

IMLI DIRECTOR MAKES AN INTERVENTION AT THE 112TH SESSION OF THE IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE

The 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee was held from Monday, 24 to Friday, 28 March 2025 at the IMO Headquarters in London. During the Session, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) made an intervention to the Committee on IMLI and its activities for the year 2024. In addressing the distinguished delegates in attendance, the Director expressed his sincere appreciation to all their countries which have been instrumental in transforming IMLI. He stated that *"it is your trust in the Institute and its noble mission that has been the driving force for IMLI to be better and do better."* He also extended profound appreciation to IMO, especially the Secretary-General, for ensuring that IMLI continues to be a beacon of light in the mission of upholding the rule of law. Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez also extended the Institute's gratitude to The Nippon Foundation, Lloyd's Register Foundation (LRF), International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Seafarers' Trust, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), Comité Maritime International (CMI), International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I Clubs), and International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) for sharing the Institute's values that a just transition in the maritime sector needs to have people at heart. He informed the Institute's donors that their investments in the future generation of maritime leaders inspires the Institute to renew its commitment to deliver the highest standard of education.

He also conveyed his appreciation to the numerous countries, many of which are developing countries, who have found a way to sponsor the studies of their officers at IMLI in the strong belief that education is key to growth and prosperity. He also acknowledged and thanked the Government of Malta, for providing the Institute with a home in Malta and for its continuous and renewed support of its activities.

The Director informed the Session of IMLI's contribution to the international maritime community by continuing to provide one free seat to every IMO Member State in the Institute's specialized courses, whilst also forging on with its capacity-building mission through all its programmes. He concluded by saying *"As the international maritime community continues to need IMLI, IMLI needs you. Let us work together to ensure that the maritime sector is sustainable and prosperous for this generation and for the generations to come."*

IMLI notes with pleasure the increasing number of graduates who are representing their countries at IMO where they have subsequently been elected as Chairs of the IMO Legal Committee, Technical Cooperation Committee, and Facilitation Committee. They are all a true living testament, attesting to IMLI's commitment to training the maritime leaders of tomorrow.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) making his intervention at the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee



ANNUAL CLASS FIELD TRIP TO LONDON



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the IMO's Headquarters

As part of the Institute's programmes, students also take part in field study visits that link theoretical knowledge to practical experience. Typical destinations include shipyards, port terminals, training simulator centres, and commercial and war ships. In addition, the Institute organizes a field trip to London where the students visit important maritime institutions, including IMO, where they have the opportunity to meet the IMO Secretary-General, senior IMO officials and geographical point representatives. This year was no different. The Institute organized once more the annual class field trip to London, orchestrated to coincide with the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee. This gave the students the unique opportunity to act as observers during the Committee's proceedings.

During this trip, students also had the opportunity to visit usual landmark maritime institutions which are synonymous with the London field trip including Lloyd's Register Foundation, Trinity House, International Association of Classification Societies, the Headquarters of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, International Group of P&I Clubs, and the International Mobile Satellite Organization. As part of their visit to IMO, the students had the privilege of meeting Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board).



The IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the Headquarters of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the Lloyd's Register Foundation



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the offices of the International Association of Classification Societies



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the offices of the International Mobile Satellite Organization



The Class was divided into smaller Groups to allow them to visit the offices of these globally renowned organizations, many of which have not only contributed invaluable expertise and resources but have also been steadfast supporters of IMLI's mission throughout the years. As donors, they have provided crucial financial assistance, enabling the Institute to continue its vital capacity-building efforts. Thanks to their unwavering support, numerous deserving candidates from around the globe have been given the opportunity to be trained at IMLI. The visits provided students with firsthand insight into the work and impact of these organizations, deepening their understanding of the real-world application of international maritime law and fostering meaningful connections with industry leaders.



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 attended the Deep dive on Seafarer Sustainability Launch Event organized by Lloyd's Register Foundation at the Trinity House, London

Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 visiting the ITF Seafarers' Trust



The IMLI Class of 2024-2025 visiting the International Group of P&I Clubs

MEETING OF MENTORS AND MENTEEES OF IMOGEN MENTORING PROGRAMME

The International Maritime Organization Gender Equality Network (IMOGEN), was established as a forum for IMO delegates to work in a coordinated manner, share information and exchange ideas and best practices aimed at achieving gender equality and promoting the participation of women in the maritime sector. The "IMOGEN Women-on-Board" programme is based on values of intergenerational solidarity and transmission promoted by IMOGEN, as part of its plan to implement the actionable goals of resolution A.1147(31), *Preserving the Legacy of the World Maritime Theme for 2019 and Achieving a Barrier-Free Working Environment for Women in the Maritime Sector*. Its ambition is for IMLI female students to have access to professional role models enabling them to share experiences and information, to appropriate professional codes and to assert their individual ambition. To this end, the "IMOGEN Women-on-Board" initiative in promoting women in maritime affairs was launched at IMLI on 9 March 2021.

