IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS 109TH SESSION

The 109th session of the IMO Legal Committee (LEG) was held virtually from 23 to 25 March 2022. The Legal Committee, which was established in 1967, is empowered to deal with any legal matters within the scope of the Organization. The Committee consists of all Member States of IMO.

IMLI wishes to congratulate Ms. Gillian Grant (Canada’s Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO) for her re-election, for another term, as Chair for the IMO Legal Committee.

Ms. Gillian Grant (Canada’s Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO and Chair, IMO Legal Committee)
In the course of the meeting, Ms. Grant congratulated Mr. Si Thu Aung (Myanmar), graduate of the IMLI Class of 2020-2021, for having won the IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation during the IMLI 2021 Graduation Ceremony. Ms. Grant stated that one of the highlights in her work at the Legal Committee is reading the prize-winning dissertation which is submitted from IMLI every year as INF paper.

IMLI notes also with pride the re-election of Mr. Ivane Abashidze (Georgia) as Vice-Chair of the Committee during the 109th Session. Mr. Abashidze, an IMLI graduate of the Class of 2013-2014, was unanimously re-elected by the Member States.

During the Committee's 108th Session held in July 2021, Ms. Grant was elected as the first female Chair of the Committee. She is also a Visiting Professor at the Institute.

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Ms. Grant's intervention was followed by a statement from a delegate from Argentina who also congratulated Mr. Aung. She further noted that the IMLI programmes were not interrupted during the height of the pandemic and this, she said, was very important for so many students, especially as many of them are officials from developing countries. In this regard, Argentina proposed inserting into the Committee's Report, recognition for IMLI in maintaining its training throughout the pandemic and for putting emphasis on capacity-building for officials from developing countries and also for the gradual and increasing inclusion of the Law of the Sea in its curriculum. She concluded her statement with a heartfelt thanks to the Institute's Director, Professor David Attard.

The Chair, in her reply to Argentina, supported the statement made, adding that IMLI indeed does a remarkable work in providing legal education to lawyers from around the world and that "the IMO is lucky to have IMLI as an Institution". Ms. Grant also confirmed that reference to the importance of the Institute's role in capacity-building will be included in the Report.

**ACTING HEAD, INSTRUMENTS IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT, IMO DEPARTMENT FOR MEMBER STATE AUDIT AND IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT LECTURES AT IMLI**

Mr. Gangcan Rao (Acting Head, Instruments Implementation Support, IMO Department for Member State Audit and Implementation Support) delivered a lecture on 21 March 2022 to the IMLI Class of 2021-2022 entitled ‘Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code)’. Mr. Rao was welcomed by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer, IMLI). In his lecture, Mr. Rao explained the source of the international authority of ROs and the factors which are to be considered by the administration before delegation of authority to it. Mr. Rao also gave a detailed explanation of the RO Code.
Mr. Koji Sekimizu (IMO Secretary-General Emeritus) delivered on Tuesday, 22 March 2022 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 topic “Protection of the Marine Environment and Maritime Governance”.

Professor Norman Martinez (Professor, IMLI), on behalf of Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), registered his delight and honour to be introducing Mr. Sekimizu to Inaugurate the Course. He highlighted Mr. Sekimizu's long and outstanding career in the shipping industry and noted that Mr. Sekimizu is an avid supporter of the Institute and its activities. Professor Martinez conveyed to Mr. Sekimizu how much the Institute values his keen interest in the Institute and his agreement to deliver the Inaugural Lecture in this core area of international maritime law.
Mr. Sekimizu thanked Professor Martinez for his kind introduction and stated that it was a great pleasure for him to accept the kind invitation of Professor Attard to deliver the Inaugural Lecture for the Institute’s Course on the Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance.

CEO OF MALTA FREEPORT TERMINALS LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Alex Montebello (CEO of Malta Freeport Terminals) delivered an online lecture to the IMLI students within the IMLI Course on Law of Ports on 21 March 2022. His lecture entitled "Efficient Port Operations – The Malta Freeport Experience" was very well received by the Course Participants. Mr. Montebello was introduced by Professor Martinez (Professor, IMLI).

TECHNICAL OFFICER IN THE MARITIME SAFETY DIVISION AT IMO LECTURES AT IMLI

Ms. Martina Fontanet Solé (Technical Officer in the Maritime Safety Division) also delivered a lecture to the IMLI students entitled "Digitalization of the Ship-Port Interface" within the IMLI Course on Law of Ports. Ms. Fontanet Solé was introduced to the participants by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer, IMLI).
Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice (The Nippon Foundation Professor on Marine Environmental Law at IMLI) is delivering lectures within the Institute's Course on Protection on the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance. She was warmly welcomed and introduced to the attendees by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer, IMLI).

Dr. Stefano Filletti (Senior Managing Partner Filletti & Filletti Advocates) is also delivering lectures within the Institute's Course on Protection on the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance. Dr. Filletti's lectures will cover Marine Pollution Prevention Under Customary International Law and Marine Pollution Prevention Under Parts XI and XII of UNCLOS.

The Institute wishes to congratulate Ms. Morlette L. Johnson (Class of 2017-2018 (the Bahamas)) who has been appointed Assistant Director of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney-General of the Bahamas. During the 2018 Graduation, Ms. Johnson was awarded the Professor Walter Müller Prize for the Best Maritime Legislation Drafting Project.
IMLI is pleased to report that Ms. Jessica Coindet from Honduras (Class of 1996-1997), Ms. Miriam Sara from Peru (Class of 2006-2007) and Ms. Kamyla Barrientos from Guatemala (Class of 2018-2019) met at a Maritime Law Symposium organised by the Ibero-American Institute of Maritime Law (IIDM) from 22 to 24 March in Lima, Peru. The event brought together leading experts in the legal profession to share knowledge and experiences. It provided an opportunity to analyse and discuss the legal topics which are currently critical to the maritime industry.

The IIDM is an Ibero-American, non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes the dissemination, unification and modernization of Maritime Law. It was created in 1985 and promotes the study, research, development and unification of maritime law, professional development, the acquisition of knowledge and the creation of professional networks of contact and collaboration. Ms. Barrientos was excited to note that Guatemala would now assume the Presidency of this prestigious body.