

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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IMLI'S 36TH GRADUATION CEREMONY



The IMO International Maritime Law Institute held its 36th Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, 14 June 2025. The Ceremony marked the successful completion of an intensive year of studies in all areas of international maritime law, including law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law and ocean governance, maritime safety and security law, and maritime legislation drafting.

IMLI's simulcast Graduation Ceremony, [which can be viewed here](#), was attended by many dignitaries, including the Honourable Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta, members of the IMLI Governing Board, Members of the Maltese Parliament, representatives



of IMLI's esteemed Donors, the President of the Comité Maritime International, the REMPEC Head of Office, the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, a delegation from the Italian Coast Guard, senior officials within the Government of Malta, and Members of the Diplomatic Corps. IMLI past Graduates, IMLI former members of Staff, family members and friends were also in attendance to share in this joyous occasion with the graduands.

During the Ceremony, 62 students from 37 countries graduated from the Institute's various programmes. 48 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law, 11 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) in International Maritime Legislation, two students were awarded an Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law, and one student was awarded the Magister Juris (M. Jur.) Degree in International Maritime Law. The 2025 Graduates now form part of an elite network of international maritime law specialists, who have also received sterling training at IMLI.

During the Ceremony, Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivered online the Graduation Address, followed by the Welcoming Address by Professor Dr. Norman Martínez Gutiérrez (IMLI Director). The Honourable Minister Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta) delivered remarks on behalf of the Host Country. The Valedictory Address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 was delivered by LCDR Pietro Vicedomini (Italy).

Mr. Domínguez commenced the Graduation Address by expressing his regret at not being able to be at IMLI in person due to delays in his flight schedules.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) delivering online the Graduation Address

He congratulated the graduands on successfully completing their studies, noting that it is an exciting time to join the maritime sector given the ongoing developments such as decarbonization, noise and plastic pollution reduction, and addressing biofouling and invasive species.

He emphasized IMO's role in supporting initiatives like the BBNJ Convention and the plastic agreement negotiations. He also highlighted how IMLI's importance, was recognized during the recent Technical Cooperation Committee proceedings, in strengthening the implementation of IMO instruments and shaping its evolving regulatory process. He encouraged students to make full use of the knowledge and experience gained at IMLI.

Mr. Domínguez thanked the faculty for their support and expressed appreciation to the Institute's Director, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez, for his dedication and vision to expand IMLI's role in the maritime field.

In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez welcomed and thanked the dignitaries and guests that had graced the Graduation Ceremony.

He stated that the academic year 2024-2025 was a year of both growth and progress. He noted with pleasure that out of the 37 countries that were represented at IMLI during this academic year, Curaçao, Qatar, and Rwanda had for the very first time ever a candidate trained at IMLI.

The Director recorded with pleasure that the Institute's contribution to the international maritime community continues to be recognized by the United Nations General Assembly, through its annual resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea as well as from numerous IMO bodies and other international organizations.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering the Welcoming Address

The Director also expressed his gratitude to all the Institute's Donors, noting that IMLI's achievements will not be possible without their generous support.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), leading the Graduating Class in the Oath of Allegiance to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute



The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta) delivering the Host Country Address

The Honourable Dr. Bonett MP commenced his Address by stating that it is truly a pleasure for him to be representing his Government to celebrate the achievements of the graduands.

The Honourable Minister conveyed his feeling of satisfaction and pleasure to the graduands and how proud Malta is, not just to be the host country of the Institute, but also a genuine partner in this journey which they have successfully completed. He noted, *"It is a milestone not just for you students but for us as a country as well. A country that believed in the Institute since its inception."*

He congratulated the graduands, wishing them all the best in their careers.

The Valedictory Address, on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025, was delivered by LCDR Vicedomini, in which he extended deepest appreciation to the Secretary-General of IMO, the Director of IMLI for his vision and dedication which has created an environment where they could thrive and grow both academically and personally. LCDR Vicedomini stated further that *"Your efforts in fostering a global community of maritime law professionals is truly commendable. You have not only led us with wisdom but also with a passion that has motivated us to strive for excellence."*

He also extended appreciation to both the academic and administrative staff for their unstinted effort and support throughout their studies.



LCDR Pietro Vicedomini (Italy) delivering the Valedictory Address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025

The Addresses were followed by the conferment of degrees, concluding with the award of prizes for outstanding performances in various categories as listed below.

This culminated in the ringing of the ceremonial bell, signifying the official conclusion of the Graduation Ceremony and IMLI's 36th Academic Year.

PRIZES AWARDED DURING IMLI'S 36TH GRADUATION CEREMONY



The Recipients of the Prizes awarded during IMLI's 36th Graduation Ceremony are (from L-R):

IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation:

Mr. Kunal Suresh Gaikwad (India)

Government of Malta Prize for the Best Maritime Legislation Drafting Project:

Ms. Ramida Ismayilova (Azerbaijan)

Professor David Attard Prize for Best Performance in the Law of the Sea:

Mr. Mcphyson Ndibalema (Tanzania)

Transport Malta Prize for Best Performance in Shipping Law:

LCDR Sameera Lakshanta Hughmaye (Sri Lanka)

Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholar:

LTJG Hind Deldou (Morocco)

LRF Prize for the Best Performing Lloyd's Register Foundation Scholar :

Ms. Jacqueline Agyemang-Gyau (Ghana)

Dr. Kofi Mbiah's Prize for the Best Performing African Scholar:

Ms. Christine Jesang Chongwo (Kenya)

ITF Seafarers' Trust Prize on Seafarers' Law:

Ms. Nana Ama Gyamfua Marfo (Ghana)

Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Malta Branch) Prize for Best Performance in Maritime Transport Law:

Ms. Tiffany Ann Hoenkirk (Guyana)

REMPEC Marine Environment Law Prize:

CDR Prashant Bhatt (India)

CMI Prize for Best Overall Performance:

LCDR Pietro Vicedomini (Italy)



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (CEO, Ghana Chamber of Shipping; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarer's Trust; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Dr. Tim Slingsby (Director of Skills and Education, Lloyd's Register Foundation; Member, IMLI Governing Board), the Honourable Minister Dr. Bonett (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta), Dr. Ann Fenech (President, Comité Maritime International), Mr. Ivan Sammut (Head of Office, REMPEC), Mr. Kurt Farrugia (CEO, Transport Malta), Dr. Chris Soler (State Advocate of Malta), Mr. Yu Nakahiro (Manager, Ocean Affairs Division, The Nippon Foundation), Brigadier Clinton J. O'Neill (Commander, Armed Forces of Malta), IMLI Faculty Members, and IMLI Graduates of Class of 2024-2025

