



**IMO
INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME LAW
INSTITUTE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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INSTITUTE

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A Small Institution with a Global Mission

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THE MISSION OF THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE IS TO ENHANCE CAPACITY-BUILDING IN ALL STATES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPING STATES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE IMO OBJECTIVES THEREBY PROMOTING SAFE, SECURE, ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING THROUGH COOPERATION.

What is IMLI?

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) was established in Malta in 1988 under an agreement concluded between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Government of the Republic of Malta and started its first programme in 1989. Its main purpose was, and remains, to train officers, primarily from developing countries, in international maritime law.

Since its inception, the Institute has been at the forefront of disseminating knowledge and expertise across the full spectrum of international maritime law. Through its research and specialized postgraduate programmes and courses, it places particular emphasis on IMO regulations and procedures concerning the safety, security, and efficiency of shipping; the prevention of marine pollution from ships; and the protection of life at sea. IMLI also offers unique training and guided practice in the techniques of maritime legislation drafting. Candidates are expected to assimilate the modus operandi and methods of implementation of IMO Conventions into national law.

Cognizant of the fact that ocean governance is critical to establish the safe and sustainable use of the oceans, IMLI continued in 2025 with its efforts to assist governments with developing the cadre of specialists necessary to shape national policies designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals encapsulated in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a more effective global ocean governance in the interest of present and future generations.



International Maritime Organization Headquarters, London, UK



Signing of the Agreement establishing the Institute, 1988

Message from the Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board

Over nearly four decades, the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) has continued to strengthen its reputation as a centre of excellence in international maritime law, contributing significantly to advancing IMO’s capacity-building objectives and the promotion of the rule of international maritime law worldwide.

This Report demonstrates IMLI’s continued commitment to delivering high-quality legal education and specialized training to maritime professionals from around the world. Since its establishment in 1988, the Institute has trained over 1,200 students from more than 150 countries and territories, many of whom now hold prominent positions, making valuable contributions to maritime governance and leadership within governments, international organizations, academia, and the maritime industry. Through its programmes, research, and academic initiatives, IMLI continues to support IMO Member States in the effective implementation of international maritime instruments and the strengthening of national legal frameworks.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez
IMO Secretary-General
Chairman, IMLI Governing Board

I am pleased to note that IMLI remains firmly committed to inclusiveness and gender equality. The Institute’s



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI),
Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo (Ramon y Cajal Research Fellow, University of Cadiz),
IMLI Faculty Members, and the IMLI Class of 2024-2025*

longstanding policy of reserving 50% of places for female candidates continues to play an important role in empowering women within the maritime sector and ensuring equal access to advanced legal education.

As the maritime sector continues to evolve, IMLI remains at the forefront of academic and professional development, responding to emerging global challenges in the areas of environmental protection, maritime security, sustainable ocean governance, and technological innovation. The Institute's students and researchers continue to engage with contemporary legal issues affecting the international maritime community, contributing practical and forward-looking solutions for safer, more secure, and environmentally sustainable shipping.

I extend my gratitude to the Government of Malta and to the Institute's staff, supporters, and donors whose commitment makes these achievements possible. Their continued support enables maritime professionals from around the world to benefit from IMLI's unique educational opportunities and to join its distinguished global alumni network.

Finally, I commend the students of IMLI, whose dedication, professionalism, and diverse perspectives continue to enrich the life of the Institute. Their

commitment to addressing current and emerging maritime challenges reflects the enduring importance of international cooperation and legal capacity-building in achieving the goals of IMO and supporting the sustainable future of the world's oceans.



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



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with IMLI Graduates during the 34th Session of the IMO Assembly

Message from the IMLI Director



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez

Director, IMLI

As Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), I am pleased to present the Institute's 2025 Annual Report, which records another significant year in IMLI's continuing service to the international maritime community.

