



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**IMO
INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME LAW
INSTITUTE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

A Small Institution with a Global Mission

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IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)



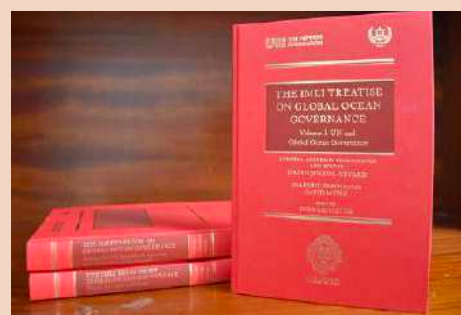
THE MISSION OF THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE IS TO ENHANCE CAPACITY-BUILDING IN ALL STATES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPING STATES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE IMO OBJECTIVES THEREBY PROMOTING SAFE, SECURE, ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING THROUGH COOPERATION.

What is IMLI?

IMLI was established in Malta in 1988 under an Agreement concluded between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Government of the Republic of Malta and started its first programme in 1989. Its main purpose was, and remains, to train officers, primarily from developing countries, in international maritime law.

Since its inception, through its research and other appropriate post-graduate programmes and courses, the Institute has been spearheading the dissemination of knowledge and expertise in the whole spectrum of international maritime law, with special reference to IMO regulations and procedures for the safety, security and efficiency of shipping, prevention of marine pollution from ships, and protection of life at sea. IMLI also offers unique training and guided practice in the techniques of maritime legislation drafting. Candidates are expected to assimilate the modus operandi and methods of implementation of IMO Conventions into national law.

Cognizant of the fact that ocean governance is critical to establish the safe and sustainable use of the oceans, IMLI continued in 2023 with its efforts to assist governments with developing the cadre of specialists necessary to shape national policies designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals encapsulated in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a more effective global ocean governance in the interest of present and future generations.



The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance



International Maritime Organization Headquarters, London, UK



Signing of the Agreement establishing the Institute, 1988

Message from the Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board

As the Chairman of the Governing Board of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), it is an honour to present the Institute's Annual Report.

The reported activities for the year 2023 are evidence of the fundamental role IMLI plays in the dissemination of knowledge in international maritime law for the benefit of IMO Member States and the international maritime community at large.

The Institute continues to confirm its status as a centre of excellence and to be duly recognized by the United Nations General Assembly and IMO bodies for its quality training. As IMO develops its revised comprehensive capacity-building strategy, leveraging new technology to ensure innovative, high-quality and cost-effective skills-development in IMO Member States, institutions such as IMLI will play a key role.

I wish to commend IMLI's constant endeavours to offer high-level maritime education to students, thus supporting IMO's capacity building goals. IMLI graduates form a highly skilful cadre of national maritime experts who duly serve their countries' maritime interests and represent their countries in international fora and particularly in matters relating to IMO.



Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco
*IMO Secretary-General,
 Chairman, IMLI Governing Board*



H.E. Dr. George Vella (the President of Malta), Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), IMLI Faculty Members, Distinguished Guests and the IMLI Class of 2022-2023



Induction meeting with the IMLI Class of 2023-2024

I note with satisfaction that a majority of IMLI's current student body consists of female participants. The Institute's policy to reserve 50% of the places to female candidates was innovative in 1988 and is re-affirmed 34 years after its establishment.

This policy has ensured that quality education is accessible equally to qualified men and women and, in empowering female professionals to become part of the maritime industry, has contributed to the promotion of gender equality. Many of the Institute's female alumnae are highly regarded in the maritime world and occupy important international or national positions.

On behalf of IMO and the Institute's Governing Board, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to the Institute's donors, who continue to believe in IMLI's global mission. Through the provision of fellowships, they have enabled maritime professionals to join a formidable network over

1,100 graduates from 146 countries who are contributing to IMO's goals for safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean and sustainable oceans.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez, who has ensured that IMLI maintains its legacy and reaches new academic heights. My gratitude is also extended to the Institute's staff for their exceptional dedication.

Finally, I would like to commend the hardworking students who come to IMLI from across the globe to study and to share their experiences. With the Institute's support, they are undertaking personalized research, relevant to their countries and regions, which addresses existing and emerging threats to our oceans with the aim of proffering sound and tangible solutions which will promote sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet. IMLI students are at the heart of the IMLI success story.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General Elect) and IMLI Graduates attending as delegates of their countries at the 33rd Session of the IMO Assembly held at the IMO Headquarters in London

Message from the IMLI Director

As the Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), it gives me great pleasure to present the 2023 Annual Report, which highlights the activities and achievements of the Institute in the past year.

2023 has been a year of transformation and growth. While the Institute continues to be the international centre for the training of specialists in the full the spectrum of international maritime law, during the year 2023 it reached new heights, both in the dissemination of knowledge and expertise in the international regime regulating every facet of shipping and law of the sea, as well as in promoting legislation drafting techniques to incorporate and effectively implement international maritime instruments, especially those developed by IMO, into national law.

IMLI concluded its 34th academic year on 30 June 2023. The 54 graduates of the Class of 2023 benefited from a unique training which honed their skills in international maritime law and equipped them with the necessary knowledge to return to their country and be vectors of positive change. They joined a formidable network of IMLI trained professionals who are promoting uniformity of law and adherence to international rules and prescriptions in 170 countries. I am particularly indebted to our donors and partners who continue to believe in what IMLI represents, and as I often say, believe in why IMLI remains relevant to the international maritime community.

The Institute adopted in 2023 its Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027. The Plan places particular emphasis on the goals of the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme while encouraging the Institute to maintain the highest standards of education and research. In the light of its global mission, the Institute projected its vision of upholding leadership in international postgraduate education and research, promoting diversity, equality, and inclusion in all its academic activities, demonstrating continuous improvement and skills, and contributing actively to the realization of the goals of the international maritime community. Through a set of principles and actionable strategic directions, the Institute reiterated, inter alia, its commitment to enhance capacity-building worldwide, especially in developing countries –



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
Director
IMO International Maritime Law Institute

including Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries – promote world-class research of local, regional and global significance, expand its global outreach, support the maritime industry, and strengthen cooperation with leading institutions as well as exploring new partnerships with diverse actors operating in the maritime domain.

It is thanks to this vision that IMLI established a new initiative entitled “Continuous Professional Development and Representation”. This new initiative has ensured that the Institute's personnel remain abreast with the latest developments in their respective fields of expertise and represent the Institute in international fora. The continuous professional development of IMLI's staff aligns with the Institute's goals of retaining faculty and staff of the highest standards and supporting their success, empowering them to inspire and prepare the next generation of maritime leaders.

In reasserting its commitment to the realization of the IMO's objectives, the Institute explored novel ways of delivering its mandate. The Institute enhanced its training in the areas of decarbonization

through dedicated lectures on MARPOL Annex VI, IMO GHG Strategy, the Climate Change Regulatory Framework, and best practices to make shipping and ports green. Students carried out research on the adequate implementation of MARPOL Annex VI in their countries, thereby contributing to the decarbonization of shipping. Moreover, becoming aware that the Maritime Single Window has become mandatory, the Institute conducted training activities on the implementation of the FAL Convention and the Maritime Single Window. The Institute raised awareness on the important role of cooperation between various national institutions to mitigate 'red tape' in maritime trade.

The security threats challenging shipping were also the focus of many discussions at IMLI. The Institute's students and other participants were made aware of the ever-evolving nature of these threats and the response of the international community, under IMO, on how to overcome the same. IMLI students were also introduced to the various measures to suppress fraudulent practices in ship registration and certificates of competence / proficiency of seafarers. The Institute is proud of its participation in the Study Group on Fraudulent Registration and Fraudulent Registries of Ships.

The academic year 2023-2024 which commenced on 9 October 2023 recorded the largest class ever in IMLI's history. 72 students from 40 countries entered the Institute's portals with the objective of serving the rule of international maritime law. The 35th IMLI class would embark on a journey of learning as well as professional and personal growth while celebrating a milestone of the Institute. 35 years since its establishment, the Institute continues to inspire and motivate maritime professionals from around the globe to pursue education which is pivotal to the successful implementation of the international regulatory framework.

I am proud to record that IMO bodies continue to express appreciation for the Institute's academic work. This recognition pays tribute to IMLI's initiative of offering a place, free of charge to a candidate nominated by the Permanent Missions to IMO. Despite relying exclusively on donations, this initiative is IMLI's way of paying forward the generosity of its supporters and giving back to the international maritime community. During 2023, over 180 candidates nominated by the Permanent Missions attended the numerous specialized courses offered by IMLI thereby enhancing their knowledge in the law of treaties, law of ports, seafarers' rights, environmental protection, ocean governance, international maritime security law, peaceful settlement of maritime disputes, and delimitation of maritime boundaries.

At IMLI we are conscious of the need to ensure that our training and teaching takes into account the latest

developments in international maritime law and the needs of the IMO Member States. In this respect, the Institute continued to cooperate with IMO and several other international organizations. It has been a real honour for me, to welcome to IMLI several senior IMO officers who delivered lectures (some of them in Malta) throughout the year 2023. These senior IMO officers, who support the Institute's academic activities, provide students with insights into the work of the Organization and the IMO's perspective on different issues, ranging from unmanned ships, enhancement of safety of merchant ships and fishing vessels, production of renewable energy at sea by offshore wind-farms, carbon neutral international shipping, digitalization of shipping, combatting various illegal acts at sea, to mention a few. These experts form part of the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme which in 2023 welcomed over 130 eminent practitioners, international officers, judges, and leading academics.

Pursuant to the cooperation between IMLI and FAO which recognizes the Institute as its capacity-building training partner, the Institute hosted the fifth "International Course on Fisheries Law" (in Spanish). The Course which took place between 23 October and 10 November 2023 welcomed 15 participants from seven countries (Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay) who were able to enhance their knowledge in fisheries law and had the opportunity to apply such knowledge to practical situations. Lectures were delivered by Members of the IMLI Faculty, FAO officials, and international monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement experts, together with eminent speakers, including Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea).

All these achievements would not have been possible without the commendable support of IMLI's Governing Bodies and the valuable work of the academic and administrative staff. I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Institute's donors who, through the provision of fellowships, have enabled the Institute to remain at the forefront of maritime legal education and training, for the benefit of our oceans.

Long Live IMLI!



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with the IMLI Faculty

GOVERNANCE OF THE INSTITUTE

IMLI is governed by a Statute adopted by the IMO Assembly in 1988 and revised by the IMO Council during its 109th session in 2012. In accordance with its Statute, IMLI's governance structure consists of a Governing Board, an Academic Committee, a Financial and Human Resources Committee, and the Director.

Governing Board



*Mr. Kitack Lim,
Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board*



The Members of the IMLI Governing Board

From left to right: Row 1 Vice-Admiral Cristiano Aliperta, Professor Dr. h.c. Philippe Boisson, Ambassador Victor Camilleri, Dr. Reto Dürler, Dr. Patrick Griggs, and Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison

From left to right: Row 2 Professor Atsuko Kanehara, Ambassador Nancy Karigithu, Dr. Louis N. Mbanefo, Dr. Kofi Mbiah, Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha, Mr. Ivan Sammut, and Mr. Xiaojie Zhang

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. K. Lim

IMO Secretary – General

Professor A. Kanehara

Research Director for the Canon Institute for Global Studies; Senior Fellow for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

MEMBERS:

Vice-Admiral C. Aliperta

Alternate Permanent Representative of Palau to IMO

Ambassador N. Karigithu

Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy, Kenya

Professor Dr. h.c. P. Boisson

Maritime Arbitrator and Maritime Consultant to Bureau Veritas, Paris
Advisor to the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta

Mr. L. N. Mbanefo

Principal, Louis Mbanefo & Co.

