

IMLI e-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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EMINENT PROFESSOR OF LAW OF THE SEA LECTURES AT IMLI

IMLI had the distinct pleasure of welcoming again Professor Yoshifumi Tanaka (Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Centre for Private Governance (CEPRI), Denmark) on 5 January 2026. Professor Tanaka was warmly welcomed and introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI).



Professor Tanaka delivered the Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI Law of the Sea Module. His presentation was entitled "*Functions of Due Diligence Obligations in the Environmental Regulation of Arctic Shipping*".

Source: Arto Vitikka, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, <https://www.arcticcentre.org/EN/arcticregions/Maps/Administrative-areas>

- Arctic States (Arctic Eight)
 - United States, Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Russian Federation
- Indigenous Peoples
 - Around 10 percent of the Arctic population (around 400,000 individuals in over forty different groups)
- Arctic Council
 - Established by the 1996 Ottawa Declaration
 - A high-level intergovernmental forum for promoting cooperation and coordination between the Arctic States



Professor Yoshifumi Tanaka (Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Centre for Private Governance (CEPRI), Denmark) delivering his lecture

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS OF MALTA VISITS IMLI

On 15 January 2026, IMLI had the distinct pleasure of once again welcoming to the Institute the Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta).

Minister Bonett was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff, and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.



The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP
(Minister for Transport, Infrastructure
and Public Works, Malta)

On the occasion of his visit, Minister Bonett delivered a lecture entitled "*Malta - The Maritime Nation*". In his presentation, Minister Bonett described how Malta has evolved through the ages and has truly become a maritime nation.



The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta)
meeting the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta)
and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
(Director, IMLI)



The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta)
and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
(Director, IMLI) with the IMLI
Class of 2025-2026

ANNUAL FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta) presided over the annual Flag Raising Ceremony. During this ceremony, the students of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 hoisted the flags of their home countries in the IMLI foyer, where they will be on display for the duration of the Academic Year.

The Institute is proud to record that the flags of the 30 countries represented at IMLI during this year are:

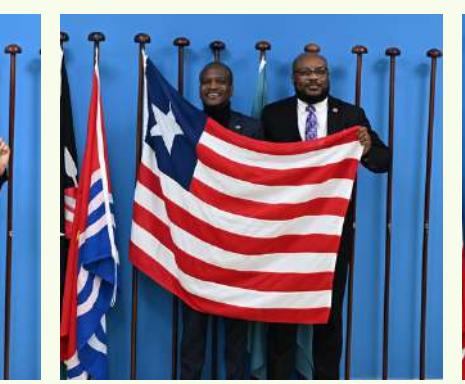
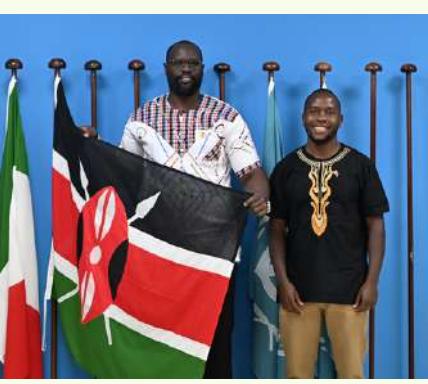
Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Botswana, Cameroon, Fiji, the Gambia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Italy, Kenya, Kiribati, Liberia, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Togo, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

