

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Circulated in more than 150 States



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

On 4 March 2026, IMLI commenced the 7th edition of the IMLI Course on the Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance.

This IMLI specialized Course provided an opportunity for participants to acquire advanced knowledge of the international legal frameworks for the protection of the marine environment while promoting a harmonized and integrated approach to ocean governance.



REGISTER NOW

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

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

IMO International Maritime Law Institute

37 YEARS SERVING THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

Particular attention was given to the role of IMO in developing and implementing global measures on marine environmental protection and ocean governance, including its groundbreaking work on the decarbonization of international shipping and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport.



In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) emphasized the importance of safeguarding the marine environment, underscoring that the health of the oceans is fundamental to life itself: “Without clean seas, there is no life!”

The Director highlighted that the Course forms part of the IMLI master programmes curricula and gives the opportunity to external participants to benefit from its sessions. It brought together 62 in-person attendees from 30 countries, alongside another 22 external participants who are deeply involved in issues relating to environment protection and ocean governance.

Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez welcomed the external attendees, noting that their participation reflects IMLI’s ongoing global outreach efforts, especially its initiative to offer one free seat for every IMO Member State to nominate a participant to this Course.

The Director invited the participants to engage in discussions with the eminent speakers and colleagues on key aspects of marine environmental protection. He stated that the Course addresses a wide range of topics, including prevention, preparedness, response mechanisms, cooperation between nations either regionally or worldwide, liability and compensation regimes, and broader issues of global ocean governance.

The Director informed the audience of the new compact mode of delivery of the Course which is aimed to facilitate wider participation by external professionals who will experience a reduced time commitment while still benefiting from the Course’s academic depth. Sessions were delivered by both the resident faculty as well as by eminent personalities who are leaders in the field and whose expertise and experiences honed the attendees’ skills and expanded their knowledge.

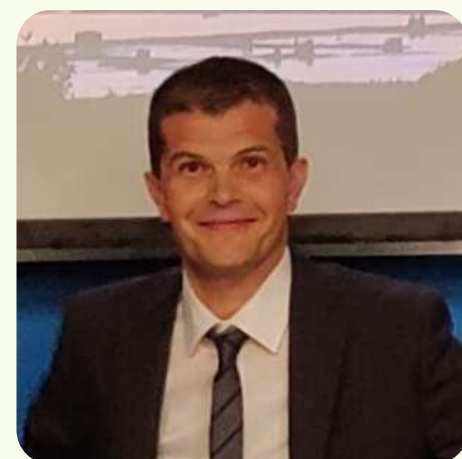
The Director then proceeded to welcome and introduce Mr. David Osborn (Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO). This was the first visit of Director Osborn to IMLI since his appointment in September 2025.

Mr. David Osborn (Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO) delivered the Inaugural Address of the IMLI Course on the Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance entitled *“International Maritime Organization: Safe, Secure and Efficient Shipping on Cleaner Oceans”*.



Professor Natalie Klein (Associate Dean (Academic), Professor, UNSW Sydney's Faculty of Law & Justice, Australia) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Resolving Disputes in International Marine Environment Law”*.

Dr. Mitja Grbec (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management, University of Primorska; Secretary-General, Maritime Law Association of Slovenia; Attorney-at-Law) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Marine Environmental Law: Liability and Compensation”*.



Ms. Chiara Della Mea (Head, Pollution Preparedness and Response Section, Subdivision for Ocean Policy and Pollution Response Marine Environment Division, IMO) delivered a lecture entitled *“Oil and Chemical Pollution Response – The International Regulatory Framework and A Review of Recent Incidents”*.

Dr. Stefano Filletti (Leading Partner, Filletti & Filletti Advocates; Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ecuador in Malta) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Marine Pollution Prevention Under Part XII of UNCLOS”*.





Dr. Theofanis Karayannis (Head, Marine Biosafety, Marine Environment Division, IMO) delivered a lecture entitled *“Implementation and Enforcement of the Ballast Water Management Convention”*.

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (UN Assistant Secretary-General; Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme [UNEP]) delivered a lecture entitled *“Conservation of Marine Biodiversity and Climate Change”*.



