

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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IMLI COMMENCES ITS 37TH ACADEMIC YEAR

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) commenced on 1 October 2025 its 37th Academic Year. The students were warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff.

For this Academic Year, IMLI is welcoming 65 students hailing from 31 States. Botswana is being represented for the first time in any of the Institute's programmes.



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)
together with Members of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026*

In line with the Institute’s longstanding policy of reserving 50% of its places for female students, a total of 31 female candidates have enrolled in the Institute’s master and Advanced Diploma programmes.

Prior to the IMLI Director delivering his *Welcoming Address* to the Class of 2025-2026, Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) guided the students through the Oath of Allegiance to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute.



Class of 2025-2026 taking the Oath of Allegiance to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute



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

Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez commenced his Address to the students by setting the scene for their studies at IMLI. He noted the importance of them knowing where they are and what is the purpose of them being at IMLI.

This was followed by a detailed explanation of the origins and growth of the Institute, as well as an introduction to the IMLI studies.

The Director informed the students that IMLI was set up to train maritime experts on the whole spectrum of international maritime law and on the incorporation and effective implementation of IMO treaties and rules into their domestic legislation.

He shared with the Class that since IMLI's inception, 1,245 maritime professionals from 155 countries and territories have successfully graduated from all of the Institute's programmes. He further stated that, due to the special training provided at IMLI, many graduates are holding influential positions in their national administrations and in international fora. Many of them are also leading or contributing to their country's delegations at IMO.

At the conclusion of the Director's Address, Ms. Kazara-Belja invited the students to formally introduce themselves to the Director, IMLI Staff and their classmates.



DIRECTOR OF THE IMO LEGAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIVISION DIVISION OFFICIALLY INAUGURATES IMLI'S 37TH ACADEMIC YEAR

The Institute had the distinct pleasure of welcoming on 6 October 2025, Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) to officially inaugurate the Academic Year 2025-2026.

Dr. Lost-Sieminska was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff. Subsequently she was introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 .



Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) signing the IMLI Distinguished Visiting Fellows' Book



Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with Members of the IMLI Class 2025-2026

In a brief address to the Class before delivering the *Inaugural Lecture*, Director Lost-Sieminska expressed her pleasure at meeting the Class and inaugurating the 2025-2026 Academic Year. She was happy to share with the students that on this day, she was celebrating 20 years since her arrival for the first time in Malta to commence her studies at IMLI during the Academic Year 2005-2006. She then encouraged the students to apply themselves during their studies and to form strong bonds with each other.



*Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska
(Director, Legal Affairs and
External Relations
Division, IMO) ringing the
ceremonial bell, signifying the
official opening of
IMLI's 37th Academic Year*

Before proceeding with her lecture, Director Lost-Sieminska rang the ceremonial bell, thus officially inaugurating IMLI's 37th Academic Year.



*Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO)
delivering the Inaugural Lecture of IMLI's 37th Academic Year*