During 2025 IMLI steadfastly continued its mission of advancing the rule of international maritime law through education, training, research, and capacity-building. Over more than three decades, the Institute has remained faithful to the values that inspired its establishment: to equip maritime professionals, particularly from developing States, with the legal knowledge, drafting skills, and institutional confidence necessary to implement international maritime instruments effectively at the national level.

From its inception, IMLI has grown into a recognized centre of excellence in international maritime law. Its work continues to reflect its vision – bridging the gap between developed and developing States – which continues to be carried forward with the consistent support of IMO and of Mr. Arsenio Domínguez, Secretary-General of IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board.

During the academic year 2025–2026, the Institute welcomed a diverse and highly capable body of students.

Forty students were enrolled in the Master of Laws programme, 15 students in the Master of Humanities programme, and one student in the Master of Philosophy programme. These students came from 30 countries around the world. In addition, four students were enrolled in the Advanced Diploma Programme and three students enrolled in the Institute's Research Degree programme.

The year also reflected IMLI's continuing commitment to access, inclusion, and the advancement of women in maritime law. The academic year attracted 45 fellowships, of which 23 were awarded to women candidates. In total, 29 female students participated in the Institute's Master's programmes during the year. These figures are not merely statistical achievements; they represent the Institute's sustained contribution to building a more inclusive and representative maritime legal profession.

As in previous academic years, IMLI's programmes were delivered with academic discipline, reliability, and care. The Institute continued to provide rigorous instruction in international maritime law, while also ensuring that students acquired the practical skills required to translate international obligations into effective domestic legislation. This combination of scholarship and legislative technique remains one of IMLI's most distinctive contributions to the international maritime legal order.

During the period under review, IMLI further strengthened its global outreach through specialized short courses designed for government officials and maritime professionals. These courses addressed niche and highly relevant areas of international maritime law and continued to attract senior participants, including Permanent Representatives of States to IMO, Ministers, Counsellors, senior foreign officers, government officials, maritime administrators, and other professionals working in the maritime sector.

Over the course of the year, IMLI delivered specialized courses on the Law of Ports, Seafarers' Rights, Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance, International Maritime Security Law, the Law of Treaties, and the Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries. These subject areas reflect the breadth of modern maritime law and the complexity of the challenges facing States, industry, and the international community.

Through these short courses, participants were exposed to the extensive and evolving work of IMO in promoting safe,

secure, environmentally sound, efficient, and sustainable shipping. They also engaged with the important role played by other international organizations in supporting the development, implementation, and harmonization of the international maritime regulatory framework. In this respect, IMLI's short-course programme continued to serve as a practical bridge between international rule-making and national implementation.

In 2025, through its intensive education, training, and research agenda, IMLI contributed directly to the realization of several Sustainable Development Goals contained in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Institute's contribution is particularly evident in its long-standing work in capacity-building, quality education, gender equality, institutional strengthening, sustainable use of the oceans, and international cooperation.

Since its inception, IMLI has understood that sustainable maritime development cannot be achieved without legal capacity. States require trained professionals who understand not only the substance of international maritime instruments, but also the legal and institutional mechanisms necessary for their effective implementation. In this respect, the Institute's work continues to support developing States in strengthening their maritime administrations, improving legislative frameworks, and participating more effectively in the international maritime legal system.

IMLI's academic staff continued to engage extensively with the international maritime community through participation in conferences, lectures, training programmes, and high-level consultations around the world. During the year under review, the Members of the Institute contributed as speakers at international conferences and symposia, including the Comité Maritime International Conference 2025 in Tokyo and an IMO Symposium. IMLI academics further supported global legal education through lectures delivered in the Philippines, the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS) in Hamburg, the International Law of the Sea Summer Academy in Istanbul and the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden, among many others.

The Institute also strengthened its international outreach through engagements and training initiatives in Croatia, Malaysia, Turkmenistan, India, Italy and Sri Lanka, as well as participation in a roundtable consultation in Malta and conferences in Japan, reflecting the Institute's continued commitment to fostering international cooperation and engagement on contemporary maritime legal issues.

