

THE MAGAZINE OF THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE - MALTA. No. 53/2025

IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERS THE 36TH GRADUATION ADDRESS

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held its 36th Graduation Ceremony on 14 June 2025. The Ceremony marked the successful completion of an intensive year of studies in all areas of international maritime law, including law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law and ocean governance, maritime safety and security law, and maritime legislation drafting.

IMLI's simulcast Graduation Ceremony, was attended by many dignitaries, including the Honourable Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta, Members of the IMLI Governing Board, Members of the Maltese Parliament, representatives of IMLI's esteemed Donors, the President of the Comité Maritime International, the REMPEC Head of Office, the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta, a delegation from the Italian Coast Guard, Senior Officials of the Government of Malta, and Members of the Diplomatic Corps. Past Graduates of IMLI, former IMLI members of Staff, family members and friends were also in attendance to share in this joyous occasion with the graduands.

During the Ceremony, 62 students from 37 countries graduated from the Institute's various programmes. 48 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law, 11 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) in International Maritime Legislation, two students were awarded an Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law, and one student was awarded the Magister Juris (M. Jur.) Degree in International Maritime Law. The 2025 Graduates now form part of an elite network of international maritime law specialists, who have also received sterling training at IMLI.

During the Ceremony, Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivered the Graduation Address, followed by the Welcoming Address by Professor Dr. Norman Martínez Gutiérrez (IMLI Director). The Honourable Minister Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta) delivered remarks on behalf of the Host Country. The Valedictory Address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 was delivered by LCDR Pietro Vicedomini (Italy).

Mr. Domínguez commenced the Graduation Address by expressing his regret at not being able to be at IMLI in person due to flight delays.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) delivering online the Graduation Address

He congratulated the graduands on successfully completing their studies, noting that it is an exciting time to join the maritime sector given the ongoing developments such as decarbonization, noise and plastic pollution reduction, and the increasing concern regarding biofouling and invasive species.

He emphasized IMO's role in supporting initiatives like the BBNJ Convention and the plastic agreement negotiations. He also highlighted how IMLI's importance was recognized during the recent Technical Cooperation Committee proceedings, in strengthening the implementation of IMO instruments and shaping its evolving regulatory process. He encouraged students to make full use of the knowledge and experience gained at IMLI.

Mr. Domínguez thanked the faculty for their support and expressed appreciation to the Institute's Director, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez, for his dedication and vision to expand IMLI's role in the maritime field

IMLI DIRECTOR DELIVERS THE GRADUATION WELCOMING ADDRESS

In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) welcomed and thanked the dignitaries and guests who had graced the Graduation Ceremony.

He stated that the academic year 2024-2025 was a year of both growth and progress. He noted with pleasure that out of the 37 countries that were represented at IMLI during this academic year, Curaçao, Qatar, and Rwanda had a candidate trained at IMLI for the very first time.

The Director recorded with pleasure that the Institute's contribution to the international maritime community continues to be recognized by the United Nations General Assembly, through its annual resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea as well as by numerous IMO bodies and other international organizations.

The Director also expressed his gratitude to all the Institute's Donors, noting that IMLI's achievements would not be possible without their generous support.



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



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), leading the Graduating Class in the Oath of Allegiance to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute



THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS OF MALTA DELIVERS THE HOST COUNTRY ADDRESS

The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta) commenced his Address by stating that it is truly a pleasure for him to be representing his Government to celebrate the achievements of the graduands.

The Honourable Minister conveyed his feeling of satisfaction and pleasure to the graduands and stated that Malta is proud, not just to be the host country of the Institute, but also a genuine partner in this journey which they have successfully completed. He noted, *"It is a milestone not just for you students but for us as a country as well. A country that believed in the Institute since its inception."*

He congratulated the graduands, wishing them all the best in their careers.