Ambassador V. Camilleri

Former Head, Swiss Maritime Navigation office

Dr. E. K. Mbiah

CEO, Ghana Chamber of Shipping

Dr. R. Dürler

Former President, Comité Maritime International

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. M. Pavliha

Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia

Dr. P. Griggs, CBE

Former Group Legal Director, Lloyd's Register, Vice-Chairman, IMLI Governing Board

Mr. I. Sammut

Head of Office, REMPEC

Dr. h.c. J. T. Harrison

Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO

Mr. X. Zhang

MEMBERS EMERITI:

Mr. K. Sekimizu

IMO, Secretary-General Emeritus

Mr. E. E. Mitropoulos

IMO, Secretary-General Emeritus

The IMLI Governing Board is chaired by the IMO Secretary-General and is composed of eminent personalities from around the world with expertise in different areas of international maritime law and maritime affairs.

The Governing Board is assisted by the Director, the Financial and Human Resources Committee in matters relating to the funding and finances of the Institute and on administrative matters, including personnel, and the Academic Committee in matters related to the coordination and implementation of the study and research programmes of the Institute.

The 37th session of the IMLI Governing Board (the Board) was held on 24 July 2023 at the IMO Headquarters. The Governing Board reviewed the financial and academic progress of the Institute for the period between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023. The Director presented the respective

reports for the Board's comments and recommendations. Upon the Director presenting the financial report, the Board commended the Institute for its financial stability and for completing its financial year.

It congratulated the Director for his successful fundraising, particularly with respect to attracting new funding and further recorded its appreciation to all the Institute's donors and contributors.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the progress made by the Institute despite the many challenges faced. It commended the Director, Faculty, and Staff of IMLI for their continuous efforts to maintain the Institute's high academic standards and also expressed its appreciation to all the distinguished visiting fellows who taught at IMLI in the past academic year.

Director



The Director of the Institute, appointed by the IMO Secretary-General, continued to be responsible for the direction and administration of the Institute. In the reporting year, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez continued to supervise the admissions process and managed the Institute's academic programmes and courses. The Director continues to manage the Institute's personnel in accordance with general policies and criteria approved by the IMLI Governing Board. The Director also continues with his efforts to obtain funds to finance the Institute, which remains dependent on voluntary contributions.

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) at the 2023 IMLI Graduation Ceremony

Academic Committee

In 2023, the Academic Committee continued to work assiduously to review and advise on the admission of students. The Academic Committee also continued to consider draft Memoranda of Understanding to establish cooperation between the Institute and other academic institutions.

The Committee remains resolute in its mandate to provide unwavering support and guidance to the Institute to uphold academic standards and rigour while offering support and guidance to the Institute.



Chairman: Professor Dr. N. A. Martínez Gutiérrez



Mr. F. J. Kenney Jr.



Dr. P. Griggs, CBE



Dr. E. K. Mbiah



Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. M. Pavliha



Professor F. L. Wiswall Jr.

Financial and Human Resources Committee

The IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM) has held its two meetings. The first was held at IMO headquarters in London, on Thursday 7 December 2023 and the second was held at IMLI on Tuesday 30 April 2024. Dr. H.C. James T. Harrison presided over both meetings in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee. The meetings were attended by Dr. H.C. Jim Harrison, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez, Professor Dr. H.C. Philippe Boisson, Dr. Reto Dürler.

These meetings are held annually by FINCOM to review the financial, administrative and personnel, and related issues of the Institute. Appointed by the Governing Board, the Committee's role is to assist the Governing Board and the Institute's Director on the matters of funding and finances of the Institute and on administrative matters, including personnel.



*Chairman:
Dr. h.c. J. T. Harrison*



Professor Dr. N. A. Martínez Gutiérrez



Dr. R. Dürler



Professor Dr. h.c. P. Boisson



Mr. X. Zhang

Human Resources

In 2023, the Institute's resident faculty, under the supervision of the Director, continued to be responsible for the teaching of all subjects within the academic syllabi. The teaching of the resident faculty was complemented by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme, which aims to introduce students to the latest developments, and offers networking opportunities which should serve students well when they return to their home countries. In 2023, distinguished visiting fellows came from world renowned Universities such as the Australian National University (ANU), Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), University of Ljubljana, World Maritime University (WMU), The Research Centre of the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM), Ankara University, U.S. Naval War College and others; while others came from international organizations such as the Comité Maritime International (CMI), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Maritime Satellite Organization (IMSO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Other visiting fellows were ambassadors, experts, and eminent practitioners. A list of these distinguished visiting fellows is provided in pages 38-39 of this Report.

The Resident Faculty also supervised 53 maritime legislation drafting projects and 53 dissertations/research projects, a list of which is provided in pages 40-42 of this Report. A unique feature of the IMLI training is its dedicated personal attention to the students. In addition to academic supervisors, the Institute appoints a moral tutor for each student to give support of a non-academic nature throughout the duration of studies.

Resident Faculty Members



Professor DR. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Honduras)
Lic. (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Ph.D (IMLI)
Advocate (Honduras)
Director



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Albania)
Jurist (Ethniko kai Kapodistriako University of Athens)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Senior Lecturer / Head of Administration



Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice (the United Kingdom/Poland)
LL.B. (University of Warsaw)
LL.M. (University of Warsaw)
Ph.D. (University of Warsaw)

The Nippon Foundation Professor on Marine Environmental Law



Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (India)
LL.B. (Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University)
LL.M. (The Indian Law Institute)
Ph.D. (University of Delhi)
Advocate (India)

The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law



Judge Professor David J. Attard (Malta)
LL.D. (University of Malta)
D. Phil. (University of Oxford)
Advocate (Malta)
Barrister-at-Law (London)
Professor Public International Law and the Law of the Sea



Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Sierra Leone)
B.A. (University of Sierra Leone)
LL.B. (University of Sierra Leone)
LL.M. (IMLI) Barrister-at-Law and Solicitor
Lecturer



Dr. Murat Sümer (Türkiye)
LL.B. (Ankara University)
LL.M. (Ankara University)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Ph.D. (Maastricht University)
Advocate (Türkiye)
The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law



Dr. Rafael Prado (Brazil)
LL.B. (Communitarian University of Joinville Region)
LL.M. (University Rovira i Virgili)
Ph.D. (University of Barcelona and Federal University of Santa Catarina)
Advocate (Brazil and Portugal)
The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance

Administrative and Secretarial Staff



*Ms. Miriam Vella
(Malta)
Head of Finance and Personnel*



*Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja
(Albania)
Senior Lecturer / Head of
Administration*



*Ms. Tiina Kõpus
(Estonia)
Executive Assistant to the
Director*



*Ms. Anusha Fernando
(Sri Lanka)
Admissions Officer*



*Mr. Alexander Scerri
(Malta)
IT Officer*



*Ms. Verica Cole
(Serbia)
Librarian*



*Ms. Claudette Camilleri
(Malta)
Publications & Media Officer /
Secretary, Office of the Director*



*Ms. Leslie Ann Curmi
(Malta)
Purchasing Officer*



*Ms. Ivana Riskova
(Slovakia)
Student Affairs Officer /
Receptionist*



*Ms. Christabel Bezzina
(Malta)
Finance Assistant*



*Mr. Joseph Mifsud
(Malta)
Maintenance / Driver*



*Mr. Aaron Sultana
(Malta)
Maintenance*

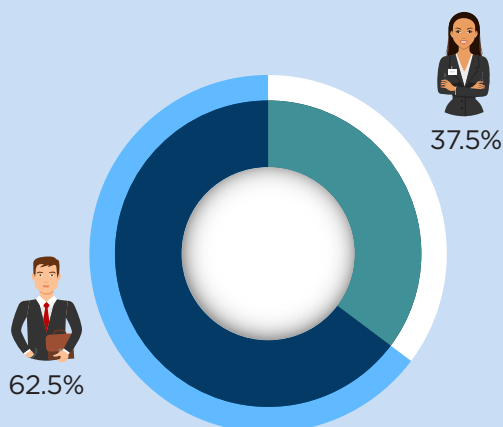


*Ms. Mary Rose Inskip
(Malta)
Housekeeping*

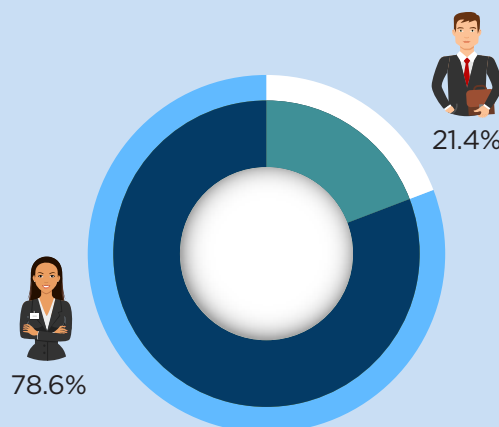


*Ms. Josette Spiteri
(Malta)
Housekeeping*

Staff grouped by Gender as of 31 December 2023



Resident Faculty



**Administration and
Secretarial Staff**

IMLI Programmes

DURING 2023, IMLI OFFERED A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF HUMANITIES (M.HUM.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LEGISLATION, A RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF THE DEGREES OF MAGISTER JURIS (M.JUR.) AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (M.PHIL.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW AND OCEAN POLICY IN COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY (WMU), A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF AN ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, AND SEVERAL SPECIALIZED SHORT COURSES IN ALL AREAS WITHIN IMLI'S SYLLABI.

LL.M. PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

The LL.M. programme in International Maritime Law was designed to respond to the shortage of legal experts, especially in the developing world, who possess the necessary skills to incorporate and efficiently implement international instruments into domestic legislation. Whereas there has been a plethora of international instruments which regulate the multifaceted aspects of international maritime law, some States have failed to translate them into effective national measures which will ensure uniform applicability across the oceans. Accordingly, the programme provides dedicated training in the drafting of maritime legislation, with emphasis on the techniques for the incorporation and implementation of IMO instruments into domestic legislation. With this in mind, the LL.M. programme not only studies maritime law from an international perspective, but looks on a comparative basis into the major legal systems in relation to maritime affairs. Through its international faculty composed of eminent academics, practitioners and members of the judiciary, the programme addresses current challenges facing the international maritime community and the various responses put forward to ensure safety of navigation, security of shipping, protection of the marine environment, safeguarding of human rights, and peaceful use of the oceans. This one academic year programme is open to candidates who hold a degree in law and are proficient in English.

M.HUM. PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LEGISLATION

IMLI's specialized post-graduate programme leading to the Degree of Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) in International Maritime Legislation is open to candidates who hold an undergraduate degree from a recognized university or other academic institution in a related discipline to international maritime law and are proficient in English. The programme aims to respond to the needs of IMO Member States to have trained specialists in international maritime legislation drafting. Intensive drafting exercises are carried out to build the students' drafting skills so as to enable them to draft national legislation which effectively implements IMO instruments. The programme is suitable for qualified professionals working in the maritime field such as maritime administrations, port authorities, or other organizations concerned with maritime affairs.

RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

IMLI offers a Research Degree programme leading to the award of the Degree of Magister Juris (M.Jur.) in International Maritime Law and the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in International Maritime Law. Candidates are expected to undergo their studies in IMLI's Research Degree programme with a high degree of independence, thus, the programme can be largely undertaken from abroad. Candidates are assigned individual academic supervisors drawn from a list of internationally recognized experts.

M.PHIL PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW /LEGISLATION AND OCEAN POLICY

IMLI and WMU offer a joint Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) programme leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy. The programme is designed to train expert maritime professionals, immersed in the UN system structure and goals, to advocate sound policies and legislation which will support their sustainable development. This two-year programme recognizes that the current legal and institutional framework for ocean governance is limited in dealing with the emerging challenges in the field. As a result, the programme has identified that the fragmentation of both legal and institutional framework has led to the adoption of well-intended action occasioning unintended consequences for the oceans. Thus, the need for a new paradigm of ocean governance captured by this initiative is geared towards ensuring the establishment of effective ocean governance for the 21st century and beyond, as reiterated in Goal 14 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ADVANCED DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

The Advanced Diploma programme in International Maritime Law is designed to benefit professionals (including those at the most senior level) involved in maritime practice in both private and public sectors and who, because of their careers, are unable to be away from their jobs for a period of more than a few weeks / months per year.

