**IMLI CELEBRATED THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

The Institute joined the international community in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). IMLI’s celebration of the anniversary consisted of several events which were held between 14 and 16 December 2022. These events included the inauguration of the Arvid Pardo Room, the unveiling of the plaque of IMLI Past Directors, a commemorative lecture delivered by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and a Symposium entitled “UNCLOS at 40 - The Instrumentality of the Convention for Sound Ocean Governance”.

**MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS OF MALTA VISITS IMLI**

The Honourable Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Malta) visited the Institute on 14 December 2022. He was introduced to the IMLI students by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) who expressed his pleasure at welcoming the Minister once again to IMLI.

Upon addressing the students, The Honourable Minister proceeded to inaugurate the Arvid Pardo Room situated in the IMLI Library. This new room, which forms an integral part of the IMLI Library, is a tribute to the work and achievements of the late Ambassador Arvid Pardo who is known as the “Father of the new Law of the Sea”. It houses IMLI’s extensive collection of books and publications on the Law of the Sea. Also on display are personal memorabilia such as correspondence, photographs, articles, frames, awards, medals, and more, belonging to Ambassador Pardo and generously donated by the Pardo family.

**UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE OF IMLI PAST DIRECTORS**

Following the inauguration of the new Arvid Pardo Room, an unveiling ceremony was held in the Grotius Quadrangle wherein Judge Professor David J. Attard (Former Director, IMLI) unveiled a plaque that lists the names of the past Directors of IMLI. The list has been updated to include his name as past IMLI Director. On behalf of the Institute and Staff, Professor Martínez expressed his sincere appreciation towards Judge Professor Attard’s three-decade-long career at the helm of the Institute which he steered with hard work and dedication.

The Director described Judge Professor Attard as a beacon of light to the Institute, leading it not only through calm waters but also through the darkest of storms. He went on to describe how Judge Professor Attard’s vision helped shape IMLI into the world-renowned centre of excellence that it is today. This plaque bears witness to the past IMLI Directors and their legacy in establishing IMLI.

**IMLI DIRECTOR DELIVERS A COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE**

As part of the IMLI events to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS, Professor Dr. Martínez delivered a commemorative lecture to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023 entitled “UNCLOS at 40 - The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: A Global Treaty for the Oceans”. At the commencement of his lecture, Professor Martínez introduced the Class to the historical facts that established the groundwork for a convention on the law of the sea. He then continued by recounting the events that led to the beginning of the work on a draft convention by the United Nations, leading to the subsequent adoption of UNCLOS. Professor Martínez further informed the students of the importance of the Convention as a tool for sound ocean governance for the maritime community worldwide.

**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF MALTA VISITS IMLI**

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS, The Honourable Dr. Ian Borg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta) visited the Institute.

Upon his arrival, Dr. Borg was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and the members of the IMLI Faculty. Director Martinez then introduced Minister Borg to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023.

Following his introduction, The Honourable Minister joined the distinguished panel of speakers at the UNCLOS 40th Anniversary Commemorative Symposium to deliver his presentation.

**UNCLOS 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SYMPOSIUM**

The IMLI celebrations culminated with a commemorative Symposium entitled “UNCLOS at 40 - The Instrumentality of the Convention for Sound Ocean Governance”, organized by IMLI in collaboration with the Malta Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade and University of Malta.

The distinguished panel of speakers who addressed the Symposium were Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Mr. Frederick Kenney Jr. (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Judge Professor David J. Attard (Judge, President of the Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes, ITLOS), Professor Simone Borg (Professor, Environmental Law and Resources Law, University of Malta) and The Honourable Dr. Ian Borg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta).

Professor Martínez welcomed the distinguished speakers and guests who included members of the Diplomatic Corps, maritime legal and technical experts, University of Malta professors, IMLI graduates, and students both from IMLI and the Faculty of Laws of University of Malta. He then proceeded to deliver a presentation entitled “The Inception of UNCLOS and its Relevance to the Legal Order of the Oceans”. Enlightening presentations were also delivered by Mr. Frederick Kenney Jr. (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) who discussed “UNCLOS and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)”, Judge Professor David J. Attard (Judge, President of the Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes, ITLOS) who focused on “UNCLOS and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)”, and...
Professor Simone Borg (Professor, Environmental Law and Resources Law, University of Malta) whose presentation was entitled “The Viability of the Ocean: The Future Challenges of UNCLOS”. The Honourable Dr. Ian Borg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta) concluded the Symposium with his presentation entitled “The Contribution of Malta to the Codification of the New Law of the Sea”.

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). Professor Martínez accompanied Chairman Sasakawa to sign the IMLI Guest Book and then introduced him to the staff and the IMLI Class of 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 on-going construction work of the Institute’s new lecture hall before inviting him for a meeting in the Conference Room. During this meeting, Chairman Sasakawa and Professor Martínez expressed their satisfaction of the progress made during the past 20 years of fruitful cooperation and discussed possible new ways to strengthen the cooperation between the two institutions.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA VISITS IMLI

Judge Thomas Heidar (Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)) visited the Institute on 8 May 2023, Judge Heidar was warmly welcomed by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) and the IMLI Faculty. After meeting the students, Judge Heidar delivered two lectures entitled “The Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Beyond 200 Nautical Miles” and “The Contribution of ITLOS to the Protection of the Marine Environment” to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023 and the external participants to the IMLI Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries.