The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta) delivering the Host Country Address

IMLI GRADUAND DELIVERS THE VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

The Valedictory Address, on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025, was delivered by LCDR Pietro Vicedomini, in which he extended his deepest appreciation to the Secretary-General of IMO, the Director of IMLI for his vision and dedication which has created an environment where they could thrive and grow both academically and personally. LCDR

LCDR Pietro Vicedomini (Italy) delivering the Valedictory Address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025



Vicedomini stated further that “Your efforts in fostering a global community of maritime law professionals is truly commendable. You have not only led us with wisdom but also with a passion that has motivated us to strive for excellence.”

He also extended appreciation to both the academic and administrative staff for their unstinted effort and support throughout their studies.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (CEO, Ghana Chamber of Shipping; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarer's Trust; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Dr. Tim Slingsby (Director of Skills and Education, Lloyd's Register Foundation; Member, IMLI Governing Board), the Honourable Minister Dr. Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta), Dr. Ann Fenech (President, Comité Maritime International), Mr. Ivan Sammut (Head of Office, REMPEC), Mr. Kurt Farrugia (CEO, Transport Malta), Dr. Chris Soler (State Advocate of Malta), Mr. Yu Nakahiro (Manager, Ocean Affairs Division, The Nippon Foundation), Brigadier Clinton J. O'Neill (Commander, Armed Forces of Malta), IMLI Faculty Members, and the IMLI Graduates of Class of 2024-2025

IMLI HELD THE 39TH SESSION OF ITS GOVERNING BOARD

The IMLI Governing Board held its 39th Session at the IMO Headquarters in London on Monday 16 June 2025.

The meeting was chaired by the IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Arsenio Domínguez in his capacity as Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board and was attended by Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison (Vice-Chairman, IMLI Governing Board; Former Group Legal Director, Lloyd's Register), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Dr. Tim Slingsby (Director of Skills and Education, Lloyd's Register Foundation, Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia), Ms. Kiran Khosla (Principal Director (Legal), Secretary, Insurance and Maritime Law Committee, International Chamber of Shipping), Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (CEO, Ghana Chamber of Shipping), Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers' Trust), Ms. Thandi McAllister (Director - Legal Services, Maritime Administration Department, Ministry of Public Infrastructure), Professor Atsuko Kanehara (Research Director for the Canon Institute for Global Studies and Senior Fellow for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation), Ambassador Nancy Karigithu (Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy, Kenya), Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the IMO), Vice-Admiral Cristiano Aliperta (Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to IMO), Mr. Louis Mbanefo (Principal, Louis Mbanefo & Co.) and Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID), IMO).



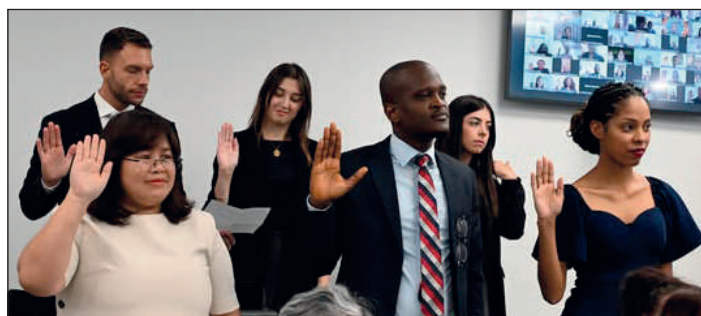
IMLI COMMENCES ITS 37TH ACADEMIC YEAR

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

For this Academic Year, IMLI welcomes 64 students hailing from 31 States. Botswana is being represented for the first time in the Institute's programmes.

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 Masters' 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 their knowing where they are and the purpose of their 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 established 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 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.

IMLI INAUGURAL LECTURE

On 6 October 2025, the Institute had the distinct pleasure of welcoming 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.

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 in their studies and to form strong bonds with each other.



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

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) ringing the ceremonial bell, signifying the official opening of IMLI's 37th Academic Year

THE IMLI FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (FINCOM) HELD ITS SECOND MEETING FOR 2025

The IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM) held its second meeting for the year 2025 on 5 December 2025. During this meeting the Committee discussed important governance, financial, and personnel matters. The meeting was held at the IMO Headquarters in London. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) expressed his appreciation to the Committee for their unwavering support and the sound governance of the Institute.