The programme is structured on a credit system and, to be awarded the Advanced Diploma, candidates must earn a sufficient number of credits after successfully following and completing courses on distinct subject areas within either the Public International Maritime Law strand or the Private International Maritime Law strand. The credits offered broadly follow the subjects offered within the Institute's LL.M. programme. Candidates are required to have a degree from a recognized university or other academic institution, or must have

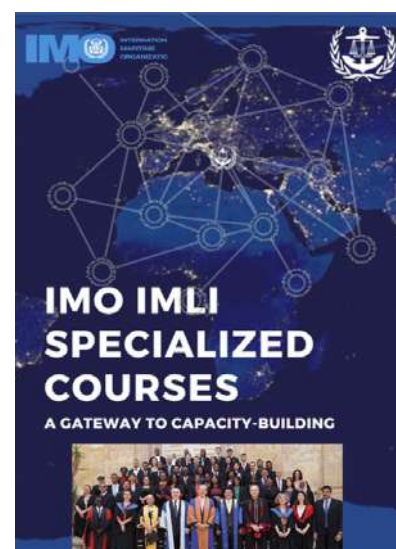
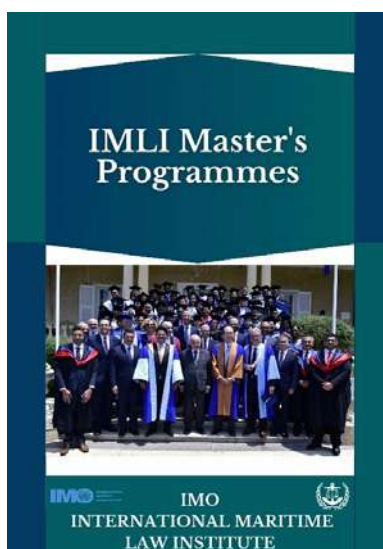
a comparable standard qualification, including relevant professional or practical experience, or both, recognized for this purpose by the Institute. This programme can be undertaken between one and five years.

SPECIALIZED SHORT COURSES

The Institute's teaching in the Master's programmes is based on a modular system which enables a number of applicants to attend these modules as independent short courses. The duration of such courses ranges between one to several weeks, depending on the subject area. At the conclusion of each short course, a certificate of attendance is awarded. The specialized short courses have attracted, over the years, a large number of participants who are especially interested in the training the Institute offers in a particular area. On request of government entities, the Institute also organizes tailor-made specialized courses in areas of interest to government officials who register their participation.

More information regarding IMLI's programmes and courses is available on the IMLI website: <https://imli.org/programmes-and-courses/>

For information on admissions, please contact: admissions@imli.org



Academic Year 2023-2024

On 9 October 2023, IMLI Welcomed its 35th Generation of Lawyers and Maritime Professionals



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
(Director, IMLI)*

During the academic year 2023-2024, 50 students were enrolled in the LL.M. programme, 12 students in the M.Hum. programme and 1 student in the M.Jur. programme. These students hailed from 38 countries around the world. In addition, 4 students were enrolled in the Advanced Diploma Programme.

The academic year attracted 48 fellowships of which 23 were awarded to women candidates. During this year a total of 30 female students participated in the Institute's Master's programmes.

As in the previous academic years, the IMLI Programmes were conducted in such a methodical and consistent manner demonstrating IMLI's commitment to its mission of educating and training fellows in international Maritime Law, to the highest academic standards.

Also, as in the previous year, the Institute expanded its global outreach through the organisation of online specialized short courses for government officials in niche areas of international maritime law. These courses continued to be offered by the Institute in the reporting year and continued to be well attended by many in high-ranking positions including Permanent Representatives of the respective countries to the IMO, Ministers, Counsellors, Senior Foreign Officers, Government Officials and Maritime Professionals. They were exposed to the formidable body of work of the IMO in ensuring sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet and the vital role of other international organisations, courts, and tribunals in upholding the rule of international maritime law.

IMLI Class of 2023-2024

Buen Hoti
ALBANIA

Marver B. C. Woodley
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Patrick Leroy Sweeting Jr.
the BAHAMAS

Cidney C. Thompson
the BAHAMAS

Marina Borges Soares
BRAZIL

Helene D. Mbili Ngalle
CAMEROON

Chuo Angabua Junior Angabua
CAMEROON

Kamwanda Murielle Mukonkole
REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Ante Vojkovi
CROATIA

Negmeldin F. Negmeldin Elbatran
EGYPT

Benjamin Ampoma-Boaten
GHANA

Christiana Awoonor-Anderson
GHANA

Madeleine Ma Adjoa Buadi
GHANA

Patience Ella Diaba
GHANA

Rhodalline Ofori Koranteng
GHANA

Timothy Davidson Yelbaya
GHANA

Maria Jose Casula Santeli
HONDURAS

Luis Alfredo Maradiaga Caballero
HONDURAS

Deependra Singh Bisen
INDIA

Navodita Singh
INDIA

Sedigh Zarei
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Emmah Akware
KENYA

Deborah Mwase Robi
KENYA

Da Ye Kim
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Anthony Toe Twe
LIBERIA

Chrisphine Limbikani Kalusa
MALAWI

Neverson Chisiza
MALAWI

Kei Vui Kevin Chin
MALAYSIA

Sarah Bonnici
MALTA

Diane Cutajar
MALTA

Jimmy Galea
MALTA

Maria Gutiza
MALTA

Mario Mallia
MALTA

Esther Rodriguez Alvarado
MEXICO

Maria Eugenia Montano Bermudez
MEXICO

Emiliano Antonio Vasquez Hernandez
MEXICO

Marquinha H. A. Morais Pinto Basto
MOZAMBIQUE

Hilma Dalondoka Kuduva
NAMIBIA

John Nyambe Mufaya
NAMIBIA

Kelechi ThankGod Ekpem
NIGERIA

Mark Terver Mailumo
NIGERIA

Ocheleka Emmanuel Ogbe
NIGERIA

Olatunbosun Omolara Olasubomi
NIGERIA

Ifeanyi Peter Ujubonu
NIGERIA

Karam Basem Ibrahim Alkhalidi
the State of PALESTINE

Karina Sophia Valdivia Segura
PERU

Lovely Rose Zafra Catayen
the PHILIPPINES

Laures Licayo Fulgaon
the PHILIPPINES

Mustafa Salih A. AlJuhani
SAUDI ARABIA

Azzam Abdullah M. Alsabt
SAUDI ARABIA

Mame Ndella Faye
SENEGAL

Isha Shameera B. Cooposamy
SEYCHELLES

Alpha Jalloh
SIERRA LEONE

Joash Bella
SOLOMON ISLANDS

Suad Mohamed Tigow
SOMALIA

O. A. Sheran Madhawa Perera
SRI LANKA

Kanishka Rajakaruna
SRI LANKA

Lakshan P. R. Dewelgoda Arachchige
SRI LANKA

Sehan Anthony Thisa Soyza
SRI LANKA

Mehzabeen Ramsaroep
SURINAME

Patricia Soraya Soltani
SWITZERLAND

Vedastus Thomas Kitureti
the UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Ramadhan Julius Ngogo
the UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Juma Mussa Omar
the UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Ngollo Yaya Dabuya
the UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Montassar Atouani
TUNISIA

Adil Ismail Celik
TÜRKİYE

Amosa Moegafou
TUVALU

Mykola Panchyshyn
UKRAINE

Diana Andreevna Mykhailova
UKRAINE

Ahmed Ali M. Ali Al-Subhi
YEMEN

Galal Ali Mohammed Alawi
YEMEN



ALBANIA

ANTIGUA
& BARBUDA

THE BAHAMAS



THE BAHAMAS



BRAZIL



CAMEROON



CAMEROON

REPUBLIC
OF CONGO

CROATIA



EGYPT



GHANA



GHANA



GHANA



GHANA



GHANA



GHANA



HONDURAS



HONDURAS



INDIA



INDIA

ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN

KENYA



KENYA

REPUBLIC
OF KOREA

LIBERIA



MALAWI



MALAWI



MALAYSIA



MALTA



MALTA



MALTA



MALTA



MALTA



MEXICO



MEXICO



MEXICO



MOZAMBIQUE



NAMIBIA



NAMIBIA



NIGERIA



NIGERIA



NIGERIA



NIGERIA



NIGERIA

State of
PALESTINE

PERU

the
PHILIPPINESthe
PHILIPPINES

SAUDI ARABIA



SAUDI ARABIA



SENEGAL



SEYCHELLES



SIERRA LEONE

SOLOMON
ISLANDS

SOMALIA



SRI LANKA



SRI LANKA



SRI LANKA



SRI LANKA



SURINAME



SWITZERLAND

the UNITED
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OF TANZANIAthe UNITED
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OF TANZANIAthe UNITED
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OF TANZANIAthe UNITED
REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA

TUNISIA



TÜRKIYE



TUVALU



UKRAINE



UKRAINE



YEMEN



YEMEN

Graduates in all Programmes by Region



*The IMLI Class of 2023-2024 taking the
Oath of Allegiance to the Institute*



IMLI's Contribution to the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

IN 2023, THROUGH ITS INTENSIVE EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH AGENDA, IMLI CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF SEVERAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ENCAPSULATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

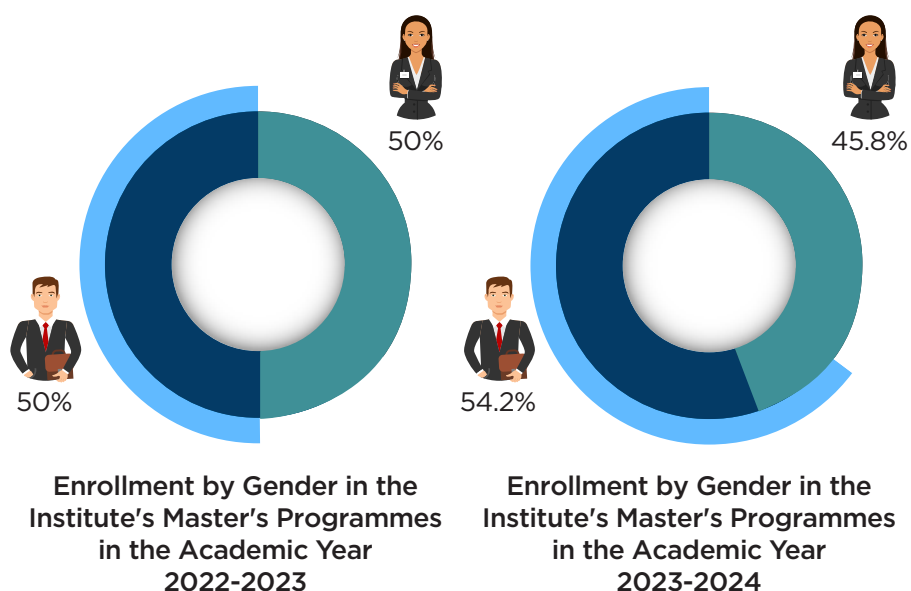
In line with the spirit of **Goal 14, Life below Water**, the Institute provides quality training and research in the areas of ocean governance and law of the sea, as well as protection of the marine environment from pollution. Students are also encouraged to conduct research in those areas.

Goal 4, Quality Education, reflects the Institute's education mission. IMLI provides the platform necessary to enhance capacity-building, particularly in the developing world, through quality training in international maritime law for sustainable development across the globe.

IMLI has taken a proactive stance to achieve **Goal 5, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls**, by way of mandating in its admissions process that fifty (50) percent of places in the Institute is reserved for suitably qualified female candidates.

To achieve **Goals 7, 13** and **17** that aim to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, respectively; and in line with **Goal 14**, IMLI, together with The Nippon Foundation, authored "*The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance*". The Treatise covers different areas of ocean governance such as the protection and preservation of the marine environment, maritime security, protection of biodiversity, and climate change.

To champion **Goals 9** and **16** that aim to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, and just, peaceful and inclusive societies, the Institute offers courses on international maritime law to enhance specialization of individuals working in the shipping industry, incentive business and ensure best practices.



IMLI Publications



The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law and The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance

Throughout 2023, “*The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law*”, published by Oxford University Press, continues to be regarded as an essential reference material for students, researchers, academics, and practitioners. The Manual provides a unique and comprehensive guide to all the major branches of international maritime law covering, in its three volumes, the Law of the Sea, Shipping Law, and Marine Environmental Law and Maritime Security Law, respectively. The Manual examines these fields from an international and comparative perspective and provides an in-depth analysis from the point of view of international conventions, customary law, and commercial practices.