During this visit to IMO, the 33 IMLI female students of the Class of 2024-2025 were introduced to their mentors, who include the Secretary-General of IMO, Directors of Divisions at IMO, Ambassadors and Diplomats, hailing from all over the world, committed to assisting these ladies in leadership, growth, and professional development.



Students meeting their Mentors

IMO/ITLOS JOINT WORKSHOP HELD AT THE IMO HEADQUARTERS

During the Field Trip, the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 also had the unique opportunity to attend the IMO/ITLOS Joint Workshop that took place at IMO. This Workshop was held following the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee, bringing together a range of legal experts from both IMO and ITLOS to discuss key maritime issues. Its aim was to promote dialogue on enhancing the enforcement of regulations at sea, particularly concerning vessel arrests, prompt release, fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships.

Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General) delivered the Opening Remarks followed by the Keynote Speech by President Tomas Heidar (President, ITLOS) on *ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and the Ocean*.



The students were excited to participate in this Workshop as it was discussing issues being covered within their studies at IMLI. Such topics included Nationality, Registration of Ships, Fraudulent Registration and Fraudulent Registries of Ships. Further, the presentations were made by eminent personalities who visit or deliver online lectures within the Institute's Distinguished Visiting Fellow's programme. These included Professor Judge David J. Attard (Professor of Public International Law and the Law of the Sea, IMLI), Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Judge Ida Caracciolo (Judge, ITLOS), Judge Liesbeth Lijnzaad (Judge, ITLOS), and Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar, ITLOS).



MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS OF MALTA LECTURES AT IMLI

IMLI had the distinct pleasure of welcoming for the first time, the Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta) on 17 April 2025. The Honourable Minister Bonett was warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), IMLI Staff and the IMLI Class of 2024-2025.

Following his introduction, the Honourable Minister delivered a lecture entitled "*Malta – The Maritime Nation*" to the IMLI Class of 2024-2025.



The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta) signing the IMLI Distinguished Visitors Book

The Honourable Minister Dr. Bonett delivering his presentation to the IMLI Class of 2024-2025



THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF IMLI

During a ceremony held at the IMO Headquarters on 25 February 2025, the Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works) presented a letter of enhanced support to the Institute by the Maltese Government to Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board).



From R-L: Mr. Kurt Farrugia (CEO, Transport Malta), Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), the Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

Present at the ceremony were Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Mr. Kurt Farrugia (CEO, Transport Malta), Mr. Bjorn Callus (Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works), and Ms. Stephanie Bonello (Chief of Staff of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works).

The Maltese Government has been an ardent supporter of the Institute even before the beautiful premises, where IMLI is located, were built. Upholding the idea of the Institute's founders, the Maltese Government believed then and continues to do so now, in IMLI's important role in enhancing capacity-building worldwide, especially in developing countries in all aspects of international maritime law.



From L-R: Mr. Kurt Farrugia (CEO, Transport Malta), Mr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Mr. Bjorn Callus (Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works), Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works), Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and Ms. Stephanie Bonello (Chief of Staff of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works)

The Director and the IMLI staff express their deepest appreciation to the Government of Malta for its unwavering support to the Institute and its capacity-building initiatives. Its continued assistance plays a pivotal role in advancing IMLI's mission of providing quality education in international maritime law and training the maritime leaders of tomorrow.

IMLI DIRECTOR MEETS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) visited The Nippon Foundation Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan where he met with Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation).

During this meeting, Professor Martínez and Mr. Unno discussed furthering the very successful and important joint project entitled "Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Legal Order for the Oceans". This meeting cemented the decades-long cooperation between the two institutions, which it is hoped will continue in the forthcoming years for the benefit of the international maritime community.