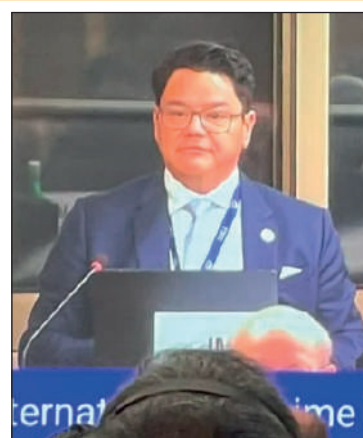


From L-R: Ms. Miriam Vella (Head of Finance and Personnel, IMLI), Ms. Azara Prempeh (Director, Administrative Division (AD), IMO), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison (Chairman, IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee [FINCOM]), Dr. Reto Dürler (Former Head, Swiss Maritime Navigation Office), Professor Dr. h.c. Philippe Boisson (Maritime Arbitrator and Maritime Consultant to Bureau Veritas, Paris) and Ms. Louise Proctor (Deputy Director, Sub-division for Planning and Programming, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, (TCID), IMO)

IMLI DIRECTOR ATTENDS THE 134TH SESSION OF THE IMO COUNCIL

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) held the 134th Session of its Council. The Council is the executive organ of IMO and is responsible, under the IMO Assembly, for supervising the work of the Organization. Between Sessions of the IMO Assembly, the Council performs all the functions of the Assembly, except that of making recommendations to Governments on maritime safety and pollution prevention.

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) represented IMLI at this Session which was held at the IMO Headquarters. During this Session, Director Martínez Gutiérrez reported to the Council on IMLI's activities for the year 2024.



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

IMLI DIRECTOR ATTENDS THE WORLD MARITIME DAY 2025 CELEBRATIONS HELD AT 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 (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID), IMO), Dr. Ann Fenech (President, Comité Maritime International), Country Delegates, and other distinguished guests.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



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



Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director of the Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID), IMO) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



From: L-R: Ms. Maria Borg Barthet (Co-Chair of the Comité Maritime International, International Working Group on Implementation of International Conventions, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Dr. Ann Fenech (President, Comité Maritime International)

The IMLI Director also had the opportunity to reconnect with a number of IMLI Graduates who attended this prestigious event.



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)

WORLD MARITIME DAY 2025 CELEBRATIONS AT IMLI

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

The theme chosen for this year, “Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity,” highlights the shared responsibility of the international community to safeguard the



The Institute's façade lit up in maritime blue for World Maritime Day 2025

ocean as a precious common resource, while also recognizing the opportunities it provides for sustainable development, innovation and cooperation.

To mark the significance of this international celebration, the Institute's facade was illuminated in blue, reflecting the deep connection between humanity and the ocean.

This initiative was not only a gesture of participation but also 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.

UPHOLDING TRADITION

As it has become a tradition now, IMLI Graduates attending IMO events, in this case, the IMO Council as delegates of their respective home countries, as well as those who are working at the IMO, gathered for a commemorative group photo with Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI).



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with IMLI Graduates from various Academic Years

FOR INFORMATION ON ADMISSIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

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IMLI NEWS

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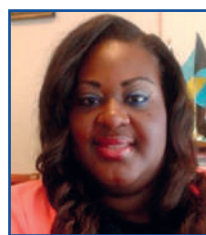
The IMO International Maritime Law Institute was established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations.