The Book Series "IMLI Studies in International Maritime Law"

collaboration between IMLI and The Nippon Foundation. In its three volumes, the Treatise deals with “*The United Nations (UN) and Global Ocean Governance*”, “*The UN Specialized Agencies and Global Ocean Governance*”, and “*IMO and Global Ocean Governance*”, respectively. Fifty-eight leading experts, chosen on the basis of their eminence and expertise in the various areas covered by the Treatise,



Essays in Honour of Professor David Joseph Attard

“*The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance*” is the most recent and authoritative statement on the current state of the law on global ocean governance. Published by Oxford University Press, the Treatise is the product of the fruitful

contributions assessing the current state of the international regime regulating the use of the oceans to ensure that proposals for a new framework are based on reliable information.

The book series “*IMLI Studies in International Maritime Law*” published by Routledge simultaneously in London and New York, is dedicated to the publishing of original, scholarly contributions that analyse key issues in international maritime law, which are of interest to an audience of students, scholars and practitioners in international maritime law. In 2023, the books entitled “*Sea Level Change and Maritime Boundaries*” by Dr. Antoine Grima and “*Legal Aspects of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea: An Adriatic and Ionian Perspective*” edited by Dr. Mitja Grbec, Professor Tullio Scovazzi, and Ass. Professor Ilaria Tani were published as part of the Series.



The periodical IMLI e-News

The Institute issues weekly electronic newsletters that are distributed to over 150 States and which contain the latest IMLI news and interviews with renowned personalities who visit the Institute. By the close of 2023, the Institute published over 37 issues of the electronic newsletter IMLI e-News and 10 issues of the IMLI e-Alert. It also published 235 online posts via the “*Happening Now*” publishing tool and social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, X, Instagram

and Youtube. As means of further dissemination the “*IMLI Connect*” WhatsApp Chat Network was also employed. The Institute also published the 2022 Annual Report, reporting also on the work of the Institute for the said year. This 44-page report was comprised of a Message from the Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, Message from the Director, IMLI Programmes, Our Students, IMLI's Contribution to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Governance, Human Resources, IMLI Publications, Academic Conferences and Events, Finances, Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme, Academic Projects, Fellowship and Donors, Student Life at IMLI and Testimonials.

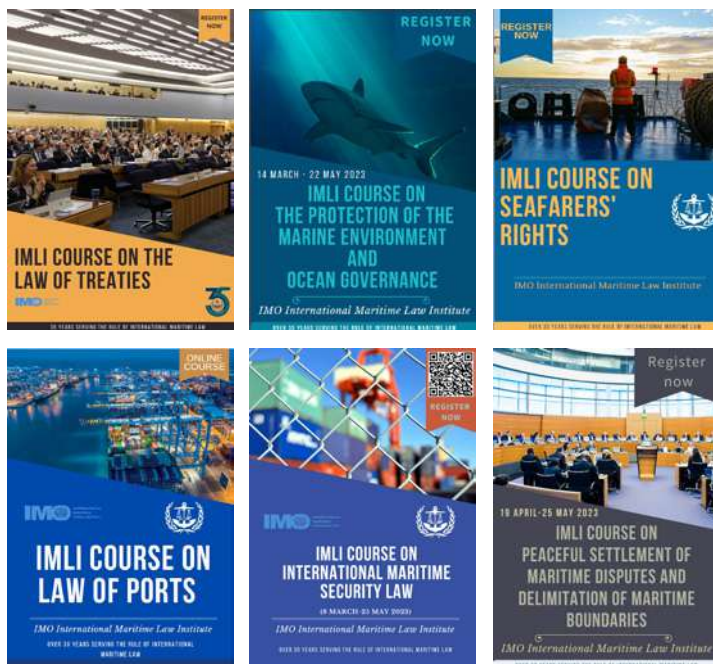


The Annual Report 2022



IMLI Graduation Brochure published yearly by the Institute

Courses, Conferences and Events



IMLI, since its inception, has had the objective of enhancing capacity-building, especially in developing States. Recognizing that capacity-building is key in ensuring sustainable States' development, in particular in ensuring an effective international maritime regime, IMLI has spearheaded numerous academic activities in the areas of international maritime law, particularly regarding the effective implementation of existing IMO regulations and prescriptions.

During the year 2023, IMLI delivered specialized courses on the Law of Ports, Seafarers' Rights, Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance, International Maritime Security Law, Law of Treaties as well as Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries. The very successful extensive programme which focuses on the operational aspects of IMO commenced for the fourth year in October 2023.

These specialized short courses, which may also be followed online, have enabled professionals who

may not leave their countries to attend courses in the Institute's premises to enhance their knowledge in all areas of international maritime law through IMLI's hybrid learning facilities. This has been the case for many country delegates to IMO who benefited from the free seats made available by the Institute. The free seat initiative was deeply appreciated by the Permanent Representatives of countries to IMO who applauded the Institute for its capacity-building efforts. These specialized courses have also contributed to the realization of IMLI's mission and to expand its global outreach.

IMLI COURSE ON THE LAW OF PORTS



*Ms. Tatjana Krilic
(Deputy Director,
Subdivision for
Member State Audit
and Implementation,
Technical Cooperation
and Implementation
Division, IMO)*

IMLI's fourth annual Course on the Law of Ports, commenced on 8 February 2023. The Course was inaugurated by Ms. Tatjana Krilic (Deputy Director, Subdivision for Member State Audit and Implementation, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO), who warmly welcomed the IMLI students and the international participants who hailed from all over the world. The Course participants, in addition to building their theoretical skills in Law of Ports through intensive lectures delivered by distinguished fellows, had also the opportunity to benefit from the practical expertise of leading professionals working in ports.

IMLI COURSE ON SEAFARERS' RIGHTS



*Ms. Beatriz Vacotto,
inaugural lecture
Ms. Beatriz Vacotto
(Head of the Maritime
Unit, International
Labour Standards
Department,
International Labour
Organization (ILO))*

This specialized Course, commenced on 9 February 2023, brought, together world experts in the field who provided practical perspectives and experiences. The Course was inaugurated by Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (Head of the Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)). It addressed many aspects of maritime labour law, the functions of ILO, IMO, ITF and other organisations committed to the protection of seafarers' rights, the different international instruments dealing with seafarers, their rights and duties, with particular emphasis on the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC). The Course also included dedicated lectures on the sterling work of the ITF and ITF Seafarers' Trust in promoting seafarers' rights.

IMLI COURSE ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE

This unique IMLI Course focused on the protection of the marine environment within the integrated global ocean governance of various maritime activities. Participants were introduced to the international regulatory framework, especially the IMO treaties, which contribute to the prevention of marine pollution as well as to cooperation, response and compensation in case of pollution incidents. The Course ran from 14 March to 27 May 2023, bringing together world experts in the field who provided practical



Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (Director, Marine Environmental Division, IMO)

perspectives and experiences. It was inaugurated by Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (Director, Marine Environmental Division, IMO) and attended by nominated participants, including Ambassadors, Alternate Permanent Representatives, Ministers, Counsellors and Senior Foreign Officers nominated by their respective Permanent Representatives to the IMO.



Professor James Kraska (Chairman and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law, Stockton Center for International Law, US Naval War College)

IMLI COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW

The Course covered the critical maritime security threats to the international rule of law at sea and the freedom of navigation. It addressed the gravity of these threats and the existing international laws and State practices deterring the same. The Course also focused on the current legal developments ensuring the safe navigation of ships, protection of offshore installations and coasts of maritime States as well as the contribution of international organisations, especially IMO, and regional cooperation in overcoming maritime security threats. The Course ran from 8 March to 25 May 2023. Professor James Kraska (Chairman and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law, Stockton Center for International Law, US Naval War College) delivered the inaugural address.

IMLI COURSE ON THE LAW OF TREATIES

Following the overwhelmingly positive response by the international maritime community, the Institute launched on 9 November 2023 the fourth annual IMLI Course on the Law of Treaties. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered the introductory address and



Dr. David Nanopoulos (Chief, Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs)

Dr. David Nanopoulos (Chief, Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs), delivered the inaugural address. Through an analysis of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and developments found in jurisprudence and doctrine, this specialized Programme provided an overview of the Law of Treaties – commencing with the value of treaties as a source of international law, and thereafter analyzing the most essential features of treaties such as the adoption and authentication of text, the States' expression of consent to be bound by treaties, entry into force, treaty interpretation, third States and treaties, methods of amendment, duration and termination, invalidity of treaties, treaties with international organizations and the relationship of treaties with domestic law. Among the participants, there were Ambassadors, Alternate Permanent Representatives of countries to IMO, Directors of Government Departments, and Diplomats, who were nominated by their respective Permanent Representatives to the IMO.



President A. Hoffmann Judge Albert Hoffmann (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS))

IMLI COURSE ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF MARITIME DISPUTES AND DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES

Judge Albert Hoffmann (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)) delivered the inaugural address for the IMLI Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries. This Course was designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to, and an analysis of, different international maritime dispute settlement mechanisms. The Course, which ran from 19 April to 25 May 2023, brought together world experts in the field who provided practical perspectives and experiences and was attended by government nominated participants, including Ambassadors, Alternate Permanent Representatives and Senior Foreign Officers, who were nominated by their respective Permanent Representatives to the IMO.

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.



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



Professor Igor Vio (Secretary-General, Croatian Maritime Law Association) presenting Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) a certificate conferring on him the title of Honorary Member of the Croatian Maritime Law Association

IMLI DIRECTOR IS 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” held in Split, Croatia. Professor Martínez's presentation was entitled “IMO's Efforts to Ensure a United Interpretation of the Provisions Regarding the Loss 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. 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.

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. 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



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.

IMLI SIGNS LETTER OF COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

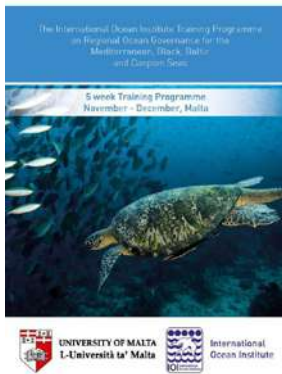
On 10 May 2023, Mr. Michael W. Lodge (Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority) visited the Institute to deliver a lecture entitled “The International Seabed Authority”. On the occasion of his visit, a Letter of Cooperation was also signed between the Institute and the International Seabed Authority (ISA). 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 the ISA.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Mr. Michael W. Lodge (Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority) at the signing of the document

IMLI ACADEMICS PARTICIPATE IN IOI TRAINING PROGRAMME

Pursuant to a Co-operation Agreement between the Institute and the International Ocean Institute (IOI), Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) delivered in September 2023, a set of lectures on “Maritime Zones: Definition, Delimitation and Basic Regime with respect to Navigation, Environmental Protection and Resource Management” as part of the IOI Ocean Governance Course. Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law) also



delivered a number of lectures in the Course. Moreover, Ms. Kazara-Belja delivered also on 8 November 2023 a set of lectures on “Maritimes Zones” at IOI as part of the Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas which was held in Malta between November and December 2023.

IMLI DIRECTOR AND NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER DELIVER LECTURES AT DEHUKAM, TÜRKİYE

Pursuant to the Cooperation Protocol regarding Maritime Law between IMLI and Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI) delivered a set of lectures on “*International Maritime Law*”, including LLMC, Marine Scientific Research, Law of Towage and Law of Salvage, to DEHUKAM LL.M. and Ph.D. students in Ankara.



IMLI SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATES IN A CONFERENCE 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.



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja's (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) intervention during the presentation of the IMOGENder Network panel

Kazara-Belja was part of the IMOGENder Network panel that delivered a presentation entitled “*Leveraging the WMU/IMLI Networks and Mentorships*”.

