Sekimizu had tremendous experience before joining IMO in 1989, where he rose to occupy the highest office of the Organization. He noted further that Mr. Sekimizu has a unique background in the field of study, and hence, it is befitting for him to inaugurate this extremely important Course being embarked on by IMLI for the first time. Professor Attard informed Mr. Sekimizu that the Course has met with very positive response as evidenced by the 143 international participants who have registered their attendance.

Mr. Sekimizu thanked Professor Attard for his kind introduction and stated that it was a great pleasure for him to accept his kind invitation to deliver the Inaugural Lecture for the Institute's Course on the Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance.

In his address, Mr. Sekimizu discussed concepts of Ocean Governance and Maritime Governance, proposals for a study on maritime governance, and his proposal for Sustainable Maritime Development. His address also covered the 2013 World Maritime Day Symposium on Sustainable Maritime Transportation System and he also examined proposed study fields of maritime governance. In this regard, Mr. Sekimizu informed the participants of the WMU-Koji Sekimizu Ph.D. Fellowship on Maritime Governance. In concluding his address, Mr. Sekimizu cited areas where further investigations and studies are necessary for the improvement of the present maritime governance.



Secretary-General Emeritus Sekimizu graduated in March 1975 with a bachelor's degree in engineering at the Engineering Faculty of Osaka University, and obtained a master's degree in engineering with a thesis on "One method for vibration analysis of a uniform beam with vibrating sub-structures" in March 1977 at Osaka University.

Mr. Koji Sekimizu graduated in March 1975 with a bachelor's degree in engineering at the Engineering Faculty of Osaka University, and obtained a master's degree in engineering with a thesis on "One method for vibration analysis of a uniform beam with vibrating sub-structures" in March 1977 at Osaka University.

In April 1977, he entered the Ministry of Transport of Japan (MOT) and was appointed as a Ship Inspector in the Nagasaki District Branch of Kyushu District Maritime Bureau. In April 1979, he moved to the Headquarters of MOT and acted as the Chief Officer in charge of IMO regulations in the Safety Planning Section of the Ship Bureau and drafted various proposals to IMO's technical sub-committees. In July 1980, he was transferred, under a special arrangement, to the Shipbuilding Research Association of Japan to engage in his duties to attend committees and sub-committees of IMO. In April 1982, after gaining the experience of participation in various IMO meetings, he was promoted to Deputy Director of the Environment Division, MOT.

Mr. Sekimizu temporarily moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1984 and was appointed as Deputy Director, Second International Organizations Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, in charge of OECD related issues. On his return to MOT in September 1986, he was appointed Deputy Director, Safety Standards Division, Maritime Technology and Safety Bureau.



On 2 July 1989, he joined IMO as Technical Officer in the Sub-Division for Technology, Maritime Safety Division of IMO. In 1992 he was promoted to and appointed as Head of the Technology Section. After this, he worked for the Maritime Safety Division until October 1997. During the above-mentioned period, he performed among other things secretariat functions to the MSC Working Group on SOLAS amendments dealing with new fire protection

measures for passenger ships proposed in the wake of the Scandinavian Star incident and the MEPC/BCH Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, which developed the framework of MARPOL Annex VI adopted at the Marine Pollution Conference in 1997. In October 1997, he was promoted to Senior Deputy Director of the Marine Environment Division and was then appointed as Director of the Marine Environment Division in August 2000.

In his capacity as Director of the Marine Environment Division, he led the Marine Environment Division in discharging its responsibilities to support the work of among other things the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in dealing with the phase-out schedule of the single-hull tankers and the Condition Assessment Scheme proposed in the aftermath of the Erika (1999) and Prestige (2002) incidents and handling a number of emerging new environmental issues including harmful anti-fouling paints, ballast water management, ship recycling, particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs) and greenhouse gas emissions from ships. In January 2004, he was appointed as Director of the Maritime Safety Division and contributed to the activities of IMO in preparation, adoption and implementation of international rules and regulations. Mr. Sekimizu made major contributions to the creation of the Cooperative Mechanism established by the three littoral States in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore; and the adoption of the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

On 28 June 2011, he was elected Secretary-General by the 106th session of the Council and, having been approved by the 27th session of Assembly, appointed, on 1st December 2011, the seventh Secretary-General of IMO by the 107th session of Council for the period from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2015.

During his tenure of the Secretary-General, he initiated the process of Review and Reform of IMO which resulted in the revision of the structure of sub-committees, working method of IMO meetings, entailing latest communication technologies, and the IMO budget formation process. He also promoted international cooperation in anti-piracy actions which resulted in the remarkable decline of the Somali piracy. In the legislative activities, he took the leadership to adopt the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters and the Mandatory IMO Member States Audit Scheme as amendments to key IMO Treaties such as SOLAS and MARPOL Conventions."

Mr. Sekimizu has several publications in his name.

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