## IMLI e-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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## CHAIRMAN OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION VISITS IMLI

On Friday 27 January 2023, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) together with a delegation from The Nippon Foundation paid a courtesy visit to the Institute.

Chairman Sasakawa was warmly welcomed to the Institute after nearly 20 years by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI).





Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) with Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

Professor Martínez accompanied Chairman Sasakawa to sign the IMLI Guest Book and then introduced him to the staff and students of the IMLI Class of 2022-2023. Dr. Sasakawa greeted warmly all the students, especially the current Nippon Foundation fellows.

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) signing the IMLI Guest Book







Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) meeting with the IMLI Class of 2022-2023



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) together with IMLI Class of 2022-2023



Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with The Nippon Foundation fellows of the academic year 2022-2023

This was followed by a tour of the IMLI premises including the lecture halls, the library, and the Pardo Room. Professor Martínez also showed Chairman Sasakawa the ongoing construction work of the Institute's new lecture hall before inviting him for a meeting in the Conference Room. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer and Head of Administration, IMLI) and The Nippon Foundation delegation. During this meeting, Chairman Sasakawa and Professor Martínez expressed their satisfaction at the past 20 years of fruitful cooperation and discussed possible new ways to strengthen the cooperation between the two institutions.



Professor Martínez, Dr. Sasakawa, and the other participants during the meeting held in the Conference Room

The Nippon Foundation, through its joint project with IMLI, known as the "Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Legal Order for the Oceans", continues to support deserving government-nominated scholars. The aim of The Nippon Foundation sponsorship is to contribute to the promotion, adoption, effective implementation, and enforcement of international maritime conventions adopted under the aegis of the IMO, and to encourage greater participation by developing States, particularly Asian states, in the major international maritime law conventions and legal instruments.

The Nippon sponsored students have predominantly demonstrated outstanding academic proficiency during their studies at the Institute. Upon completion of their studies at IMLI, the scholars are using the academic and technical expertise gained at the Institute either internationally or in their respective countries, where they are involved in the development of the national, regional or international maritime sector.

The Project also contributes by sponsoring four teaching positions at the Institute. The Professor on Marine Environmental Law and the Lecturers on International Maritime Security Law, Global Ocean Governance and International Maritime Law are playing a vital role in shaping the legal minds of the future maritime leaders trained at IMLI.



Mr. Murat Sumer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law) with Dr. Yohei Sasakawa



Dr. Sanjeet Ruhal (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Security Law) with Dr. Yohei Sasakawa

## FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

During the visit of Chairman Sasakawa, IMLI held its Flag Raising ceremony which was presided over by the Institute's Director, Professor Martínez, in the presence of the visiting delegation and Judge Professor David Attard (Former Director, IMLI). The Institute notes with pleasure that the flags of the 35 countries represented at IMLI during this year are:

Algeria, Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, China, Republic of Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Tonga, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Yemen.

The flags of these countries will adorn the Institute's premises throughout the academic year.



National Flags of the Countries represented at IMLI for the Academic year 2022-2023 Following the event, a reception was held in honour of Chairman Sasakawa which culminated with the cutting of a cake in celebration of the fruitful cooperation between the Institute and The Nippon Foundation.







Director Martínez and Chairman Sasakawa cutting the celebratory cake