

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Circulated in more than 150 States



IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS 110TH SESSION

The 110th Session of the Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was held from Monday, 27 to Friday, 31 March 2023 at the IMO Headquarters in London. The Committee, which consists of all Member States of IMO, was established in 1967 to deal with all legal matters within the scope of the Organization.



IMLI wishes to congratulate Ms. Gillian Grant (Canada's Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO) for her re-election, for the third time, as Chair for the IMO Legal Committee. Ms. Grant was the first female Chair of the IMO Legal Committee



*Ms. Gillian Grant
(Chair, IMO Legal Committee
and first female Chair of the Committee)*

and is a great supporter of IMO's initiatives in creating a barrier free working environment. She has been instrumental in the IMOGen mentorship programme which was launched for the first time at IMLI in 2021 and acted as a mentor within the programme.

Ms. Grant is also a staunch supporter of the Institute's mission and contributes on an annual basis to its Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme.

IMLI records also with pride the re-election of Mr. Ivane Abashidze (Georgia) as Vice-Chair of the Committee during the 110th Session. Mr. Abashidze, an IMLI graduate of the Class of 2013-2014, was re-elected by the Member States for the third time.



*Mr. Ivane Abashidze (Georgia),
IMLI graduate of the Class of 2013-2014*

The Director and Staff congratulate him on this achievement and look forward to welcoming him back to IMLI.

IMLI DIRECTOR REPORTS TO THE IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE DURING ITS 110TH SESSION

During the Session, Ms. Grant in her capacity as Chair, congratulated Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) on his new position as IMLI Director and warmly welcomed him to report to the Committee for the first time in his new role as Director of the Institute.

Professor Martínez thanked the Chair and assured the Committee of his intention to continue to lead the Institute with dedication and commitment to IMO and its mission to enhance global capacity-building.



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)
reporting to the IMO Legal Committee*

The Director then explained that document LEG 110/13 summarizes the key IMLI activities of 2022 which related, *inter alia*, to student enrollments and graduates as well as academic developments and partnerships. Furthermore this document referred to the cooperative activities undertaken with IMO and other institutions and also the IMLI outreach activities including publications, international conferences and events.

He went on to inform the Committee that by the end of the academic year 2021-2022, over 1700 maritime professionals from over 155 States and territories worldwide have undergone studies in all of IMLI's programmes and courses.

The Director also recorded that the Institute's uninterrupted activities in capacity-building have been continuously recognized by the United Nations General Assembly through its resolution on Oceans in the Law of the Sea and IMO Bodies including this distinguished Committee.

He then expressed appreciation for the fellowship funding received from various donors, noting also the Institute's gratitude for the contributions received which have improved IMLI's facilities. The Director mentioned, *inter alia*, the contribution of the ITF Seafarers' Trust which enabled the Institute to acquire the audio-visual equipment necessary to deliver lectures in a hybrid mode this academic year, the complete refurbishment of the Institute's Main Lecture Hall being sponsored by the Government of Malta, and the generous contribution of the Republic of Korea through the Voyage Together Trust Fund which will allow the Institute to refurbish the students' residential accommodation in the Institute's premises.



*Mr. Darius Gustaf Joseph
(Antigua and Barbuda) IMLI Class of 2021-
2022 and winner of the IMO Secretary-
General's Prize for Best Dissertation*

In the course of the meeting, Mr. Frederick Kenney (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) congratulated Mr. Darius Gustaf Joseph (Antigua and Barbuda), graduate of the IMLI Class of 2021-2022. Mr. Joseph, who was attending the Committee as part of the delegation of his country, won the IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation during the IMLI 2022 Graduation Ceremony. Said dissertation was distributed as an INF. document to all IMO Member States.

In his thank you remarks, Mr. Joseph called upon Member States to continue to nominate candidates for training at IMLI, as well as to continue funding its mission.

Mr. Kenney's intervention was followed by statements from numerous delegates including Jamaica, Suriname, Nigeria, the Bahamas, Kenya, India, Malta, the Philippines, Ecuador, Thailand, Mexico, Georgia, Guatemala and Panama, which commended the Institute on its capacity-building mission. The Ibero-American Institute of Maritime Law (IIDM) and the Comité Maritime International (CMI), represented by its President, also praised the work of the Institute.



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
(Director, IMLI) together with
Dr. Ann Fenech
(President, Comité Maritime International)*



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
(Director, IMLI) together with
Professor Max Mejia
(President, World Maritime University (WMU))*

Ms. Grant summarized the interventions with heartfelt congratulations to Professor Martínez in his new role and best wishes for the future. She expressed gratitude to Malta and all of the other donors that keep IMLI going. She concluded by also

thanking the entire IMLI staff for their efforts and congratulated the Institute for developing classes in a hybrid format which has been useful for many government officials. Ms. Grant noted on a personal level *"I think IMLI is an amazing institution. It really is, as you can tell by the people here today. It does a tremendous work in educating people about IMO's conventions and how to implement them. I had the pleasure of being a mentor to an IMLI student two years ago which was very enjoyable and gave me great insight into how life at the Institution works. It is a wonderful place and I think we are lucky to have it as part of the IMO family."*



Professor Martínez and Dr. Fenech with IMLI Graduates representing their countries the IMO Legal Committee



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with IMLI Graduates:
L - R: Mr. Watchara Chiemankulkit (Thailand, Class of 2018), Ms. Rose Catherine Hernandez (Marshall Islands, Class of 2022), Ms. Charalej B. Guzman (the Philippines, Class of 2021), Mr. Nya Gbaintor (Liberia, Class of 2012), Ms. Sharon Chavez-Aledo (the Philippines, Class of 2021), Mr. Darius Gustav Joseph (Antigua and Barbuda, Class of 2022), Ms. Miatta-Fatima Kromah (Liberia, Class of 2022) and Ms. Adel Asrawi (Mexico, Class of 2021)*