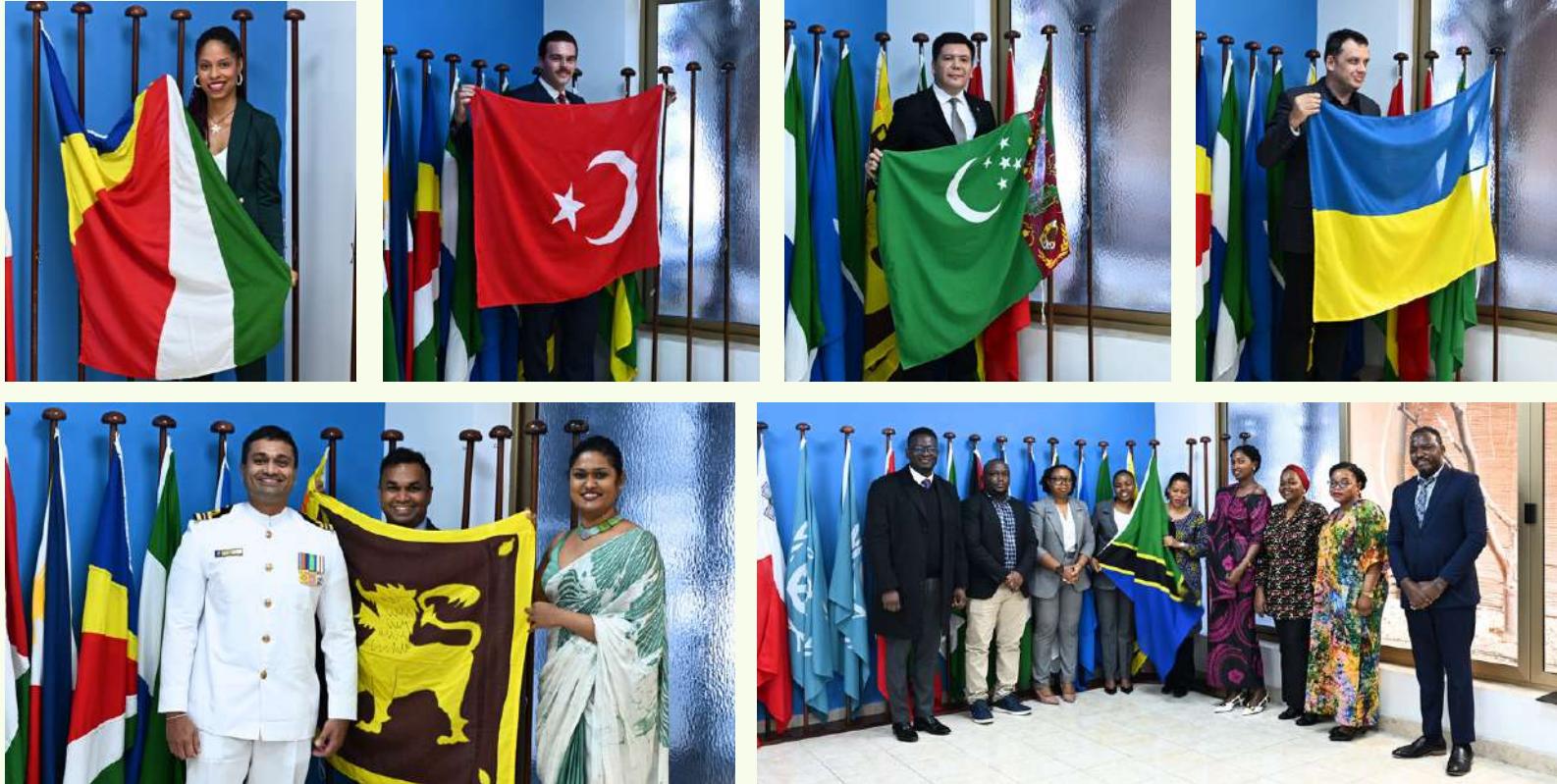


Country Flags on Display

Students of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 proudly raising their country's flag:







HONORARY CHAIR OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION MEETS WITH ALUMNI FROM IMLI AND DOALOS IN INDONESIA

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation) visited Indonesia in his capacity as Honorary Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, where he reaffirmed his commitment to combat leprosy in Indonesia through the Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF).

During his visit, Dr. Sasakawa, met with some alumni from IMLI and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). IMLI Graduates Ms. Renny Meirina (Class of 2009) and Ms. Murni Herawati Sitinjak (Class of 2014) attended this gathering.



Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation) together with Graduates from IMLI and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)

Ms. Renny Meirina (Class of 2009) (standing, first from the left) and Ms. Murni Herawati Sitinjak (Class of 2014) (standing, second from the right) attended the event.

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA VISITS THE INSTITUTE

H.E. Ms. Nosipho Nausca Jean Jezile (High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Malta), accompanied by Mr. Ivan Mifsud (Honorary Consul of the Republic of South Africa to Malta) paid a courtesy visit to the Institute on 16 January 2026.



H.E. Ms. Nosipho Nausca Jean Jezile (High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Malta) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

After greeting the IMLI Students, High Commissioner Jezile met with Director Martínez Gutiérrez to discuss possible future cooperation between IMLI and the South African Authorities.



From R-L: Mr. Ivan Mifsud (Honorary Consul of the Republic of South Africa to Malta), H.E. Ms. Nosipho Nausca Jean Jezile (High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Malta) and Mr. Sifiso Kaula (Student of the 2025-2026 IMLI Class hailing from South Africa)



H.E. Ms. Nosipho Nausca Jean Jezile (High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to Malta), Mr. Ivan Mifsud (Honorary Consul of the Republic of South Africa to Malta), and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026