



**SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES LECTURES AT IMLI**

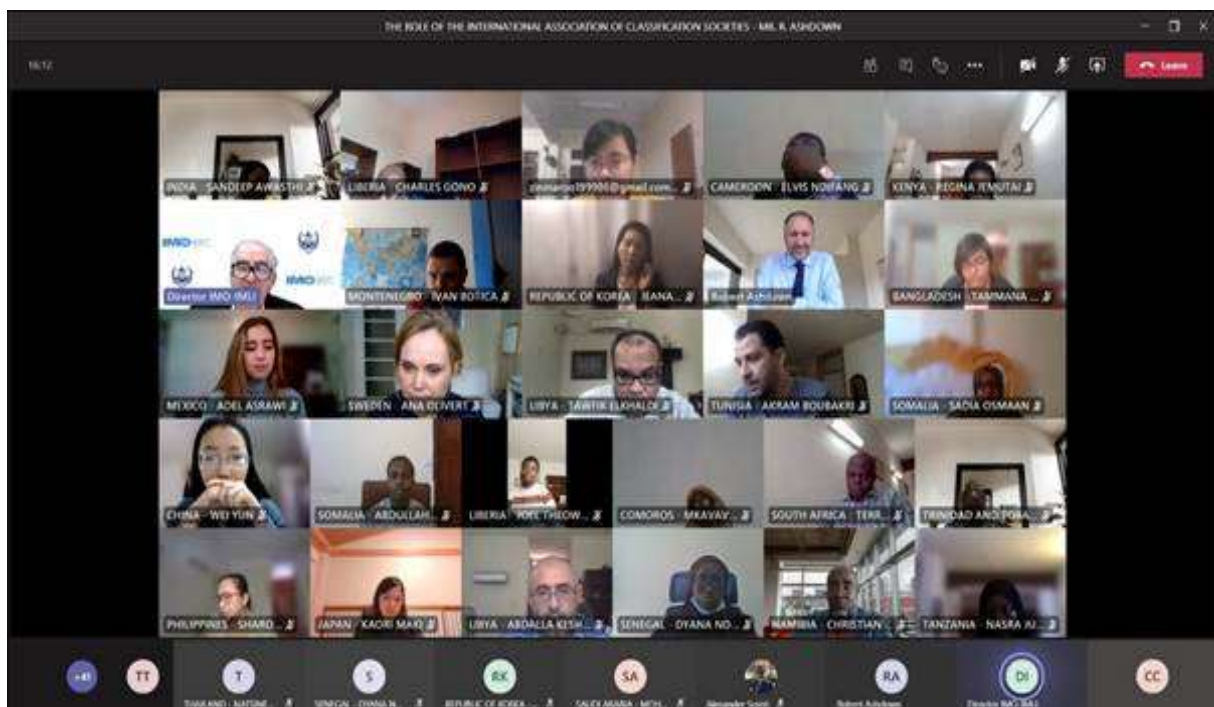
Mr. Robert Ashdown (Secretary General, International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)) delivered on 24 February 2021 a lecture entitled “*The Role of the International Association of Classification Societies*” to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021. Mr. Ashdown was introduced to the Class by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI).



*Mr. Robert Ashdown (Secretary General, International Association of Classification Societies (IACS))*

In his lecture, Mr. Ashdown discussed the history of classification societies, their meaning and general role before proceeding to discuss what a classification society’s role is when acting as a Recognized Organization. This led to Mr. Ashdown’s crux of lecture on the role of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) and its Permanent Secretariat. Mr.

Ashdown explained that this body is an association of classification societies which establishes, reviews, promotes and develop minimum technical requirements in relation to design, construction, maintenance and survey of ships and other marine related facilities. A second important role, he noted, is to assist international regulatory bodies and standard organizations to develop, implement and interpret statutory regulations and industry standards in ship design, construction, and maintenance, with a view to improve safety at sea and the prevention of marine pollution. Mr. Ashdown also covered areas including the Association's output, resolution and position paper among others.



Mr. Ashdown has served as Secretary General of the IACS since May 2015. He is responsible for directing all activities and initiatives of the association, including relationships with the International Maritime Organization, Flag Administrations, the European Union, as well as other industry associations and media relations.

Before joining IACS, Mr. Ashdown served as Secretary General of the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) in Brussels, where he represented the cruise industry towards the institutions of the European Union on all policy/regulatory issues and was responsible for transitioning the traditional passenger ship representation model into the European Chapter of the global CLIA organisation.

He has also worked for the UK Chamber of Shipping as Head of its Technical Division, where he recalibrated the importance of environmental issues and developed the Chamber's Policy on GHG Emissions. Mr. Ashdown was also Head of the British Rig Owners Association (BROA), representing owners with marine offshore units operating in the North Sea.

He holds a History degree from Queens' College, Cambridge.

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