

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Circulated in more than 150 States



IMLI DIRECTOR ATTENDS WORLD MARITIME DAY 2025 CELEBRATIONS HELD AT THE IMO

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) attended, on behalf of the Institute, the World Maritime Day 2025 celebrations hosted by IMO on 25 September 2025. This event brought together many distinguished personalities from the global maritime community.

On this occasion, the Director had the pleasure of meeting many dignitaries, including Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (Secretary-General, IMO), Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO), Dr. Ann Fenech (President, Comité Maritime International), Country Delegates, and other distinguished guests.



*Mr. Arsenio Domínguez
(Secretary-General, IMO) and
Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez
Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)*





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

- 1. Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO)*
- 2. Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO)*
- 3. Dr. Ann Fenech (President, Comité Maritime International) and Ms. Maria Borg Barthet (Co-Chair of the Comité Maritime International, International Working Group on Implementation of International Conventions and Promotion of International Conventions)*

The IMLI Director also had the opportunity to reconnect with a number of IMLI Graduates who attended this prestigious event, namely Mr. Adonis Tafangy (Madagascar, Class of 2011), Ms. Sharon Chavez Aledo (the Philippines, Class of 2021), Ms. Patricia Peñaranda (Colombia, Class of 2021), Cdr. Mary Leizl Barbero (the Philippines, Class of 2018) and Mr. Sipho Mbatha (South Africa, Class of 2008), and Ms. Li Guanyu (China, Class of 2004).



From: L-R - Mr. Adonis Tafangy (Madagascar, Class of 2011), Ms. Sharon Chavez Aledo (the Philippines, Class of 2021), Ms. Patricia Peñaranda (Colombia, Class of 2021), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Cdr. Mary Leizl Barbero (the Philippines, Class of 2018) and Mr. Sipho Mbatha (South Africa, Class of 2008)



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with Ms. Li Guanyu (China, Class of 2004)

On the 25 September 2025, IMLI proudly joined IMO and the global maritime community in celebrating World Maritime Day. This annual occasion serves as a reminder of the crucial role that shipping and maritime activities play in sustaining international trade, helping the economy grow, and ensuring global connections between people and nations.



The theme chosen for 2025, “*Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity*,” highlights the shared responsibility of the international community to safeguard the ocean as a precious common resource. To mark this international celebration, the Institute’s facade was illuminated in blue; a visual reminder of IMLI’s commitment to advancing maritime law and promoting awareness of the need to protect and responsibly manage the world’s oceans for present and future generations.

IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST GUARD FORUM



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) attended the *Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum* hosted under the Italian Coast Guard Presidency on 10 September 2025. The Forum was entitled “*Enhancing Maritime Capacity in the Mediterranean through shared Training and Cooperation in Coast Guard Functions*.” The Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum was part of the Coast Guard Fora 2025.

The Director delivered a presentation during *Panel 1: Role of International Institutes in Maritime Capacity Development in the Mediterranean Region*, entitled “*The Mission of the IMO-International Maritime Law Institute in Establishing a Cadre of Experts in International Maritime Law*.”



AMBASSADOR OF BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA TO MALTA VISITS IMLI



H.E. Amira Arifovic-Harms (Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina to Malta) and H.E. Professor Lino Bianco (Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Bosnia & Herzegovina) being greeted by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI)

H.E. Amira Arifovic-Harms (Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina to Malta) and H.E. Professor Lino Bianco (Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Bosnia & Herzegovina) paid a courtesy visit to the Institute on 16 September 2025. Ambassador Arifovic-Harms and Ambassador Bianco were greeted by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI).

During the visit, Ambassador Arifovic-Harms, Ambassador Bianco, and Ms. Kazara-Belja also discussed ways to enhance the collaboration between IMLI and the Bosnia & Herzegovina government institutions.

THE IMO, IMLI, WMU ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING ORGANIZED BY IMO WAS HOSTED AT IMLI

The IMO, IMLI, WMU annual finance meeting organized by IMO was hosted for the first time at IMLI between 16 and 17 September 2025. The IMO team was comprised of Mr. Moeen Menem Arbid (Senior Finance Officer) and Mr. Kas Khan (Finance Officer). The IMLI team was comprised of Ms. Miriam Vella (Head of Finance and Personnel) and Ms. Christabel Bezzina (Finance Assistant). The WMU team was comprised of Mr. Leo Viajar (Head of Finance and Administrative Services), Ms. Magdalena P. Curbi (Finance Officer), Ms. Grafika Cynthia Trinanda (Finance Officer), and Mr. Maxim Harry (Accountant and Budget Officer). During this meeting, the teams discussed financial strategies for the forthcoming year.



IMLI DIRECTOR ACTS AS OPPONENT AT A THESIS DEFENCE AT WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY



As part of the growing collaboration between IMLI and the World Maritime University (WMU), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) acted as Opponent of the thesis entitled “*Safety and Sustainability in the Domestic Ferry Sector: A Principles, Criteria, and Indicators (PCI) Framework for ESG-Aligned Maritime Governance*” on 22 September 2025.

The thesis, submitted as a requirement within WMU’s Ph.D. programme, was written and defended by Mr. Mirza Zeeshan Baig (Pakistan).

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering his remarks

The distinguished board of examiners included Dr. Beatriz Martínez-Romera (Associate Professor on Environmental and Climate Change Law, University of Copenhagen), Dr. Gesa Praetorius (Senior Researcher, Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute [VTI]) and Professor Dimitrios Dalaklis (Head, Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration Specialization, WMU; University of the Arctic (UArctic) Chair in Search and Rescue (SAR)).



*Mr. Mirza
Zeeshan Baig
(Pakistan)
defending his
Ph.D. thesis*

THREE IMLI ALUMNI IN ONE SHARED MISSION

A proud moment was shared by three IMLI Alumni, Ms. Carla Andrade de Melo Antunes (Brazil, Class of 2006), Ms. Kamyla A. Barrientos Pineda (Guatemala, Class of 2019), and Ms. Paula de Castro Silveira (Portugal, Class of 2014) who participated in the “*Train-the-Trainer for Women Port Facility Security Auditors*” programme held at IMO. Their meeting at this programme highlights IMLI’s role, within the IMO framework, in connecting and empowering professionals across the world, building bridges between countries and strengthening its collective commitment towards maritime security, sustainability and governance. The three ladies expressed their gratitude to IMLI for their training which led to the opportunity to contribute to this global effort. They also expressed gratitude to all the inspiring women whose leadership made the journey all the more meaningful.



From L-R: Ms. Carla Andrade de Melo Antunes (Brazil, Class of 2006), Ms. Paula de Castro Silveira (Portugal, Class of 2014), Ms. Gisela Vieira (Acting Head / Programme Manager of Maritime Security Section, IMO) and Ms. Kamyla A. Barrientos Pineda (Guatemala, Class of 2019)



A DELEGATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERS OF SLOVENIA PAYS A COURTESY VISIT TO THE INSTITUTE

A delegation from the Association of Traffic Engineers of Slovenia paid a courtesy visit to the Institute on 16 October 2025. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff.

Upon their arrival, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez delivered a presentation about IMLI, wherein he outlined IMLI's global mission and its academic programmes.