During his visit, Judge Heidar was accompanied by Minister Fernanda Millicay (Permanent Representative of Argentina to the IMO) and the IMLI Faculty together with the IMLI Class of 2022-2023.

REGISTRAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Philippe Gautier (Registrar International Court of Justice (ICJ)) visited the Institute on 2 May 2023, Professor Gautier was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and the members of the IMLI Faculty. He was introduced by the IMLI Director to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023 and the external participants to the IMLI Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries. Professor Gautier’s lecture was entitled “Treatment of Evidence and Expert Witnesses”.

Professor Gautier, a longstanding supporter of IMLI, said that it was a real pleasure to lecture at IMLI once again after so long a time. He described IMLI and its courses as being unique in nature. Professor Gautier has been lecturing at IMLI since academic year 2010-2011 and did not stop even during the pandemic when he would impart his academic knowledge and expertise to the IMLI students online.

IMLI DIRECTOR CONFERRED THE TITLE OF HONORARY MEMBER OF THE CROATIAN MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) was invited to deliver a presentation during the 4th International Scientific Conference on Maritime Law which addressed “Modern Challenges of Maritime Navigation” which was held in Split, Croatia. Professor Martínez’s presentation was entitled “IMO Efforts to Ensure a Unified Interpretation of the Provisions Regarding the Law of Right to Limit Liability”.

The Conference which took place between 13 and 14 April 2023, aimed at providing a forum for debating all emerging issues related to the shipping industry, including safety of navigation, collision of ships and cybercrime in shipping. Alongside Professor Martínez, were other eminent keynote speakers at the Conference namely Dr. Ann Fenech (President, CMI), Avv. Giorgio Berlingieri (Berlingieri Maresca Law Firm, Genoa) and Professor Rhidian Thomas (Institute of International Shipping and Trade Law, Swansea University).

At the end of his presentation, Professor Martínez was presented with a certificate conferring on him the title of Honorary Member of the Croatian Maritime Law Association.

SECOND “WOMEN ON BOARD” MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

On 24 February 2023, the second “Women on Board” Mentorship Programme was officially launched by IMOGen. This Programme entails the mentoring of female students both from IMLI and 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). 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 (IMLI Class of 2022 and Legal/Policy Office to the Permanent Representation of Liberia to the IMO).

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.

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY LECTURES AT IMLI

IMLI had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Michael W. Lodge (Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority). Mr. Lodge was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and the members of the IMLI Faculty. Secretary-General Lodge was then introduced by Director Martínez to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023.

Following his introduction, Secretary-General Lodge proceeded to deliver a lecture entitled “The International Seabed Authority”. During his Lecture, Mr. Lodge mentioned that IMLI and IMLI Graduates holding important positions at the International Seabed Authority, namely Mr. Yongsheng Cai (China, IMLI Class of 2006) and Ms. Tamanna Tabassum Khan (Bangladesh, IMLI Class of 2021).

IMLI FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE HOLDS SESSION

The Institute’s Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM) met for the first time for the year 2023 on Friday 12 May 2023. Mr. Jim Harrison presided over the meeting in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee.

The meeting is one of the two meetings held annually by FINCOM to review the financial, administrative, and personnel issues of the Institute.

The members of FINCOM are appointed by the IMLI Governing Board. The Committee’s role is to assist the Governing Board and the Director on the funding and finances of the Institute and on administrative matters, including personnel.

IMLI CELEBRATED THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WOMEN IN MARITIME

On 18 May 2023, IMLI joined the international maritime community in celebrating the International Day dedicated to all the Women working in the maritime field. This celebration also extended to those women such as the current female participants of the IMLI Class of 2022-2023, who are training to become the maritime leaders of tomorrow.

IMLI SIGNS LETTER OF COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

On 10 May 2023, a Letter of Cooperation was signed between the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and the International Seabed Authority. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) signed the letter on behalf of the Institute while Mr. Michael W. Lodge (Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority) signed on behalf of Authority. The signing took place at the IMLI Premises in the presence of the IMLI Faculty and Administrative Staff as well as the IMLI Class of 2022-2023.

This Letter of Cooperation will foster closer links between and be beneficial for both entities and the students that attend the IMLI programmes each year.

IMLI SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATES IN THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF THE IMO WOMEN IN MARITIME ASSOCIATIONS HELD AT IMO

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) together with a number of IMLI Female graduates participated in the Global Conference of the IMO Women in Maritime Associations organized by the IMO. This Conference commenced on 18 May 2023, the day marking the International Day for Women in Maritime and continued on 19 May. This year’s chosen theme was “Mobilizing networks for gender equality”.

Ms. Kazara-Belja was part of the IMOGender Network panel that delivered a presentation entitled “Leveraging the WUMU/IMLI networks and mentorships”.