IMLI LECTURER PARTICIPATES AS A SPEAKER IN THE WOMEN IN THE MARITIME SECTOR IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA'S (WOMESA) SEMINAR

Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Lecturer, IMLI) participated as a speaker at the Women in the Maritime Sector in Eastern and Southern Africa's (WOMESA) Seminar entitled “*International Women's Day 2023 Virtual Celebration: Woman and Digitalization in the Maritime Sector*”.



Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Lecturer, IMLI) addressing the participants during the WOMESA Seminar

IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES AS A SPEAKER IN A WORKSHOP HELD IN TRIESTE, ITALY

On 8 May 2023, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated as a Speaker at the “*Il Diritto Marittimo, Il Diritto Del Mare e Il Diritto Alla Ricerca Scientifica: Riflessioni Sullo Stato Regolatorio Delle Spedizioni in Acque Polari*” Workshop organized by the Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica, the Capitaneria di Porto di Trieste and the Università degli Studi di Udine. Professor Martínez's presentation was entitled “*The Legal Regime of Marine Scientific Research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*”.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW DELIVERS A LECTURE TO THE PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA ACADEMY

On 9 July 2023, Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer In International Maritime Law, IMLI) delivered a presentation on “*The Role of the ICJ and ITLOS in the Settlement of Maritime Boundary Disputes*” to the Philippines International Law of the Sea Academy.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW LECTURES ONLINE AT RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY

On 12 September 2023, Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law) delivered a lecture on Maritime Jurisdiction to master's students at Rashtriya Raksha University (Indian Defence University).

IMLI HOSTS AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

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.



IMO IMLI INVITES YOU TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND THE PROSPECT FOR THE FUTURE

MEET THE SPEAKERS

 Ian Borg Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade	 Norman A. Martinez Gutierrez Director, IMLI	 Hidehisa Horinouchi Ambassador of Japan for UNCLOS
 Thembile Joyini Legal Assistant, Government of South Africa	 Hikmahanto Juwana Professor of Law, University of Indonesia	 Alessio Patalano Professor, King's College London
 Thomas J. Schoenbaum Harold S. Shusterman Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law		

27 MARCH 2023

REGISTER NOW

IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES AS A SPEAKER IN THE SUSTAINABLE MARITIME INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2023 HELD IN JEDDAH

Professor Martínez Gutiérrez participated as a Speaker in the Panel on Harmonization Between Maritime Industry and Educational Institutions at the Sustainable Maritime Industry Conference, under the theme “Innovation for a Greener Future” held in Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia between 4 and 6 September 2023.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with IMLI Graduates Ms. Nancy Karigithu (Kenya, Class of 1994 and Member of the IMLI Governing Board) and Ms. Lydia Muthoni Ngugi (Kenya, Class of 2014) who attended the conference.

IMLI DIRECTOR AND LECTURERS PARTICIPATE AS SPEAKERS IN THE 46TH CONFERENCE ON OCEANS LAW & POLICY (COLP) SAFE SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING

On 21 September 2023 Professor Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), moderated the Panel on “Sustainable Shipping” at the 46th Conference on Oceans Law & Policy (COLP) Safe Secure and Sustainable Shipping held in Istanbul, Türkiye, whilst Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI) and Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Security Law, IMLI) participated as Speakers.



Professor Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), members of the IMLI Faculty and IMLI Graduates that attended the conference

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

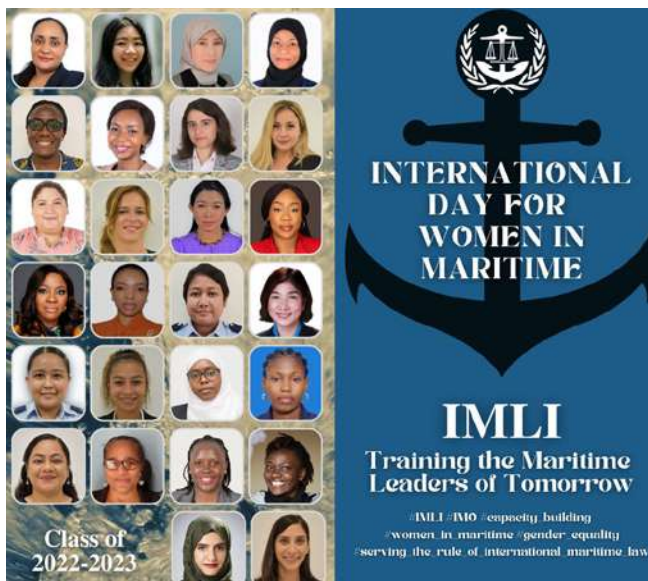
The IMLI Class of 2022-2023 and Members of the IMLI Faculty attended on 26 April 2023, the “Malta Symposium on the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships” organized by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Comité Maritime International (CMI) and the Government of Malta. This Symposium was 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.



Dr. Ann Fenech (President, Comité Maritime International; Partner, Fenech & Fenech Advocates, Malta) addressing the Symposium participants

IMLI CELEBRATE 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 extends 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.

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 audio-visual equipment for the lecture halls which were used during the academic year 2022-2023. Thanks to this contribution, IMLI was able to operate two lecture halls which provided for a hybrid environment of disseminating knowledge and ensures a wider global outreach.



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



INAUGURATION OF IMLI'S NEWLY REFURBISHED LECTURE HALL AND STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AND FORMAL OPENING OF THE 35TH ACADEMIC YEAR

Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) and Honourable Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta) cutting the ceremonial ribbon

IMLI had the honour to hold on Wednesday 11 October 2023, a ceremony at which Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) together with the Honourable Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta) inaugurated IMLI's new state-of-the-art lecture hall and student common room. The ceremony was attended by many eminent personalities. Upon their arrival, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez introduced Mr. Lim and Dr. Zrinzo Azzopardi to the Staff and students of the IMLI Class of 2023-2024. This was followed by the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon, which was jointly done by Mr. Lim and Dr. Zrinzo Azzopardi. In the ceremony that ensued,

Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez delivered the Welcome Address whilst Minister Zrinzo Azzopardi delivered the Inauguration Address. The Secretary-General delivered his Address and formally opened the academic year 2023-2024 by ringing the ceremonial bell.

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF IMLI

IMLI's contribution to the international maritime community was recognized for the sixteenth consecutive year by the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution A/RES/78/69 entitled "Oceans and the Law of the Sea", adopted on 5 December 2023, which tackles the main aspects of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and highlights the need for capacity building to enable States to achieve its aims. Through this Resolution, the United Nations General Assembly "*Recognizes the importance of the work of the Malta-based International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, as a centre of education and training of specialists in maritime law, including government legal advisers and other high-level officials, mainly from developing States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international maritime law, shipping law and marine environmental law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute which runs annually*".



IMLI DIRECTOR REPORTS TO THE 110TH SESSION OF THE IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE

During the 110th session of the IMO Legal Committee, the IMLI Director reported on the Institute's activities for the year 2022 under the Agenda Item "*Technical Cooperation Activities related to Maritime Legislation*". Following the Director's Report, delegates from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, CMI, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, IIDM, 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. The delegates recognized IMLI's work in providing the know-how and expertise which is

needed in developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States, to bridge the gap in the development of national policies and laws. Delegates appreciated the research and academic activities in the field of maritime legislation undertaken by IMLI which are contributory to capacity-building of States and the launching of maritime leaders worldwide. Particular thanks were extended to the Institute for its specialized courses which by being delivered in a hybrid mode have enabled officers from many countries in attending the same.

THE WORK OF IMLI IS PRAISED DURING THE 73RD SESSION OF THE IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE AND 130TH SESSION OF THE IMO COUNCIL

During the 73rd session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee, the Committee praised IMLI's work, congratulated the new management on the Institute's capacity-building efforts, in particular on research on the law of the sea and the application of international instruments into national legislation, from which a growing number of government representatives had benefited. The delegation of Malta expressed the continuous support of its Government for IMLI, which included the financing of the recently refurbished lecture hall, while various delegations reconfirmed their support through financial contributions for fellowships and training activities alike, including the Government of Malaysia's annual fellowship support and in-kind contribution for the development of IMLI's facilities.

During the 33rd session of the IMO Assembly, the IMO Secretary-General observed that IMLI supports the IMO capacity-building goals through the education and training of legal experts from around the world in maritime matters, particularly in legislative drafting techniques designed to support the incorporation of IMO's international maritime instruments into national law. The Secretary-General recognized the work of the former IMLI Director and noted that, "the commitment and steadfast determination Professor Attard showed has been passed down to the new Director, Professor Dr. Norman Martínez Gutiérrez who as a longstanding IMLI staff member and former student has the Institute very close to his heart, and I am confident he will drive the Institution to a new era of innovation, transformation, and enduring academic excellence."

RECOGNITION OF THE M.JUR. PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

During the reporting year, the Institute was proud to announce that the quality training being delivered in all of its programmes is continuously being recognized by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority. Most recently, Mr.

Lawrence Azzopardi (Head of Accreditation Licensing Validation and Quality Assurance, Malta Further and Higher Education Authority) informed the IMLI Director that the Degree of Magister Juris (M.Jur.) in International Maritime Law has been recognized as meeting the standards required for a master's degree in Malta, falling under MQF Level 7. The recognition of this programme is another great accomplishment for the Institute.

IMLI JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMUNITY IN CELEBRATING WORLD MARITIME DAY

IMLI joined the international maritime community in celebrating World Maritime Day the theme of which for 2023 was “*MARPOL at 50 – Our Commitment Goes On*”. The theme is a reflection of IMO's efforts to protect the marine environment and the Organization's commitment to continue to do so. The IMLI Director noted that “the adoption of MARPOL in 1973, one year after the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, was a strong signal to the world of the Organization's commitment to protect the marine environment from all types of vessel-source pollution. This international instrument which has come to be a pillar of shipping, has been amended numerous times to ensure that the legal framework meets the needs of the industry. IMO's efforts however would be diluted, if States were not to adequately implement the provisions of this instrument. It is in this area where IMLI plays a vital role and assists the Organization's goals. For 35 years now, IMLI has promoted the adequate implementation of MARPOL which has been chosen by hundreds of students as their maritime legislation drafting project. As such, IMLI's commitment to contribute to the achievement of IMO's objectives goes on. To promote World Maritime Day 2023 IMLI was lit blue on 28 September 2023, after dark.

IMLI DIRECTOR AND SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATE AS SPEAKERS AT JOINT CONFERENCE IN TBILISI, GEORGIA

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez delivered the Keynote Address at the Joint Conference on “*Modern International Maritime Law – Exploring the Interplay between International and Maritime norms*” in Tbilisi Georgia. He also delivered a Public Lecture entitled “*Legal Drafting for Implementation of International Conventions: National Law Challenges for the Implementation of Conventions*” to the students of the TSU International



Law Institute of Tbilisi State University. Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) participated as Speaker in the same Joint Conference. Her presentation was entitled “Enforcement of Treaties”.

SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATES AS A SPEAKER AT A SEMINAR HELD IN BRAZIL AND A WORKSHOP HELD ONLINE

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) was invited as a Speaker in *Seminário Internacional UNIVALI de Ensino, Pesquisa e Extensão de Direito Marítimo, Portuário, Aduaneiro e do Mar* where she participated in the panel *Ensino, Pesquisa e Extensão em Direito do Mar* and delivered a Public Lecture to the students of the Universidade do Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI), State of Santa Catarina, Brazil and Brazilian practitioners. On 17 November 2023, Ms. Kazara-Belja was the sole Speaker at an online Workshop entitled “*Equal Opportunities*” organized by OSCE through BTO as part of the project “*Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity*”. The presentation focused on “*Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, Empowerment and Representation*”.

PARTICIPATION OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON GLOBAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE AT VARIOUS FORA

On 2 October 2023, Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance) was invited as a Speaker in “*Seminário Internacional UNIVALI de Ensino, Pesquisa e Extensão de Direito Marítimo, Portuário, Aduaneiro e do Mar*” where he participated in the panel “*Ensino, Pesquisa E Extensão em Direito do Mar*” “Teaching, Research and Extension in Law of the Sea”.

Between 16 and 17 October 2023, Dr. Prado participated in the “*III International Congress Land and Human Rights: The vindication of the role of women in the rural world and peasant rights*” where he delivered a presentation entitled “*Crisis in the Oceans: Food Security and International Fisheries*”. Dr. Prado also delivered an online presentation on 27 October 2023 to the International Congress of Environment, Security and health at the University of Malaga, Spain.