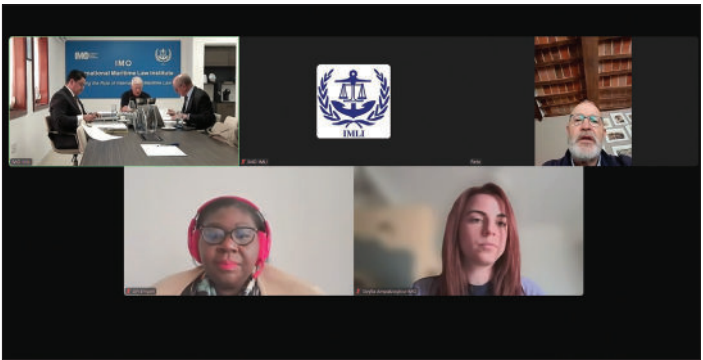
Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

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IMLI FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETS AT IMLI

The IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM) held its first meeting for the year 2025 to discuss important governance, financial, and personnel matters. In this hybrid meeting, of which part of the Committee Members were at the Institute's premises, the IMLI Director expressed appreciation for the support of the Committee for the sound governance of the Institute.



IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES AS PANEL SPEAKER IN THE CMI'S TOKYO CONFERENCE 2025

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated as Speaker in the Academics Session during the CMI Tokyo Conference. This session brought together distinguished scholars to explore current legal research and academic developments shaping the future of maritime law. His presentation, which was entitled "IMLI: Over 35 Years in the Service of the Rule of International Maritime Law", contributed to a Session that sought to highlight diverse legal challenges, from the regulation of phantom registries to the implications of digitalisation in shipping documentation, emphasising the important role of academic analysis in guiding practical and legislative advances in maritime law.

Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez had the pleasure of meeting several IMLI graduates who were also attending the Conference, including Mr. Ante Vojković (Croatia) who won the CMI Prize for Best Overall Performance in the academic year 2023-2024.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering his speech during the Conference



Mr. Ante Vojković (Croatia) delivering his presentation



Dr. Ann Fenech (President, CMI), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and IMLI Graduates attending the Conference

ITF SEAFARER’S TRUST HOLDS AN IMLI / WMU ALUMNI DISCUSSION MEETING

The ITF Seafarers’ Trust held on 25 February 2025 an online joint ITF Seafarer’s Trust IMLI and WMU Alumni discussion meeting. Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers’ Trust), Mr. Abdulgani Serang (Programme Development Manager, ITF Seafarers’ Trust, UK), and other senior officials from the ITF Seafarer’s Trust led the discussion meeting. Mr. Fabrizio Barcellona (ITF Inland and Seafarers Section Coordinator) was the guest speaker during this event.

The topic of discussion was the proposed amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 in preparation for the April 25 meeting in Geneva of the ILO Special Tripartite Committee.



SEVENTH FAO INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON FISHERIES LAW HELD AT IMLI

IMLI hosted the Seventh FAO International Course on Fisheries Law between 1 and 17 April 2025. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) inaugurated the Course and welcomed the participants who hailed from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.



NEW COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT IMLI

During the academic year 2024-2025, the Institute welcomed representatives of three new countries who are being trained in the Institute’s programmes. To mark these valuable additions, the Institute organized ceremonies, whereby the IMLI Pin is placed on the IMLI World Map, symbolising the participation of the respective countries.

These new countries are Curaçao, Qatar, and Rwanda.



Professor Judge David J. Attard (Professor of Public International Law and the Law of the Sea, IMLI) placing the IMLI Pin on the World map on the country of Curaçao

The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta) placing the IMLI Pin on the world map on the country of Qatar



President Tomas Heidar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)) placing the IMLI Pin on the world map on the country of Rwanda

IMLI CLASS AND STAFF VISIT THE ITALIAN TRAINING SHIP AMERIGO VESPUCCI

The Director, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez, organised a visit on board the *Amerigo Vespucci* on Saturday 26 April for students and staff.

The Italian navy’s longest-serving ship visited Malta between 24 to 30 April 2025 as part of a Mediterranean tour aimed at promoting Italy’s naval culture and history. The ship was launched in 1931 and continues to sail to this day. During its time in Malta, the vessel was docked at the Valletta Grand Harbour’s Pinto Wharf.

Captain Giuseppe Lai, Commander of the *Amerigo Vespucci*, received the Director, along with students and IMLI staff.

During the visit, there was an exchange of gifts between the Commander and the IMLI Director.

The flag of the ship was being flown half-mast throughout that day as a sign of respect for the Requiem Mass being celebrated for Pope Francis, who had sadly passed away.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with IMLI Staff and Students during the visit to the *Amerigo Vespucci*



Captain Giuseppe Lai (Commander, *Amerigo Vespucci*) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

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