A significant development during the year was IMLI hosting for the first time the "Workshop on General



Principles of Drafting National Legislation to Implement IMO Conventions", held in January 2025. The Workshop, organized by IMO and previously held in London, emphasized the crucial role of national legislation in giving effect to IMO conventions, whose implementation and enforcement ultimately depend on strong domestic legal frameworks. Its delivery at IMLI was especially fitting, given the Institute's long-standing specialization in maritime legislative drafting and its mission to assist States in transforming international obligations into effective national law.

As part of their studies at IMLI, the Class of 2024-2025 participated in the Institute's annual field trip to London. During the visit, the Class had the unique opportunity to observe the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee and to attend a joint IMO/ITLOS Workshop held in conjunction with the Committee's Session. At IMO, the students had the honour of meeting Mr. Arsenio Domínguez, IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board.

The field trip also included visits to the headquarters of several prominent maritime institutions, including Lloyd's Register Foundation, the IOPC Funds, the International Association of Classification Societies, the International Mobile Satellite Organization, the ITF Seafarers' Trust, and the International Group of P&I Clubs. These visits provided students with valuable exposure to the institutional architecture of the international maritime system and allowed them to observe first-hand, the work of organizations whose contributions are essential to the development and operation of maritime law and policy.

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 the law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law and ocean governance, maritime safety and security law, and maritime legislation drafting.

The simulcast Graduation Ceremony was attended by many dignitaries. IMLI past graduates, former 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. Forty-eight students were awarded the Degree of Master of Laws in International Maritime Law, 11 students were awarded the Degree of Master of Humanities in International Maritime Legislation, two students were awarded an Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law, and one student was awarded the Magister Juris Degree in International Maritime Law. The 2025 graduates now form part of an elite network of international maritime law specialists who have received sterling training at IMLI.

The Institute's graduates remain one of the clearest measures of IMLI's impact. Their work gives practical expression to the Institute's mission and confirms that investment in maritime legal education yields benefits far beyond the classroom. I am particularly encouraged by the increasing presence of IMLI graduates in international maritime fora. Their participation in IMO meetings and other international engagements demonstrates that the Institute is not only training individuals but also strengthening the capacity of States to engage meaningfully in the development and implementation of international maritime law.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the many donors, partners, and benefactors whose generosity continues to sustain IMLI's work. The Institute's achievements would not be possible without the continuing support of IMO, The Nippon Foundation, the ITF Seafarers' Trust, Lloyd's Register Foundation, and other valued partners. I also wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the support of the European Maritime Safety Agency, the International Group of P&I Clubs, the International Chamber of Shipping, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Comité Maritime International, and the many Governments and organizations that have supported the Institute in different ways.

I also want to pay tribute to the Governments of developing States that continue to invest in the training of their maritime professionals. Their confidence in IMLI reflects a shared understanding that strong maritime governance begins with well-trained people and effective legal institutions.

The Institute remains deeply grateful to the Government of Malta, whose generous support as Host State has been indispensable since IMLI's establishment. During the year under review, the Government of Malta continued to extend its support to the Institute's mission through a generous financial contribution to assist in the refurbishment of IMLI's facilities and to provide for other running expenses of the Institute. The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, presented a letter of commitment of the Maltese Government to Mr. Arsenio Domínguez, IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board. This continued support reflects Malta's enduring commitment to the Institute and to the advancement of international maritime legal education.

I further extend my appreciation to the Members of the IMLI Governing Board, the Financial and Human Resources Committee, and the Academic Committee for their guidance and commitment to the Institute's continued development. Their support ensures that IMLI remains responsive to the needs of the international maritime community while preserving the academic excellence for which it is known.

I also wish to recognize the dedication of the Institute's academic, administrative, and support staff. Their daily work, often carried out quietly and with great professionalism, sustains the quality of IMLI's programmes and the experience of its students. I am equally grateful to the Distinguished Visiting Fellows, whose expertise enriches the Institute's teaching and exposes students to a wide range of perspectives from across the maritime world.