FIFTH FAO INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON FISHERIES LAW HELD AT IMLI

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Mr. Javier Villanueva (Fisheries Officer, Global and Regional Processes Team, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO) officially opened the fifth FAO International Course on Fisheries Law on 23rd October 2023. The Course, which was held at IMLI, was attended by officials from Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico,

Panama, and Uruguay. Ms. Alicia Mosteiro Cabanelas (Fisheries Officer (PSMA/IUU fishing) Fisheries Global and Regional Processes Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO) concluded the Course on 10 November 2023.



IMLI DIRECTOR LECTURES AT THE 15TH IFLOS SUMMER ACADEMY

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) visited the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg on 16 August 2023. During his visit, Professor Martínez delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims*” at the 15th IFLOS Summer Academy at ITLOS in Hamburg. (Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) also delivered lectures to the participants of the Summer Academy on “*Marine Scientific Research*”.

IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATED AS A SPEAKER AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MARITIME ARBITRATORS (ICMA) XXII



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated on 6 November 2023 as Speaker at the

International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators (ICMA) XXII which was held in Dubai. His presentation was entitled “*Multiplicity of Limitation of Liability Conventions: The Unfortunate Effects Caused by Lack of Harmonization*”. The ICMA is a forum for maritime arbitrators, lawyers and for the global shipping industry in which professionals in the field can deliberate on and exchange views and news.

IMLI LECTURER PARTICIPATES AS TRAINER AT THE IMO-MTCC-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TEST BIOFOULING

Between 31 October and 3 November 2023, Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Lecturer, IMLI) participated as Trainer at the *IMO-MTCC-Africa Partnership Regional Workshop on TEST Biofouling* hosted by NIMASA in Nigeria. The training course was divided into two phases, online and in-person delivery sessions. Through this intensive and comprehensive training, MTCC-AFRICA recognizes

the significance of raising awareness on the transfer of Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) through biofouling, a matter of paramount importance for beneficiary countries participating in the TEST Biofouling project.

IMLI LECTURER APPOINTED AS IMLI FOCAL POINT



Ms. Jalloh is also appointed as the designated IMLI focal point of the study group tasked to identify the issues of fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships with a view to developing possible measures to prevent them.

IMLI STUDENTS ATTENDED THE JOINT IMO/ILO CONFERENCE ON WORK AT SEA

On 13 November 2023 the Students of the IMLI Class of 2023-2024 attended virtually the Joint IMO/ILO Conference on *Work at Sea* being held at IMO Headquarters in London. The focus of the Conference was on sharing best practices, views and experiences on: ensuring the rights of seafarers and fishers; identifying gaps in the current regulatory framework, including in relation to responsible management; and exploring how governments, industry, IGOs and NGOs can collaborate to improve the relevant international maritime legal framework.

THE EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY SEMINAR HELD AT IMLI

For the eighth consecutive year, IMLI had the distinct pleasure of holding, in collaboration with IMO and World Maritime University (WMU), the annual three-day Seminar on *Maritime Transport Policy*. This year, the Seminar was conducted by Professor George Theocharidis (Professor of Maritime Law and Policy, WMU). During this three-day Seminar, the students were introduced to the concept of a Maritime Transport Policy and its importance to the development of maritime legislation by highlighting the close relationship between policy and legislation. At the end of the Seminar, as is usual practice, the Class, presented an outline of a National Maritime Transport Policy of an imaginary country.



Professor George Theocharidis (Professor of Maritime Law and Policy, WMU) delivering the three-day Seminar on Maritime Transport Policy to the IMLI Class

34th Annual Graduation

30 June 2023

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute held its 34th Graduation Ceremony on Friday 30 June 2023. The Ceremony marks the successful completion of an intensive year of studies in all areas of international maritime law including the law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law and ocean governance, maritime safety and security law and maritime legislation drafting, and a number of workshops and seminars.

IMLI's first simulcast Graduation Ceremony was presided over by H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and was attended by many dignitaries, including H.E. the President of the Republic of Malta, Honourable Ministers of the Maltese Government, Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, Directors of IMO Divisions, Members of the IMLI Governing Board, esteemed Donors, Acting Head of REMPEC, Director of the International Ocean Institute and Members of the Diplomatic Corps.

During the ceremony, 53 students from 35 countries graduated from the Institute's Master programmes. 40 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law and 13 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) in International Maritime Legislation. The 2023 Graduates were welcomed to an elite network of international maritime law specialists, who have also received sterling training at IMLI.

In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) welcomed the dignitaries and guests to the graduation ceremony, and stated that through the IMLI training, the Class of 2023 has demonstrated the capacity to think independently, to intellectually challenge the status quo for the benefit of all, and due to the family environment of the Institute, they enhanced qualities of character which include tolerance, compassion, and empathy.

Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivered the Graduation Address, wherein he congratulated the students of the Class of 2023 for their perseverance in achieving their goals, despite the many challenges they faced.



IMLI Class of 2023-2024



Lt. Dagoberto Ramon Astudillo from Argentina delivering the Valedictory Address on behalf of IMLI Class 2022-2023



Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivering the Graduation Address



Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison (Former Group Legal Director of Lloyd's Register and Vice-Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member of the IMLI Governing Board)

The Valedictory Address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2022-2023 was delivered by Lt. Dagoberto Ramon Astudillo from Argentina.

During the ceremony, the Degree of Doctor of Laws in International Maritime Law *Honoris Causa*, was bestowed upon Mr. James T. Harrison (Vice-Chairman, IMLI Governing Board and Chairman, IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee) and Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia, and Member, IMLI Governing Board). Both Governors have exceptionally and relentlessly contributed to the work of the Institute.

Prize Winners for the Academic Year 2022-2023



*The IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation:
Lt. Fiona B. Elumba-Regalado (The Philippines)*



*Government of Malta Prize for the Best Maritime Legislation Drafting Project:
Ms. Lilian Ama Saleh Ograh (Ghana)*



*Professor David Attard Prize for Best Performance in the Law of the Sea:
Mr. Abdelnaser A. Alarabi Ramadan (Libya)*



*Transport Malta Prize for Best Performance in Shipping Law:
Ms. Alyaa Ihsan Alsayegh (Iraq)*



*Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholar:
Mr. Martin Maada George (Sierra Leone)*



*Lloyd's Register Foundation Prize for the Best Performing Lloyd's Register Foundation Scholar:
Ms. Ngu Kay Khine (Myanmar)*



*Dr. Kofi Mbiah's Prize for the Best Performing African Scholar:
Mr. Mohamed Mpochi (Tanzania)*



*ITF Seafarers' Trust Prize on Seafarers' Law:
Ms. Sara Lynne Caruana (Malta)*



*Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Malta Branch) Prize for Best Performance in Maritime Transport Law:
Lt. Dagoberto Ramon Astudillo (Argentina)*



*REMPEC Marine Environment Law Prize:
Ms. Cynthia Rebecca Mutonyi (Uganda)*



*CMI Prize for Best Overall Performance:
Cdr. Anup Padman Parottil (India)*

Fellowship Donors

The Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation and IMLI Cooperation can be traced back 20 years, when in 2004 the first batch of The Nippon Foundation sponsored fellows graduated. This fruitful collaboration continues today under the joint project entitled the *“Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Legal Order for the Oceans”* which, to date, has rendered support to deserving Government nominated scholars, from 82 developing countries. This collaboration is illustrative of the vision and commitment with which the Foundation continues to support all things maritime. Thanks to the Foundation’s generosity and its staunch belief in IMLI’s capacity-building mission, 212 Fellows have successfully graduated from IMLI. A recent study carried out by the Institute has revealed that many of these Fellows are engaged in national, regional, or international maritime affairs and are making invaluable contributions.

Thirteen Fellows were sponsored by The Nippon Foundation for the academic year 2022-2023. The sponsored students once again demonstrated their outstanding academic ability by taking home several prizes which were awarded at the Graduation Ceremony including the IMO Secretary-General’s Prize for Best Dissertation and the Transport Malta Prize for Best Performance in Shipping Law. The Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholar was awarded to Mr. Martin Maada George from Sierra Leone. IMLI has followed up on the progress of these Fellows upon completion of their studies and found that many are already contributing to their national maritime sector.

Sixteen Fellows were sponsored by The Nippon Foundation for the academic year 2023-2024, of whom thirteen Fellows are pursuing studies in the LL.M. programme and three are following the M.Hum. programme.

The project also contributes by sponsoring four teaching positions at the Institute: The Professorship in Marine Environmental Law and the Lectureships on International Maritime Security Law, Global Ocean Governance and International Maritime Law. These lecturers are playing a vital role in shaping the minds of future maritime leaders.



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

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

The IMO

IMO continues to support IMLI’s funding requirements by providing fellowships to deserving Government nominated candidates who wish to pursue post graduate studies in the Institute’s LL.M. and M.Hum. programmes. This is a fruitful collaboration given IMLI’s mission which is to provide capacity-building for the implementation of a significant number of IMO treaties and regulations governing every facet of shipping. As stated by the IMO Secretary General, Mr. Kitack Lim, at the 34th graduation ceremony: “The International Maritime Organization (IMO), takes enormous pride in the work of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and assigns immense value to the education and training provided to the many maritime professionals who enrol every year, and we are always overjoyed to see another generation of maritime leaders return to their home countries, determined to contribute to the realization of the IMO goals and objectives adding to the Institute’s impressive record of producing graduates of great distinction year upon year.”

For the academic year 2022-2023, IMO fully sponsored 18 students of whom 13 pursued the LL.M programme, and five, the M.Hum. programme. The selected candidates realized IMO’s policy to support capacity-building in Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. The Professor David Attard Prize for Best Performance in the Law of the Sea, Dr. Kofi Mbiah’s Prize for the Best Performing African Scholar and the REMPEC Marine Environment Law Prize were awarded to IMO Fellows, demonstrating the high standards of academic excellence to which they aspired.

IMO continued its support to IMLI by providing 20 fellowships for the academic year 2023-2024. The selected Fellows work for their national administrations and hail from developing countries, especially Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. They are being exposed to the full spectrum of international maritime law and are being inspired to render a valuable service to their nations thereby contributing to the goal of sustainable development.

The International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) Seafarers’ Trust

Since 2019, the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) Seafarers’ Trust has been committed to providing fellowships annually to five deserving candidates. This tradition was continued with five students from Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, South Africa, and Tanzania being sponsored for the academic year 2022-2023. The Trust also sponsors the ITF Seafarer’s Trust Prize on Seafarers’ Law which was awarded in 2023 to a Maltese student. To date 29 students from 26 countries have been proud recipients of sponsorship, from the Trust.



IMO Fellows together with Mr. Xiaojie Zhang (Deputy Director, Subdivision for Programme Management and Coordination, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO), and Mr. Jonathan Pace (Deputy Director, Subdivision for Programme Management and Coordination, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO)

The Trust continued its support for the academic year 2023-24 by sponsoring another five students from developing economies who, upon completion of their studies at IMLI, will advocate for the rights of seafarers worldwide, in line with international rules and prescriptions.

The Lloyd's Register Foundation

The Lloyd's Register Foundation was established to fund the advancement in transport, science, engineering, and technology education, training and research worldwide for the benefit of all, and to enhance the safety of life and property at sea, land and in the air. Since 2002, the Foundation has been generously funding three nominated candidates to IMLI. In addition, it awards the LRF Prize for Best Performing Lloyd's Register Foundation Scholar to one of the three candidates who excels in the IMLI Masters' programmes. IMLI records with pride that several of the LRF sponsored Fellows have made substantial contributions to their maritime sector, especially in academia, by disseminating knowledge and expertise to ensure sustainable shipping in sustainable oceans. To date the Foundation has funded the training of over 50 maritime professionals from 41 States.