IMLI STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

LL.M. and M.Hum. Programmes



LT. Danielle Christa-Joy
Emanuel
(Antigua & Barbuda)



Ms. Kristan Stubbs
(the Bahamas)



Ms. Sherneé Symonette
(the Bahamas)



Ms. Kefalotse Seratwa
Tsalaila-Mmese
(Botswana)



Ms. Orlye Sandra
Dzobosse
(Cameroon)



Ms. Adi Salaseini
Muavesi Lesianawai
(Fiji)



Ms. Fatoumata Mballow
(the Gambia)



Ms. Sarah Awenteme
Abalansah
(Ghana)



LCDR. Larry
Ashie Djanie
(Ghana)



Ms. Nana Yaa
Abuaa Faibille
(Ghana)



Ms. Rita Hamidu
(Ghana)



Mr. Adriano Tchuda
(Guinea-Bissau)



Ms. Mariela del Carmen
Martínez Perdomo
(Honduras)



ASST. COMDT. Rajat
Mathuria
(India)



CAPT. Nikhil
Pandurang Pai
(India)



LT. Ciro Bianco
(Italy)



Mr. Roy Mghanga
Bwabi
(Kenya)



Mr. Senteu
Koinary Tutui
(Kenya)



Ms. Anieli Fuatino Noa
(Kiribati)



Mr. Romeo G. Clarke JR
(Liberia)



Mr. Darlington Doue
(Liberia)



Mr. Amaan Mohamed
Najeeb
(Maldives)



Ms. Aishath Zahaa
(Maldives)



Ms. Filippa Lora
Buontempo
(Malta)



Ms. Sarah Marie Vella
(Malta)



LCDR. Abdelillah Bhilil
(Morocco)



Mr. Othmane Lamrani
(Morocco)



Ms. Aye Myat Thu
(Myanmar)



Ms. Elozino
Faith Eteghara
(Nigeria)



Ms. Sally Ntui Omang
(Nigeria)



Mr. Zahran Akef
Waheed Hamdalla
(Palestine)



LCDR. Carlo Nico B.
Aguilana
(the Philippines)



LCDR. Princess C.
Aragon-Gebilaguin
(the Philippines)



LCDR. Reynaldo
M. Gaano
(the Philippines)



Mr. Benedicto G.
Manlapaz
(the Philippines)



MAJ. Justine Dawn G.
Santos-Timpac
(the Philippines)



Ms. Corrine Hilary
Bernadette Rose
(Seychelles)



Mr. Gbakai Francis
Kaindaneh
(Sierra Leone)



Mr. Ahmed Hassan Jama
(Somalia)



Mr. Sifiso Kaula
(South Africa)



LCDR A.M. Kasun
B. Adikari
(Sri Lanka)



Ms. Ganepola Achchige
Vishni Lakna Ganepola
(Sri Lanka)



Mr. Kapugama Vithanage
Aravinda Gihan Gunaratne
(Sri Lanka)



Ms. Zaituni Simba
Abdalla
(Tanzania)



Ms. Mossie Wakil Kaima
(Tanzania)



Mr. John Kuyela
Kidando
(Tanzania)



Ms. Florence Packshady
Madelemo
(Tanzania)



Mr. Mafuru Mbuga
Moses
(Tanzania)



Ms. Pudensiana Patrice
Mrema
(Tanzania)



Ms. Loveness Jacob
Nyumayo
(Tanzania)



Ms. Nuru Pipino
(Tanzania)



Mr. Jamaly Juma Said
(Tanzania)



Mr. N'Koulete Yaovi
Amedegou Kpadenou
(Togo)



Mr. Can Berk Atasoy
(Türkiye)



Mr. Shatlyk Garabegov
(Turkmenistan)



Mr. Kharlov Artem
(Ukraine)

M.Phil. Programme



Ms. Omobola
Akinmurele
(Nigeria)

Advanced Diploma Programme



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Attia Abe
(Cameroon)



Ms. Akwi Ekwaiya
Ukumukah
(Cameroon)



LT. Matthew Aquilina
(Malta)



Mr. Jean Luke Camilleri
(Malta)



Mr. Michael Sean Mallia
(Malta)



Mr. Ojonimi Atuluku
(Nigeria)



Mr. Richard Chimaroke
Nwosu
(Nigeria)