



DIRECTOR OF THE IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION WELCOMES IMLI'S 33RD CLASS

Mr. Xiaojie Zhang (Director, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) delivered the welcoming address to the students of the IMLI Class of 2021-2022. Mr. Zhang was welcomed and introduced by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI).



*Mr. Xiaojie Zhang (Director, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) delivering the
Welcoming Message to the students of the IMLI Class of 2021-2022*

Reproduced below is the Welcome Message delivered by Director Zhang:

Inauguration of the IMLI 2021-2022 Academic Year

18 October 2021, 11.00am UK time

Welcoming message by Mr. Xiaojie Zhang

Dear students of the Class of 2021-2022,

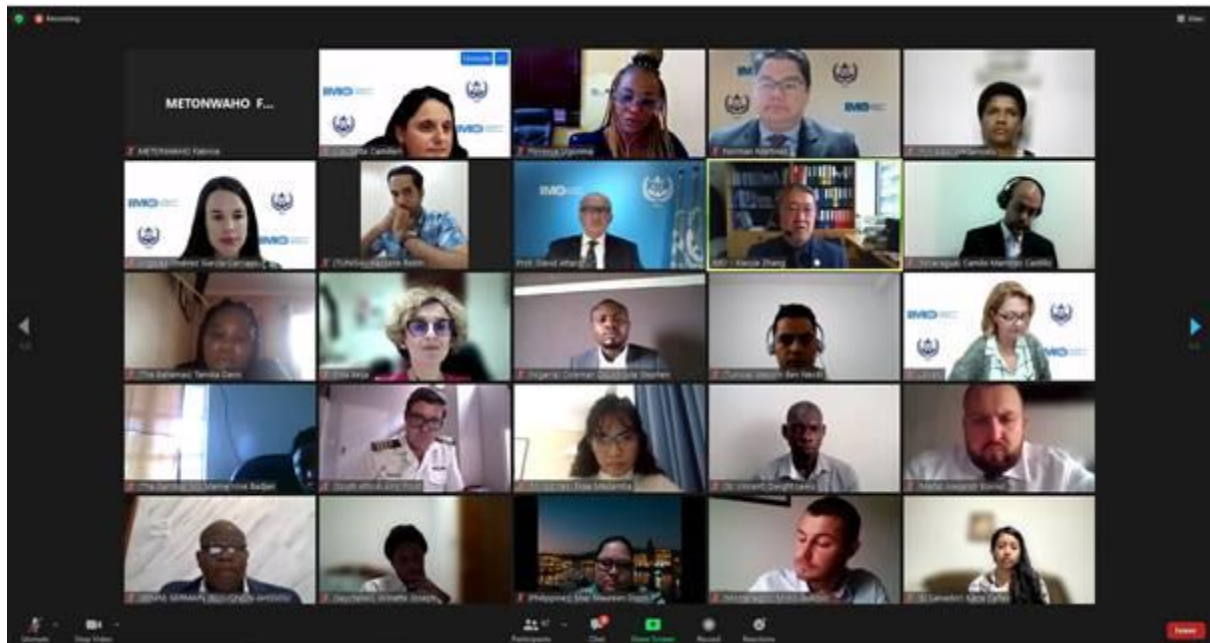
I am very pleased to address you today on the first day of your studies at IMLI. On behalf of the International Maritime Organization, I would like to welcome you to this new academic journey which I am sure will positively influence your professional development. You are joining a prestigious educational institution with a key role in maritime training and of great importance to the entire international maritime community. Your presence at IMLI signifies your participation as a member of the greater IMO family.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the shipping industry and seafarers around the globe. The Institute also faced challenges which required the adoption of numerous measures to ensure your health and safety, including this academic year's online commencement of studies. Yet, the Institute remains resolute in delivering its capacity-building mission, while ensuring that all of you 57 lawyers and maritime professionals in this year's master and advanced diploma programmes, receive the high-quality education which has distinguished IMLI since its beginnings.



In joining the Institute, you are called to contribute to its important role within the IMO and its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme. IMO has adopted over 50 international treaties which are supported by hundreds of guidelines and recommendations to govern every facet of the shipping industry. These instruments however will not attain the desired results unless they are properly and effectively implemented in domestic legislation. In selecting you as fellows,

your governments and the Institute's donors have bestowed on you the trust that, upon completion of your studies, you will meritoriously contribute to your countries and maritime sector through the legal expertise you would have gained to serve the rule of international maritime law.



The Institute's Director and Staff will accompany you throughout this academic year and I am confident that you will continue in the footsteps of your predecessors and make the Institute and IMO proud. This is hopefully the beginning of a longstanding cooperation with IMO, which will continue long after your leave IMLI.

After your studies, you will join a formidable IMLI network of nearly 1,100 maritime professionals from 150 States and territories who are leading the maritime sector to greater heights, through the administration of sound maritime policies and robust national legislation to adequately implement international rules.

I wish you every success in your new endeavours.

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*** For further information please contact Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Editor, IMLI e-News) at publications@imli.org*