International Group of P&I Clubs Fellowship

The International Group of P&I Clubs comprising thirteen P&I Clubs, provides marine liability cover (protection and indemnity) for approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage. The aim of the Group includes, inter alia, promoting insurance related interests of shipping companies through a unified and collective voice. For the first time in 2021, the Group provided a full fellowship to sponsor the training of a government official from the Gambia Maritime Administration. This was followed in 2022 by the sponsorship of an applicant from Mexico, and in 2023 of an applicant from Ghana.

International Chamber of Shipping

The International Chamber of Shipping is the global trade association for shipowners and operators which represents the world's national shipowner associations and over 80% of the world merchant fleet. A long-standing supporter of IMLI, the Chamber extended its collaboration with the Institute in the academic year 2022-2023 through the provision of one fellowship to a female member of the Philippines Coast Guard.

Another female government officer from Kenya benefited from the generous funds of the Chamber, in 2023.

European Maritime Safety Agency

In 2023, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) awarded the Institute a contract for services in the amount of Euro 600,000. Through this contract, EMSA will sponsor the studies of suitable government officers from beneficiary countries, in the Institute's masters' and research degree programmes. For the academic year 2023-2024, EMSA sponsored a government officer from the Ukraine who is pursuing studies in the LL.M. programme.

National Governments

Some students have been fortunate to receive sponsorship from the Governments of a few countries, which recognize the value of IMLI's mission for capacity-building in the maritime sector. For the academic year 2022-2023, Nigeria funded three Nigerian students, two for the LL.M. programme and one for the M.Phil. programme, respectively. The Government of the Republic of Korea fully sponsored two students, one from Tunisia and the other from Yemen both of whom pursued the M.Hum. programme. The Argentinian Navy sponsored one of its own members, who went on to win the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Malta Branch) Prize for the Best Performance in Maritime Transport Law. The Philippine Coast Guard too sponsored one of its own members. The Government of Malaysia sponsored two students from Seychelles and India who followed the LL.M. and M.Hum. programmes respectively. The Indian student went onto win the coveted CMI prize for the Best Overall Performance. The Government of Malta, in addition to hosting IMLI on the premises of the University of Malta Campus also sponsored the Government of Malta Prize for the Best Maritime Legislation Drafting Project, which was awarded to a self-funded female student from Ghana.

For the academic year 2023-2024, Nigeria sponsored two students for the LL.M. and M.Phil programmes respectively. The Government of the Republic of Korea sponsored two students, one from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the other from Tanzania, for the LL.M. programme. The Government of Malaysia too sponsored two students, one from Sri Lanka and the other from Tanzania for the LL.M. programme. This academic year also saw the sponsorship of two students from the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority for the LL.M. Programme and two from Saudi Arabia, sponsored by the Saudi Border Guards and Royal Saudi Naval Forces respectively, for the M.Hum. programme.



ITF Seafarers' Trust Fellows with Mr. Luca Tommasi (Grant Manager, The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Seafarers' Trust)

Finances

Statement of Financial Performance and Fund Balances Reserves (Euro)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (EURO)	2021 (as restated)	2022 (as restated)	2023
REVENUE			
DONOR CONTRIBUTION	357,223	319,301	603,171
FELLOWSHIPS AND FEES	1,704,826	1,740,008	1,914,930
Ph.D. PROGRAMME/ OTHER COURSES	32,931	10,864	6,793
SPECIALISED PROGRAMMES	625,907	175,471	284,220
INVESTMENT INCOME	72,468	53,108	68,412
OTHER REVENUE	27,464	36,123	36,806
PROFIT ON DISPOSAL OF INVESTMENT	35,763	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	2,856,582	2,334,875	2,914,332
EXPENSES			
STAFF AND OTHER PERSONNEL COST	1,480,288	1,356,655	1,317,788
STUDENT DIRECT AND TRAINING COST	189,859	241,556	463,616
TRAVEL	921	16,084	24,673
REFURBISHMENT OF STUDENTS' ROOMS	-	-	91,436
LIBRARY MAGAZINES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	13,837	6,236	15,818
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	166,860	235,488	269,045
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	16,143	24,732	22,568
DEPRECIATION	25,962	54,476	64,911
COVID-19 RELATED EXPENSES	5,193	1,061	158
LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF INVESTMENT	-	7,893	37,922
FAO SPECIALISED PROGRAMME RELATED COSTS	20,706	-	47,256
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1,919,769	1,944,181	2,355,191
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	936,813	390,694	559,141
OTHER EXPENSE	-	-	(111,448)
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	(48,660)	(161,587)	118,258
CURRENCY EXCHANGE DIFFERENCES	6,062	(2,598)	2,997
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	894,215	226,509	568,948
EQUITY			
FUND BALANCES AND RESERVES (EURO)			
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	2,996,066	3,890,281	4,116,790
RESERVES	148,603	148,603	148,603
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	894,215	226,509	568,948
NET EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER	4,038,884	4,265,393	4,834,341

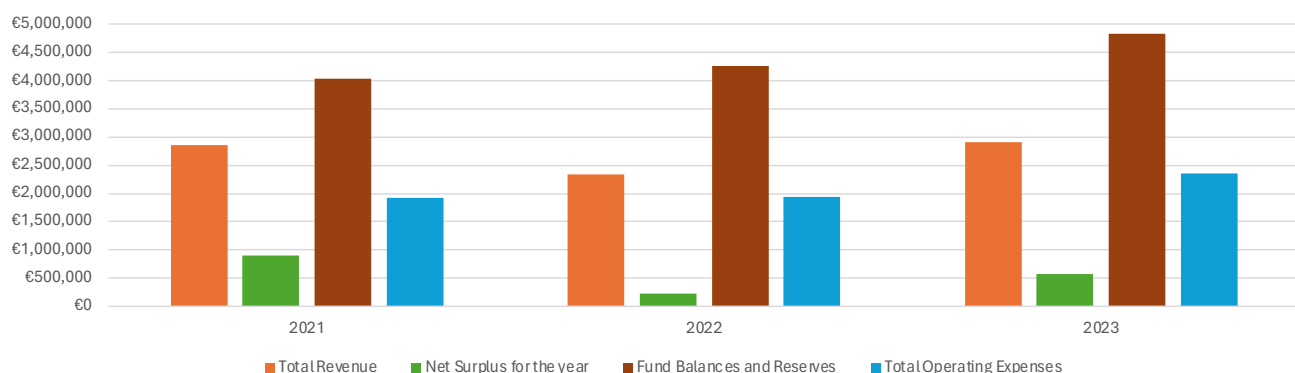
The Institute has steadily built up its Fund Balances and Reserves attributed to the surplus generated over the years since inception, which is transferred to form part of the Fund Balances and Reserves.

The Fund Balances and Reserves of EUR4.83 million as at 31 December 2023, can cover 205.3% or 24.6 months of sustainable operational support of the Institute.

In the beginning of 2024, the External Auditor of IMO, The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK), conducted the annual audit of the Institute's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2023 and thereafter, issued an unmodified audit opinion. Moreover, in the report, the Auditor declared that overall, the key financial indicators remain sound and an analysis of the key financial ratios demonstrates that the Institute has the ability to meet all its liabilities.

** The above figures are based on the Institute's audited financial statements. The Institute adopted International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) 41 - Financial Instruments, on 1 January 2023 being the date when it became effective. IPSAS 41 requires retrospective application. Accordingly, prior years' amounts have been restated where applicable.*

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND FUND BALANCES AND RESERVES (EURO)



DONOR CONTRIBUTION

	2022		2023	
	EURO	%	EURO	%
THE NIPPON FOUNDATION	307,106	96.18%	313,710	52.01%
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (THROUGH THE IMO VOYAGE TOGETHER TRUST FUND)	-	-	170,188	28.21%
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	-	-	85,470	14.17%
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN	-	-	21,663	3.59%
MALTA GOVERNMENT	11,717	3.67%	10,634	1.76%
MALTA TRANSPORT AUTHORITY	178	0.06%	-	-
REMPEC	100	0.03%	-	-
CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF LOGISTICS MALTA	100	0.03%	-	-
PROFESSOR DAVID J. ATTARD	100	0.03%	100	0.02%
PROFESSOR NORMAN A. MARTINEZ GUTIÉRREZ	-	-	720	0.12%
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)	-	-	466	0.08%
DR. RAFAEL PRADO	-	-	120	0.02%
DR. MURAT SUMER	-	-	50	0.01%
PROFESSOR A. SAKOTA	-	-	50	0.01%
TOTAL	319,301	100.00%	603,171	100.00%

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A limited number of full fellowships are available to IMLI students annually on a competitive basis. The following donors provided fellowships:

	ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023	2023-2024
THE NIPPON FOUNDATION	14	16
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)	19	20
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF) SEAFARERS' TRUST	5	5
LLOYD'S REGISTER FOUNDATION (LRF)	3	-
PHILIPPINES COAST GUARD	1	-
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2	2
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA	2	2
NIGERIAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY AGENCY (NIMASA)	3	2
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INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I CLUBS	1	1
EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY	-	1
GHANA PORTS AND HARBOUR AUTHORITY	-	2
SAUDI BORDER GUARDS	-	1
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"The Impact of Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing in Somali Maritime Waters"* / "An Act to Incorporate the 2005 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the 2005 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located in the Continental Shelf into the Laws of Somalia and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof"***

Mr. Abdi Adan Osman (Somalia)

Director of Planning and Development, Office of the Attorney General for the Federal Government of Somalia

"A Critical Legal Analysis on State Preparedness and Response to the Impact of Offshore Oil Drilling on the Marine Environment: Somalia Perspective"* / "A Law to Incorporate the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-Operation (OPRC) 1990 into the Laws of Somalia and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof"***

Ms. Sharifa Abubakar Khamis (Tanzania)

Legal Counsel, Zanzibar seafarers Union

"A Legal Analysis of Laws Relating to the Protection of Seafarers Rights in Zanzibar, Tanzania"* / "Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Ship Recycling Regulations, 2023"***

Mr. Mohammed Sheha Mohammed (Tanzania)

Legal Officer, Zanzibar Maritime Authority, Zanzibar, Tanzania

"A Legal Analysis of Zanzibar Maritime Legal Framework to Enhance Passenger Ship Safety in Promotion of Zanzibar Blue Economy"* / "Merchant Shipping Act (Bunker) Regulations 2023"***

Mr. Mohamed Selemani Mpochi (Tanzania)

State Attorney, Ministry of Works, and Transport (Transport Sector)

"A Legal Analysis of the Port Congestion Challenges in Dar Es Salaam Port and the Need for the Effective Implementation of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965 as amended"* / "A Law to Implement the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL), as Amended, into Tanzania Legislation"***

Ms. Rachel Cosmas Tulli (Tanzania)

State Attorney, National Prosecutions Services

"Maritime Boundary Delimitation: Towards Achieving Equitable Results"* / "An Act to Incorporate the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 into the Laws of Tanzania and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof"***

Ms. Elisiva V. Veiongo 'Akau'ola (Tonga)

Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Office in Tonga, Head Civil and Land Litigation Division

"The Impacts of Sea-Level Rise on the Future and Integrity of Maritime Entitlements and Claims of Pacific Small Island Developing States over Maritime Zones Established under International Law"* / "Shipping (STCW Convention) Amended Regulations, 2023"***

Ms. Corinna Ituaso Laafai (Tuvalu)

Senior Magistrate, Office of Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Tuvalu

"An Analysis on the Status of Tuvalu Women Participation in the Maritime and Shipping Industry"* / "Tuvalu Salvage Act 2023"***

Ms. Rebecca Cynthia Mutonyi (Uganda)

Legal Officer, Department of Maritime Administration

"Assessing the Efficacy of the Uganda Inland Water Transport Act 2021 in Ensuring Safety of Life and Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment: Lessons from IMO Instruments"* / "Prevention and Control of Pollution (By Oil and Noxious Liquid Substances) From Vessels Bill"***

Ms. Racheal Naisanga (Uganda)

Legal Officer, Procurement and Disposal Unit, Uganda Police Force

"A Case Study of the Convention on the Law of Non-navigational uses of International Watercourses and its Applicability in Uganda"* / "A Bill to Incorporate Provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979 into the Laws of Uganda"***

Ms. Salwa Mohammed Abdulhagor Mohammed (Yemen)

Lawyer, Department of Legal Affairs in Port Aden Corp.

