

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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THE IMLI COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW

On 26 March 2026, IMLI commenced its annual IMLI Course on International Maritime Security Law.

The Course underscored the increasing severity of maritime security threats and highlighted the essential role of IMO conventions in maintaining a Rule-Based Order at Sea.

The Course shed light on the valuable work of international organizations and the importance of regional cooperation in addressing evolving maritime security challenges. The Course welcomed eminent maritime security experts from around the globe to share practical insights and experiences on key aspects of international maritime security law.



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INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

IMLI COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW

(26 MARCH-8 MAY 2026)

IMO International Maritime Law Institute

OVER 35 YEARS SERVING THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

The Course offered its participants the opportunity to interact with professionals in an academic atmosphere, reinforcing their knowledge, skills, and proficiency in international maritime security law.



In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) expressed his pleasure at the commencement of the seventh edition of this specialized Course. He extended his warm welcome to all participants both in-situ and online and remarked that the Institute was particularly pleased that since it was launched in 2021, the Course has attracted approximately 90 external participants from 58 countries across the globe.

The IMLI Director noted that this wide attendance is a reflection of IMLI's policy to offer one free seat to every IMO Member State with the goal of expanding IMLI's outreach globally and to further contributing to the work of IMO.

The diversity of participants highlighted the global nature of maritime security challenges and reinforced the importance of international cooperation, legal harmonization, and shared responsibility in safeguarding the oceans. The programme, which has been carefully designed to address the evolving complexity of maritime security threats, with contributions from a range of eminent speakers and experts within this field.

Central to the Course was recognizing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the constitution of the oceans, as well as the important role that IMO plays in promoting maritime safety and security, particularly during challenging times.

The Course aimed to equip participants with the legal, theoretical, and operational tools necessary to address maritime security threats within their respective jurisdictions.

The Director then proceeded to introduce Mr. Damien Chevallier (Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO) to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 and the external participants attending this Course. This is the first time that IMLI has had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Chevallier in-situ, and it is hoped it will be first of many.

Mr. Damien Chevallier (Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO) delivered the Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI Course on International Maritime Security Law entitled “*Towards a holistic approach to Maritime Security*”.



Judge Dr. Kriangsak Kittichaisaree (Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered a lecture entitled “*The Legality of Enforcement Activities at Sea (Cases No. 2, 19, 24 and 25)*”.

Professor James Kraska (Chairman and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law Stockton Center for International Law, U.S. Naval War College) delivered a lecture entitled “*The Right to Visit*”.



Professor Robert McLaughlin (Australian National University, Canberra) delivered a lecture entitled “*Use of Force by the Private Maritime Security Guards and Vessel Protection Detachments Against Suspected Pirates*”.

Mr. Philipp Hermes (Director Law, Governance and Security, Téthys Naval) delivered a lecture entitled “*Due Process at Sea: The Use of Force on State and Non-State Vessels (Peacetime)*”.



Professor Henning Jessen (Professor, The Nippon Foundation Chair in Maritime Law and Digital Change, WMU) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*Market Based Measures (MBMs)*” and “*Emissions Trading in Shipping*”.

Professor Patricia Vella de Fremeaux (Head, Department of International Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta) delivered a lecture entitled “*Maritime Migration and Search and Rescue*” .



Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs Office Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) delivered a lecture entitled “*Fraudulent Registration and Fraudulent Registries of Ships*”.

Professor Stuart Kaye (Director and Professor of Law, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security [ANCORS]) delivered a lecture entitled *“Enforcement Cooperation Combatting IUU Fishing”*.



Mr. Watchara Chiemankulkit (Chief, International Affairs Division, Marine Department, Thailand; Chair, IMO Facilitation Committee) delivered a lecture entitled *“Wildlife Smuggling at Sea”*.

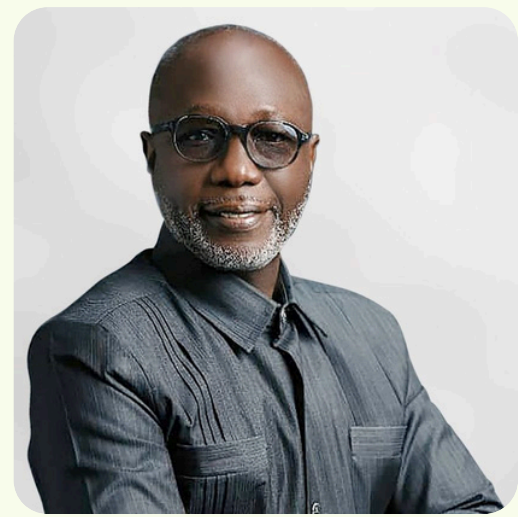


Brigadier Clinton J. O'Neill (Commander, Armed Forces of Malta) delivered a lecture entitled *“Search and Rescue: An introduction to SAR and Legal Framework”*.



Professor Natalie Klein (Associate Dean (Academic), Professor at UNSW Sydney’s Faculty of Law & Justice, Australia) delivered a lecture entitled *“Regulating Submarines under International Law”*.

Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali (Director-General, Ghana Maritime Authority) delivered a lecture entitled “*Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy and Maritime Governance Frameworks*”.



Mr. Andrew Clarke (Technical Officer, Maritime Security Section, Maritime Safety Division, IMO) delivered a set of lectures entitled “*SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code*” and “*IMO Model on the whole Government approach to Maritime Security*”.

Professor Dr. Sanjeevi Shanthakumar (Provost, Gujarat Maritime University [GMU]; Director, Gujarat National Law University [GNLU]) delivered a lecture entitled “*Pollution Crimes and Criminal Law*”.



Mr. Blaise Kuemlangan (Chief, Development Law Service, Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO]) delivered a lecture entitled “*Fisheries Law and Compliance*”.



Dr. Antoine Grima (Head of the Department, Environmental & Resources Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta) delivered a lecture entitled *“Sea Level Rise and International Security Implications”*.



Rear Admiral Hermann Aicardo León Rincón (Director General, National Maritime Directorate, Colombian Navy) delivered a lecture entitled *“Maritime Security Challenges in South America”*.



Dr. Felicity Attard (Senior Lecturer, Department of International Law, University of Malta; President, Malta Branch, International Law Association; Global Ambassador for Human Rights at Sea) delivered a lecture entitled *“The Duty to Render Assistance at Sea: Balancing Safety Obligations with Security Concerns”*.



Professor Dr. iur. Anna Petrig (Research Dean and Chair of International Law and Public Law, University of Basel) delivered a lecture entitled *“Autonomous Ships and Maritime Crimes”*.

Mr. Martin Cauchi-Inglott (Director, Global Centre for Maritime Sanctions Monitoring; Project Director, CRIMARIO II) delivered a set of lectures on *“Maritime Domain Awareness and the monitoring of sanctioned and falsely flagged vessels, supported by the #IORIS tool”*.



Mr. Jeremy Greenwood (Head, Maritime Security Section, Maritime Safety Division, IMO) delivered a lecture entitled *“IMO Response to Emerging and Urgent Maritime Security Threats”*.



This Course was co-ordinated by Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, IMLI), who, together with the Members of the IMLI Faculty, delivered several lectures within this specialized Course.