IMLI's work continues to be recognized internationally as an important contribution to education, training, and capacity-building in the law of the sea and international maritime law. IMLI will continue to contribute actively to the objectives of IMO and to the delivery of capacity-building initiatives that promote the effective implementation of the international maritime regulatory framework. The Institute will continue to educate, train, and inspire maritime professionals who will return to their countries ready to serve, lead, and strengthen the rule of international maritime law.

In closing, the year 2025 has been another meaningful chapter in IMLI's 36-year journey. It has been a year of academic achievement, expanded outreach, strengthened legislative training, sustained commitment to gender participation, practical engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals, and continued service to States and the international maritime community. As the Institute looks ahead, it does so with confidence in its mission and with renewed dedication to the vision and values that have guided it since its establishment.



GOVERNANCE OF THE INSTITUTE

IMLI is governed by a Statute adopted by the IMO Assembly in 1988 and revised by the IMO Council during its 109th session in 2012. In accordance with its Statute, IMLI's governance structure consists of a Governing Board, an Academic Committee, a Financial and Human Resources Committee, and the Director.

Governing Board



*Mr. Arsenio Domínguez
Chairman, IMLI Governing Board*



*Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison
Vice-Chairman, IMLI Governing Board*



The Members of the IMLI Governing Board

*Vice-Admiral Cristiano Aliperta, Ambassador Victor Camilleri, Dr. Aaron Farrugia, LCDR. Paula Grillo, Ms. Katie Higginbottom
Professor Atsuko Kanehara, Ambassador Nancy Karigithu,*

Ms. Kiran Khosla, Mr. Louis N. Mbanefo, Dr. Kofi Mbiah, Ms. Thandi R. McAllister, Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha, Dr. Tim Slingsby, Mr. Jose Matheickal

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. A. Domínguez Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Dr. h.c. J. T. Harrison Former Group Legal Director, Lloyd's Register

MEMBERS:

Vice-Admiral C. Aliperta Alternate Permanent Representative of Palau to the International Maritime Organization

Ambassador V. Camilleri Advisor to the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta

Dr. A. Farrugia Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the IMO

LCDR P. Grillo Lieutenant Commander, Head of International Regulations Division, Safety of Navigation Directorate, Argentine Coast Guard

Ms. K. Higginbottom Head, ITF Seafarers' Trust (ITF)

Professor A. Kanehara Research Director for the Canon Institute for Global Studies; Senior Fellow for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Ambassador N. Karigithu Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy, Kenya

Ms. K. Khosla Principal Director (Legal), Secretary, Insurance and Maritime Law Committee, International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) Principal, Louis Mbanefo & Co.

Mr. L. N. Mbanefo Maritime Law Consultant

Ms. T. R. McAllister Director - Legal Services, Maritime Administration Department, Ministry of Public Infrastructure of Guyana

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. M. Pavliha Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia

Dr. T. Slingsby Director of Skills and Education, Lloyd's Register Foundation (LRF)

Mr. J. Matheickal Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID), IMO

MEMBERS EMERITI:

Mr. K. Lim IMO, Secretary-General Emeritus

Mr. K. Sekimizu IMO, Secretary-General Emeritus

Mr. E. E. Mitropoulos IMO, Secretary-General Emeritus

The IMLI Governing Board is chaired by the IMO Secretary-General and is composed of eminent personalities from around the world with expertise in different areas of international maritime law and maritime affairs.

The Governing Board is assisted by the Director, the Financial and Human Resources Committee in matters relating to the funding and finances of the Institute and on administrative matters, including personnel, and the Academic Committee in matters related to the coordination and implementation of the study and research programmes of the Institute.

The 39th session of the IMLI Governing Board was held on 17 June 2025 at IMO Headquarters. The Governing Board reviewed the financial and academic progress of the Institute for the period between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025. The Director presented the respective reports

for the Board's comments and recommendations. Upon the Director presenting the financial report, the Board commended the Institute for its financial stability and for completing its financial year.