IMLI DIRECTOR REPORTS TO THE IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE DURING 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.

During the Session, Ms. Gillian 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. He then proceeded to report on the Institute’s activities for the year 2022. Following the Director’s Report, delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, CMI, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, IBDM, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Suriname, and Thailand expressed heartfelt congratulations to Professor Martínez on his appointment as the new IMLI Director and thanked IMLI as it continues to be a centre of excellence in the training of maritime law specialists and building capacity in the area of international maritime law and implementation of international instruments.

During the session, the Committee recognized the dissertation of Mr. Darius Gustav Joseph (Antigua and Barbuda) which was distributed as INF. Document and congratulated him on his work. The dissertation of Mr. Joseph entitled “An Analysis of the Need for Reform to Ensure the Adequate Ratification and Implementation of IMO Instruments in Antigua and Barbuda” won the IMO Secretary-General’s Prize for Best Dissertation in 2022 and the Committee’s Chair called the work as ‘superb’.

Mr. Joseph was in attendance and, following a warm round of applause, he recorded that he would like to thank IMO, the Republic of Korea for the fellowship awarded, and the Institute for the training provided and encouraged governments to nominate candidates to IMLI as well as invited the international community to support and fund the Institute and its mission. The Chair concluded the interventions by noting that IMLI is a tremendous institution which does a remarkable work in providing...
legal education to professionals from around the world and that “the IMO is lucky to have IMLI as an institution”. During the 110th session, an IMLI graduate from Georgia, Mr. Ivane Abashidze, was re-elected unanimously as the Vice-Chair of the IMO Legal Committee.

DELEGATION FROM GEORGIA VISITS IMLI

On 3 May 2023, a Delegation from Georgia visited the Institute. The Delegation was comprised of Ms. Mary Chakvetadze (Manager, International Relations and Cooperation with Partners), Ms. Tamar Zarandia (Dean of the Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University), Dr. Irene Kurkdzadze (Director of the International Law Institute, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University) and Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) ensued, wherein possible future cooperation, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, was discussed.

IMLI CLASS AND MEMBERS OF THE IMLI FACULTY ATTEND THE MALTA SYMPOSIUM ON THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL EFFECTS OF JUDICIAL SALES OF SHIPS

The IMLI Class of 2022-2023 and Members of the IMLI Faculty attended on 26 April 2023, the Malta Symposium on the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships organized by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Comité Maritime International (CMI) and the Government of Malta. This Symposium aimed at providing participants with a unique opportunity to discuss with the main international legislators and stakeholders, on the various ramifications related to judicial sales of ships as well as the implications and repercussions of the UN Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships. It comprised presentations by representatives of UNCITRAL, the CMI, the European Commission, and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) among others.

Dr. Ann Fenech (President, CMI), The Honourable Dr. Ian Borg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta), The Honourable Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Malta), Mr. Frederick Kenney (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) and Mr. Ivan Sammut (Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen at Malta Ship Registry and Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO) were among the eminent personalities that contributed their knowledge and expertise during this Symposium.

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IMLI HOSTS AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND THE PROSPECT FOR THE FUTURE

IMLI held on 27 March 2023 an International Seminar on “The Importance of the Law of the Sea in the 21st Century and the Prospect for the Future”. The Seminar highlighted that UNCLOS is a living instrument which accommodates developments, and its adequate implementation facilitates a sound governance for the oceans. It was addressed by eminent speakers who have dedicated their professional life to international law and law of the sea matters.

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), who delivered the Welcoming Remarks, expressed his appreciation to all the distinguished speakers who were present to address the Seminar. He then invited The Honourable Dr. Ian Borg (Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Malta) to deliver the Opening Remarks. H.E. Mr. Hidehisa Horinouchi (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Netherlands and for UNCLOS) delivered the Keynote Address.

IMLI GRADUATES PARTICIPATE IN THE GREEN SHIPPING CONFERENCE HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA

Between 15 and 16 February 2023, the Ghana Maritime Authority in partnership with the Danish Maritime Authority and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) hosted a conference titled “Unlocking Opportunities for Green Shipping in Africa” in Accra. The distinguished speakers included Mr. Kriak Lim (Secretary-General, IMO) and The Honourable Mr. Kwaku Ofori-Asiamah (Minister of Transport, Ghana), IMLI Graduates, including Ambassador Nancy Karigithu (Kenya’s Ambassador to the Netherlands and Special Envoy for Shipping and Blue Economy and Member, IMLI Governing Board), Mr. Kofo Mbiha (Former Chairman, IMO Legal Committee and Member, IMLI Governing Board) and Ms. Azara Prempeh (Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary-General, IMO) were also in attendance.

The aim of the Conference was to promote green shipping throughout Africa. The Institute is proud to note that its graduates are taking a keen interest in maritime development within their region and are actively advocating for greener shipping in line with the IMO’s objectives and the Institute’s capacity-building activities.

IMLI NEWS

Published by the IMLI International Maritime Law Institute
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The IMO International Maritime Law Institute was established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations.