



IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS 108TH SESSION

The 108th session of the IMO Legal Committee (LEG) has taken place at IMO Headquarters in London, from 26 to 30 July 2021. The Legal Committee is empowered to deal with any legal matters within the scope of the Organization. The Committee consists of all Member States of IMO. It was established in 1967 as a subsidiary body to deal with legal questions which arose in the aftermath of the Torrey Canyon disaster. The Legal Committee is also empowered to perform any duties within its scope which may be assigned by or under any other international instrument and accepted by the Organization.



During the meeting, under *Agenda Item 15*, several delegates recognized and praised the role of IMLI in capacity building. Argentina proposed that IMLI and its work should be included in the Committee's Report as recognition for its activities in capacity-building and also for expanding those activities to the Law of the Sea, which is a part of international law that is underlying many of the instruments of the IMO and their application. The delegate from Argentina further reiterated her belief that IMLI deserves such recognition and urged other delegates to support her request.

This was subsequently supported by many other delegates. The Islamic Republic of Iran gave their support and further thanked the Director of IMLI and his colleagues for their “*marvellous efforts*”, whilst calling on IMLI to expand its training by considering the aspect of training

Judges, in particular, in effective judicial implementation of maritime conventions and instruments. Iraq also concurred with the proposal of Argentina with regard to the need to refer to IMLI's role in capacity-building, specifically under the directorship of Professor David Attard.

The Philippines also joined in stating that IMLI is well deserved of recognition for its initiatives in activities which enhance the capacity-building of States. This intervention was also followed by the response of the delegate from the Democratic Republic of Congo who thanked the Institute and said that the country owes a wealth of gratitude to it because, as a country, they have benefited immensely from IMLI in terms of capacity-building. Said delegate also urged for the inclusion of IMLI's recognition in the Report.

The Chair of the Session replied in acquiescence to the requests from the delegates and stated that reference to the importance of the Institute's role in capacity-building will be included in the Report.



*Mr. Jose Manuel Pacheco Castillo (Peru), IMLI Class of 2019-2020
and winner of the IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation*

Additionally, during the session, under *Agenda Item 11*, Mr. Jose Manuel Pacheco Castillo (Peru), graduate of the IMLI Class of 2019-2020, was congratulated for having won the IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation during the IMLI 2020 Graduation Ceremony. His dissertation was circulated as Information Paper LEG-108. INF.3.

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