Mr. Roel Hoenders (Head of Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency, Marine Environment Division, IMO) delivered a lecture entitled *“Protection of the Marine Environment from Ships Emissions”*.

Professor Simone Borg (Ambassador for Malta on Climate Action; Professor of Environmental and Resources Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta) delivered a lecture entitled *“CBDR and NMFT”*.



Mr. Ivan Sammut (Head of Office, Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea [REMPEC]) delivered a lecture entitled *“Regional Approaches for Cooperation in Prevention of, Preparedness for, and Response to Marine Pollution: An Example of The Mediterranean”*.

Professor Ronán Long (Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute) delivered a lecture entitled *“Implementing Areas-Based Management Tools / MPAS under the BBNF Agreement: Three Case studies to Achieve the 30 per cent Target by 2030”*.



Professor Alan Deidun (Director, International Ocean Institute - Malta Training Centre; Professor and Marine Biologist; Ocean Ambassador of Malta) delivered a lecture entitled *“Ocean Acidification and Climate Change”*.

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Peter Ehlers (Former President, German Federal Maritime Hydrographic Agency; Institute for Law of the Sea and Maritime Law, Hamburg University) delivered a set of lectures entitled *“Use of and Threats to the Oceans”*, *“What has already been done for sustainable Ocean Governance?”* and *“Underwater Noise Radiated by Ships”*.



Mr. Fredrik Haag (Head of Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs, Marine Environment Division, IMO) delivered a lecture entitled *“Protection of the Marine Environment from Dumping of Waste and Other Matter: The London Convention and London Protocol”*.

Dr. Harry Conway (Alternate Permanent Representative of Liberia to IMO; Chair of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee [MEPC]) delivered a lecture entitled *“Marine Litter: A Governance Perspective”*.





Professor Patricia Iglecias (Chief, Sustainability Office, University of São Paulo; Professor, Faculty of Law; Partner, Iglecias Law Firm; President at Law for a Green Planet Institute) delivered a lecture entitled “*The Global Plastics Treaty and Transnational Ocean Governance: Circular Economy and Regulatory Architecture*”.



Mr. Gaute Sivertsen (Director, IOPC Funds) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Introduction to the International Liability and Compensation Regime and the Role of the IOPC Funds*”.



Mr. Vladimir Jares (Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations [DOALOS]) delivered a lecture entitled “*The Role and Functions of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea in the Context of Global Ocean Governance*”.



This specialized Course was co-ordinated by Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMLI), who, together with the Members of the IMLI Faculty, delivered several lectures within the Course.

IMLI WORKSHOP ON THE “BLUE ECONOMY AND THE LEGAL ARCHITECTURE OF OCEAN GOVERNANCE”

As part of the IMLI specialized Course on the Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance, IMLI organized a Workshop entitled “*The Blue Economy and the Legal Architecture of Ocean Governance*”.

The Inaugural Address of this Workshop was delivered by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI). During this event, eminent speakers from around the globe shared their expertise on this very important topic. The speakers addressing the Workshop included Dr. Kofi Mbiah (Maritime Law Consultant; Member of the IMLI Academic Committee), Ms. Alessandra Sensi (Head of Sector, Environment & Blue Economy, Union for the Mediterranean), H.E. Ambassador Nancy Karigithu (Kenya’s Special Envoy and Advisor on Maritime and Blue Economy Affairs; Member of the IMLI Governing Board), and Dr. Marcin Kalinowski (Maritime Institute, Gdynia Maritime University, Poland).



Dr. Kofi Mbiah
(Maritime Law Consultant;
Member of the IMLI Academic Committee)



H.E. Ambassador Nancy Karigithu
(Kenya’s Special Envoy and Advisor on Maritime
and Blue Economy Affairs; Member of the IMLI
Governing Board)



Ms. Alessandra Sensi
(Head of Sector, Environment & Blue Economy,
Union for the Mediterranean)



Dr. Marcin Kalinowski
(Maritime Institute, Gdynia Maritime University,
Poland)

Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMLI) moderated a roundtable discussion entitled “*Toward a Coherent Legal Architecture for a Sustainable Blue Economy*”, which brought this Workshop to a conclusion.