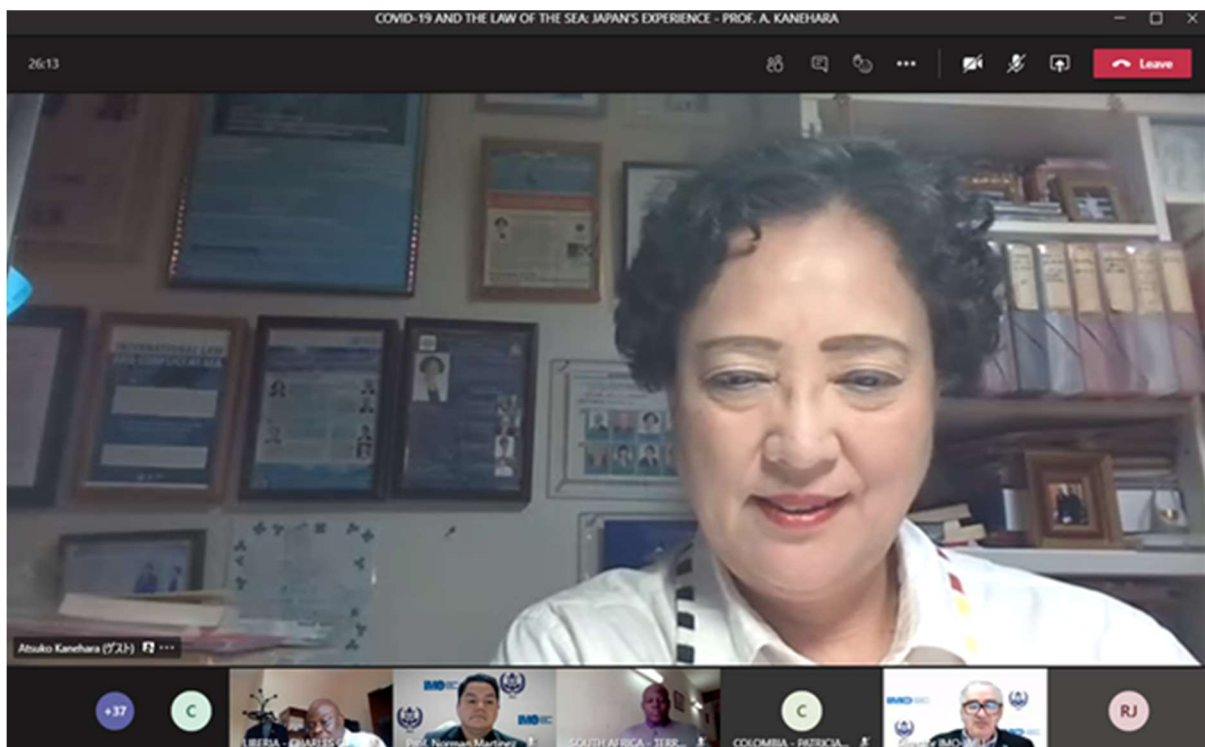




## EMINENT JAPANESE PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW LECTURES AT IMLI

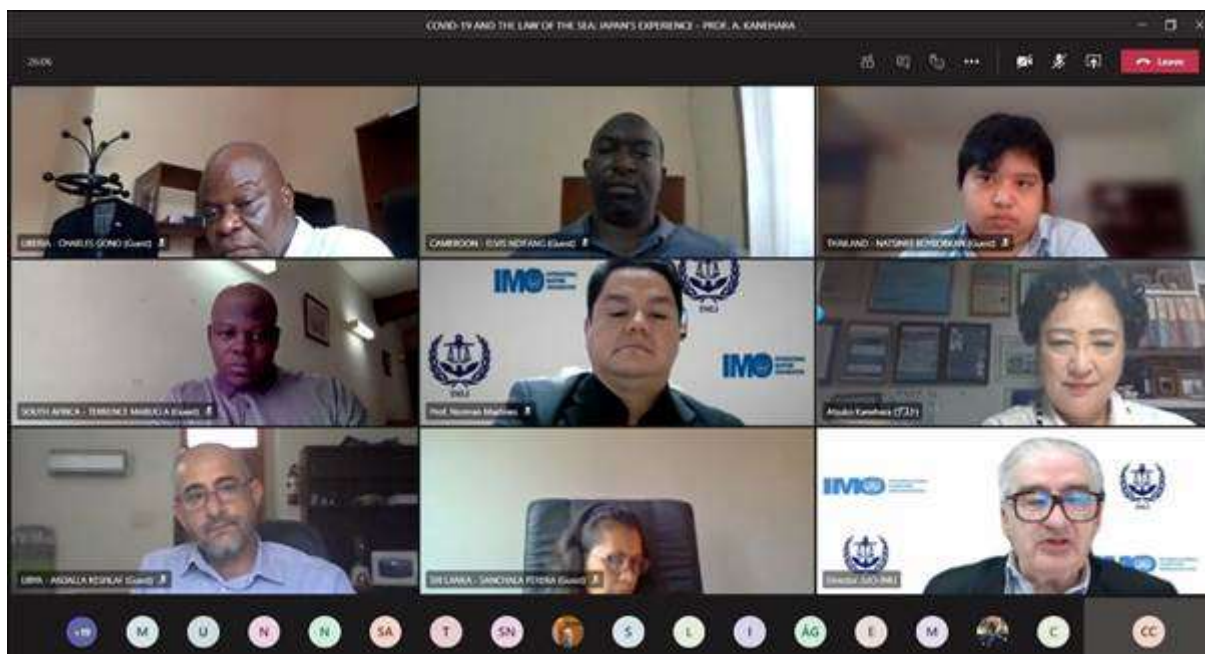
Professor Atsuko Kanehara (Professor at Sophia University in Japan / President of the Japanese Society of International Law) delivered on 23 February 2021 a lecture on “*COVID-19 and the Law of the Sea: Japan’s Experience*” to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021. Professor Kanehara was warmly welcomed by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) who expressed his great pleasure at introducing her to the Class of 2021. Professor Attard highlighted Professor Kanehara’s notable achievements and noted the high esteem in which Professor Kanehara is held in her country, as clearly be seen by her recent election as President to the Japan Society of International Law and her earlier appointment by her country’s Prime Minister to serve as an adviser to the Advisory Council on Ocean Policy.



*Professor Atsuko Kanehara (Professor at Sophia University in Japan / Advocate and Counsel for the Government of Japan)*

Professor Kanehara thanked the Director for his kind introduction and for giving her this wonderful opportunity to speak to the IMLI Class once again. Professor Kanehara outlined the events of the *Diamond Princess* in a time sequence before proceeding to a thorough examination of the existing rules, mainly regarding ports State measures. The existing rules, mainly relating to the port State jurisdiction and its relation to the flag State jurisdiction were closely examined. In this regard, based upon Japan's experience, it is proposed that port States should discharge the function to cope with pandemic, such as COVID-19. It is totally endorsed by the recent tendency of using port State measures in the fields of combating IUU fishing and the protection of marine environmental protection. Port State measures are expected to realize community interests in the world.

Professor Kanehara concluded her lecture with proposals for changes to the existing law, such as the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the creation of new rules, if necessary, in order to effectively cope with pandemic situations.



Professor Atsuko Kanehara is a Professor of Public International Law at Sophia University. She is also currently President of the Japanese Society of International Law. Professor

Kanehara is an esteemed Member of the Board of Governors and a Visiting Lecturer of IMLI. Appointed by the Prime Minister, she serves as Councillor for the Advisory Council for the National Headquarters for Ocean Policy of Japan. Professor Kanehara was an Advocate for the Government of Japan in “*Southern Bluefin Tuna*” Cases (Australia and NZ v. Japan) and also Counsel for the Government of Japan in “*Whaling in the Antarctic*” Case. Professor Kanehara is also a Policy Adviser for the Japan Coast Guard.

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