On 20 February 2023, Professor Dr. Hakan Karan (Head of Ankara University Maritime Law Department, Former Chair of the Board of Directors of Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM)) commenced the delivery of an online set of lectures entitled “International Rules of Carriage of Goods by Sea” to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023.

Professor Dr. Karan was welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and then introduced to the IMLI Class by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer / Head of Administration, IMLI).
Following Professor Dr. Karan's introduction, Ms. Kazara-Belja invited all present to stand up and observe a minute of silence in memory of those who lost their lives during the tragedy that has struck Türkiye and Syria.

Observing a minute of silence in solidarity with Türkiye and Syria

Professor Dr. Hakan Karan (Head of Ankara University Maritime Law Department, Former Chair of the Board of Directors of Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM)) delivering his presentation to the Class of 2022-2023

Professor Dr. Karan's lectures are delivered within the framework of the Cooperation Protocol the Institute has entered with DEHUKAM since 2018. The Protocol has enabled academics from both IMLI and DEHUKAM to lecture in their respective institutions in various areas of international maritime law. Professor Dr. Hakan's lectures which form part of the IMLI Module on Carriage of Goods and Passengers by Sea were very well received by the students who were introduced to the various international instruments which regulate the carriage of goods by sea.

FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR SEAFARERS’ RIGHTS AT THE SEAMEN’S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY LECTURES AT IMLI

On the same day, the Institute had the pleasure of welcoming at IMLI Mr. Douglas Stevenson (Former Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey). Mr. Stevenson was warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and the IMLI Faculty Members. Upon his arrival, the IMLI Director introduced Mr. Stevenson to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023 and invited him to sign the IMLI Guest Book.
Mr. Stevenson's lectures, entitled "Seafarer's Rights Under the MLC", ran between the 20 and 22 February 2023. During Mr. Stevenson's lectures, the students were divided into smaller groups and participated in various exercises. His interactive method of teaching encourages students to participate in the discussions on the topics discussed in the sessions such as the rules of international maritime law in general, their effect on seafarers' rights, and the fundamental seafarers' rights. Through its practical approach, Mr. Stevenson helps students understand the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC 2006, as amended) and its implementation.
On 23 February 2023, the Institute had the pleasure of welcoming Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers’ Trust). Ms. Higginbottom was received and warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and the members of the IMLI Faculty.

Upon Ms. Higginbottom's arrival, Director Martínez introduced her to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023.

Ms. Higginbottom delivered a presentation entitled “Unsung Heroes: Seafaring During The Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond” to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023 which was followed with great interest by the students who actively interacted with her.
Following her presentation to the Class, Ms. Higginbottom held a private meeting with the 2022-2023 ITF Seafarers’ Trust sponsored fellows.

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarer’s Trust) together with the ITF Seafarer’s Trust Fellows of 2022-2023

**Unveiling of a Commemorative Plaque in Honour of the ITF Seafarers’ Trust**

The ITF Seafarers’ Trust’s longstanding support to IMLI, through the generous provision of fellowships, has enabled the training of 34 government officers from 29 countries. The Trust’s support was recently expanded by a generous contribution given to IMLI towards the purchase of the audio-visual equipment being used in its lecture halls. Thanks to this contribution, IMLI is currently operating two lecture halls which accommodate a hybrid environment of learning and ensure a wider global outreach.

In this regard, Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers’ Trust), accepted the Director’s invitation to unveil a commemorative plaque to honour this latest generous contribution of the Seafarers’ Trust. The plaque can be viewed at the entrance of the second Lecture Hall.
Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers’ Trust) unveiling the commemorative plaque

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarer’s Trust) in front of the unveiled plaque

Commemorative plaque situated at the entrance of the second Lecture Hall
On 24 February, 2023, the second “Women on Board” Mentorship Programme was officially launched. This Programme entails the mentoring of female students both from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and World Maritime University (WMU) at an IMO level and aims to match a female student with an experienced IMOGENDer member who will provide her with the tools and advice she needs to realize her potential and advance her professional development.

The welcome address was delivered by H.E. Ms. Geneviève Jean-Van Rossum (Permanent Representative of France to the IMO).

Professor Dr. Norman Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President, WMU) proceeded thereafter to address the audience.

After the opening remarks, the floor was opened for the mentors and mentees to provide comments regarding the programme. The audience received several enlightening comments from both parties. The concluding remarks were given by Ms. Miatta-Fatima Kromah (Legal/Policy Office to the Permanent Representation of Liberia to the IMO and IMLI Alumna).

The “IMOGEN Women-on-Board” initiative in promoting women in maritime affairs was launched, for the first time at IMLI on 9 March 2021. The programme is based on values of intergenerational solidarity and transmission promoted by IMOGEN, as part of its plan to implement the actionable goals of resolution A.1147(31), Preserving the Legacy of the World Maritime Theme for 2019 and Achieving a Barrier-Free Working
Environment for Women in the Maritime Sector. Its ambition is for female students to have access to professional role models enabling them to share experiences and information, to appropriate professional codes and to assert their individual ambitions.

Female members of the IMLI Class of 2022 - 2023