“The Concept of Port State Control Regime and the Challenges of its Application in Yemen”^{*} / “An Act to Incorporate the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships, as Amended (MARPOL) into the Laws of Yemen and Regulations to Provide for the Effective Implementation of Annex I and II”^{**}

M.Hum. Programme**Ms. Iymen Bounab (Algeria)**

State Engineer in Merchant Marine and Ports in the Ministry of Transportation of Algeria

“Battling the Tides of Cyber Attacks: A Critical Analysis of Legal Responses and Lessons Learned from the Maritime Industry’s Experience”^{***} / “A Law to Incorporate Annex VI of the International Convention for The Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), as Amended into the Laws of Algeria and to Provide for its Effective Implementation thereof”^{***}

Mr. Zi Lin Zhang (China)

Student

“The Protection of the Rights of Seafarers in the Post-Covid 19 Era: An Appraisal of the Chinese Legal System”^{***} / “A Law to Amend Chapter XI of the Maritime Code of People’s Republic of China to Implement the 1976 LLMC as amended”^{***}

Ms. Hania Ahmed Elkady (Egypt)

Diplomatic Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt

“The Relevance of Maritime Diplomacy for Concluding Maritime Boundary Delimitation Agreements”^{***} / “A Law to Effectively Implement the Provisions of the International Convention on Salvage 1989 into the Laws of Egypt”^{***}

Ms. Tania Nicole Hernandez Aranda (El Salvador)

Ensign, Instructor at the Navy Academy

“The Role of the Navy of El Salvador in Promoting Compliance with International Instruments on Drug Trafficking in the Salvadoran Coastline”^{***} / “The Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone, and Other Maritimes Zones Act”^{***}

Mr. Wilson Salvador (Guinea-Bissau)

Head of Department, Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC), Maritime Institute

“IMO’s Anti-Piracy Initiative in Effectively Implementing UNCLOS Provisions – Lessons for Guinea-Bissau”^{***} / “A Law to Incorporate the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue in Guinea-Bissau and to Provide for its Effective Implementation thereof”^{***}

CDR. Anup Padman Parottil (India)

Executive Officer, Indian Navy, India

“Evaluation of the Legal Framework on Maritime Piracy in India with a special reference to the Maritime Antipiracy Act 2022”^{***} / “An Act to Incorporate the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 into the Laws of India and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof”^{***}

Mr. Abdelnaser A. A. Ramdan (Libya)

Assistant Commander of the Operations Department of the Libyan Coast Guard and Ports Security

“Analysing the Libya-Turkey Maritime Boundary Agreement in Accordance with International Law and UNCLOS: Solutions and Recommendations”^{***} / “A Law to Incorporate the Search and Rescue Convention 1979 (Hamburg) into the Laws of Libya and to Provide Effective Implementation thereof”^{***}

Mr. Abdul Hadi Bin Nordin (Malaysia)

Assistant Director, Malaysia Marine Department, Ministry of Transport Malaysia

“The Implementation of SOLAS Chapter V on Automatic Identification System (AIS): A Malaysia Perspective”^{***} / “Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Anti-Fouling System Pollution) Regulation 20XX”^{**}

Ms. Masha Stampic Mehovic (Montenegro)

First Advisor Officer, Harbour Master’s office, Ministry of Capital Investments

“An Assessment of Living and Working Conditions of Seafarers in Montenegro for the purpose of proposing a Road Map for a Defined Way Forward”^{*} / “Maritime Labour Enforcement and Compliance Regulations 2023”^{***}

Ms. Ngu Kay Khine (Myanmar)

Assistant Director, Department of Marine Administration of Myanmar

“An appraisal of Preparation and Response to Oil Pollution Incidents in Myanmar and Co-operation Mechanisms”^{***} / “A Law to Incorporate the International Convention on Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships into the Laws of Myanmar and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof”^{***}

Mr. Boetse Abel Ramahlo (South Africa)

Policy, Legal & Regulations, South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)

“A Critical Appraisal of the Djibouti Code of Conduct from a South African Perspective”^{***} / “A Bill for the Enactment of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, as Amended, into the Laws of the Republic of South Africa”^{**}

Mr. Ramzi Allani (Tunisia)

Lieutenant Colonel in Tunisian Coast Guard

“Towards developing a Tunisian Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling with a Special Focus on the Role of the Coast Guard”^{***} / “A Law for the Incorporation of the International Ship and Port Security Code (ISPS Code) into the Laws of Tunisia and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof”^{***}

Mr. Mohammed Ali Abdullah Al-Muhandes (Yemen)

Head of Emergency and Marine Pollution Department, Maritime Affairs Authority of Yemen

“The Implementation of Equitable Maritime Boundary Delimitation Principles under International Law: A Case Study of the Continental Shelf Delimitation between Yemen and Somalia”^{***} / “Regulations to Incorporate the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, as Amended into the Laws of the Republic of Yemen and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof”^{***}

^{*}Dissertation

^{**} Drafting Project

^{***} Research Project

IMLI Students' Views



**MS. MADELEINE MA
ADJOA BUADI (GHANA)**

My path to IMLI is a dream come true having successfully completed the programme. The programme is detailed, comprehensive and covered every aspect of maritime law.

It required hard work, perseverance, and touch of a “finishing” spirit to survive the rigorous yet fulfilling studies. The academic journey has nurtured and broadened my sphere of maritime law. IMLI is not only an institute to train maritime legal experts but a big family of continual support. I met some of the finest legal scholars during my stay and will forever cherish the moments of our collective struggles and delights. IMLI is a paradigm shift in my personal and professional development. The knowledge acquired during the course will undoubtedly enhance my proficiency and productivity in assisting my country's Maritime Administration to fulfil its obligations under international maritime law. IMLI is indeed the premium “Institute of Maritime Excellence” that has shaped me extensively in my educational and professional career. I appreciate the International Maritime Organization for granting me the fellowship, and the entire IMLI staff headed by Director Martinez, visiting Professors for sharing their knowledge, experience and guidance during the course of the program. My stay at IMLI was a progressive learning path with new experiences each day as being a part of a miniature UN diversity composition of over 40 countries. The dynamic mixture of different nationalities, culture, behaviour was amazing. Indeed, there is oneness in diversity!



**CAPT. AMOSA
MOEGAFOFUA (TUVALU)**

IMLI holds a significant importance in advancing expertise in International Maritime Law. As a qualified Unlimited Foreign Going Master, I can attest that joining

IMLI has been one of the most pivotal decisions of my career. It has provided me with a crucial perspective that was missing from my knowledge as a nautical officer for over a decade - a comprehensive understanding of the legal perspective. This perspective is crucial as it enables me to comprehend the legal obligations of all industry stakeholders, including states, merchant companies, fishing companies, ports, shipyards, ship crews, shipbuilders, insurance companies and others. IMLI offers a thorough knowledge of all maritime laws, encompassing shipping laws, fisheries laws, environmental laws, the law of the sea, humanitarian law, and more. With this knowledge and my Foreign Going Master qualification, I am now well prepared to take on roles at any level within the industry, whether at sea or on land. Reflecting on my experience at IMLI, I wholeheartedly recommend it to all nautical officers worldwide. Understanding industry laws is not only for personal benefit but also for safeguarding the legal rights of those under our supervision. It enables us to prevent any abuse of the law, whether at the national or international level.



**MS. SEDIGEGH ZAREI
(ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
IRAN)**

It was truly an honor and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study at the prestigious IMLI. My time here has been an invaluable

experience that I will always cherish. The Director, Professors and staff at IMLI are not only highly professional, but also incredibly kind and supportive. The relationships I formed are unlike any other; it truly felt like a family. They regularly checked in on students and even provided us with moral tutorial and guidance. I don't just see them as professors, but as older brothers and sisters in whom I can rely on for advice in all aspects of life and study. The chance to be in classes taught by international judges and high-ranking practitioners in maritime law made IMLI truly unique. The quality of the lecturers was exceptional, and we were given the unique opportunity to participate in a field trip to London and legal committee at the IMO, as well as visits to P&I, ITF, and ICS. These experiences were filled with knowledge, networking opportunities, and valuable practical experience. Additionally, the beauty of Malta, its kind people, and its wonderful weather made my time there even more joyful and memorable. To my friends, especially from developing countries, I encourage you to believe in creating a better world and to start by educating yourself in the best places possible. Learning is the most powerful way to uplifting your community. Long Live IMLI!



**MS. LAURES LICAYO
FULGAON
(the PHILIPPINES)**

“Serving the rule of international maritime law” has been a brand of the IMLI, by all the maritime legal professionals who are part of

IMLI. It entails the study of the current state of maritime law and the issues and events that moulds it into its divergent forms throughout time. Joining the brand as an IMLI scholar has opened my eyes to broader aspects of maritime law that were not highlighted but are still part and parcel of this international discipline. At the institute, I was given an opportunity not only to train my mind as a maritime attorney but also my heart as a public servant whose work can make a difference in the lives of a community. Prior to the start of the academic programme, the loss of my mother put me in a stupor and when I still pursued the programme, the Institute took me in, never denied me the opportunity and even went beyond in their support to my academic endeavour. The dedication, expertise, brilliance, and passion of the professors and visiting lecturers stirred in me the motivation I momentarily lost and made me remember the reason I joined the programme and the fulfilment I feel at work when making a positive impact. Getting acquainted with maritime professionals from all over the world with a broad range of backgrounds also helped me generate innovative and inventive ideas and solutions to similar issues we encounter back in our home countries. In my view, I sincerely attest that the programme capacitates maritime professionals with a stronger advocacy for sustainable development and safe, secure and environmentally sound shipping industry.



**MS. SIDNEY C.
THOMPSON
(the BAHAMAS)**

From the very moment my fellow classmates and I stood in the David J. Attard Auditorium, pledging as new students of the Institute, I

knew my experience at IMLI was going to be an exceptional one. In that moment, I was overwhelmed with pride and gratitude for how far I made it and for every person that contributed to my having the great honour of attending IMLI. I have carried this feeling with me through every lecture, every line-up, every seminar, and especially during our trip to the IMO. Everything about this experience far surpassed my expectations and I am excited to instil everything I have learned and the passion I have developed for maritime law into my country's maritime administration. Furthermore, my greatest sentiments about IMLI were reflected in the words of Professor Martinez at the Institute's 35th Anniversary International Conference: “IMLI is not a building, it is the people.” At IMLI, I felt respected; I felt valued; I felt loved—by the staff, the students and every visiting lecturer and guests. Moreover, I have no doubt that with the dedication, passion and love displayed by the Director and his team for everything that IMLI is and everything they envision it to become, as well as the many generations of students that will continue to pass through the Institute's doors, the great legacy of IMLI will certainly live on through each and every one of us.



**MR. ANTE VOJKOVIĆ
(CROATIA)**

We all came to IMLI for knowledge, and we did receive the knowledge, but so much more as well. Wow, what a journey this was! I want to start by making a simple

statement - IMLI is more! IMLI is more than knowledge, IMLI is more than networking, IMLI is more than being a student, IMLI is more than living abroad... IMLI is practical and deep knowledge, IMLI is an opportunity for specialisation, IMLI is becoming part of one BIG international, selfless and caring family, IMLI is a life changer...IMLI is just MORE in every sense. The journey is demanding, and the course is intensive. IMLI really does present a real maritime drill. But IMLI does all this in the right way. IMLI examines personal skills and knowledge acquired, IMLI examines cooperation and teamwork capabilities, IMLI examines oral and presentation skills. All the academic requirements are constructed for one purpose – to equip a student with that REAL knowledge. Besides the aforementioned and besides having highly specialised permanent lecturers, IMLI goes step further again and brings the best in the business from around the world to teach and interact with students on a daily basis. One can ask them any question, one receives contacts for possible future cooperation and conversation. A blessing and a privilege. IMLI not only brings the best in business to students but also brings students to the best in business, to the maritime mecca i.e. London i.e. IMO. Everything above is framed inside absolutely the most approachable and thoughtful staff imaginable. IMLI supersedes the status of “educational institute.” IMLI has a soul. IMLI takes care.



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