The Board congratulated and thanked the IMLI Director and the Institute's Staff for their sterling work in training the maritime leaders of tomorrow. It then proceeded to consider reports on the Institute's matters including those of a financial and academic nature, as well as IMLI's contribution to the IMO Goals and UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Board noted with satisfaction the Institute's efforts to enhance its global outreach and the appreciation by IMO Bodies for the Institute's work. The Board also considered a report on the institutional co-operation and partnerships, and it commended the Institute for its work in this field.



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

Director



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) at the 36th IMLI Graduation Ceremony

The Director of the Institute, appointed by the IMO Secretary-General, continued to be responsible for the direction and administration of the Institute. During the reporting year, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez continued to supervise the admissions process and manage the Institute's academic programmes and courses. The Director continued to manage the Institute's personnel in accordance with general policies and criteria approved by the IMLI Governing Board. The Director also continued with his efforts to obtain funds to finance the Institute, which remains dependent on voluntary contributions.

Academic Committee

In 2025, the Academic Committee continued to work assiduously to review and advise on the admission of students. The Academic Committee also continued to consider draft Memoranda of Understanding to establish cooperation between the Institute and other academic institutions.

The Committee remains resolute in its mandate to provide unwavering support and guidance to the Institute to uphold academic standards and rigour while offering support and guidance to the Institute.

The Committee did not meet in 2025, however it still dealt with a number of complex issues throughout the months.



Chairman: Professor Dr. N. A. Martínez Gutiérrez



Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. M. Pawliha



Dr. E. K. Mbiah



Professor A. Kanehara



Dr. P. Griggs, CBE



Dr. D. Lost-Sieminska

Financial and Human Resources Committee

The IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM) held its two meetings in 2025. The first was held on 5 May 2025 at IMLI, in Malta and the second on 5 December 2025 at IMO Headquarters in London. Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison presided over both meetings in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee. The meetings were attended by Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez, Professor Dr. h.c. Philippe Boisson, Dr. Reto Dürler, and Mrs. Azara Prempeh. Ms. Sivylla Ampatzoglou attended the meeting of 5 May 2025 and Ms. Miriam Vella attended the meeting of 5 December 2025, as observers.

These meetings are held biannually by FINCOM to review the financial, administrative and personnel, and related issues of the Institute. Appointed by the Governing Board, the Committee's role is to assist the Governing Board and the Institute's Director on matters of funding and finances of the Institute and on administrative matters, including personnel.



*Chairman:
Dr. h.c. J. T. Harrison*



Professor Dr. N. A. Martínez Gutiérrez



Dr. R. Dürler



Professor Dr. h.c. P. Boisson



Mrs. A. Prempeh

Human Resources

In 2025, the Institute's resident faculty, under the supervision of the Director, continued to be responsible for the teaching of all subjects within the academic syllabi. Teaching by the resident faculty was complemented by the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme, which aims to introduce students to the latest developments, and offers networking opportunities which should serve students well when they return to their home countries. In 2025, distinguished visiting fellows came from world renowned Universities including the Australian National University, Queen Mary University of London, University of Malta, World Maritime University, Ankara University, Marmara University, University of Vigo, U.S. Naval War College; while others came from international organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Satellite Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the International Court of Justice

and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The Comité Maritime International has also supported the Institute either through visits of its President and members or by sponsoring the visits of distinguished speakers. Other visiting fellows were ambassadors, experts, and eminent practitioners. A list of these distinguished visiting fellows is provided in pages 52-57 of this Report.

The resident faculty also supervised 59 maritime legislation drafting projects and 60 dissertations/research projects, a list of which is provided in pages 58-62 of this Report.

A unique feature of the IMLI training is its dedicated personal attention to the students. In addition to academic supervisors, the Institute appoints a moral tutor for each student to give support of a non-academic nature throughout the duration of their studies.

Resident Faculty Members



PROFESSOR DR. NORMAN A. MARTÍNEZ GUTIÉRREZ (HONDURAS)
Lic. (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Ph.D (IMLI)
Advocate (Honduras)
Director



JUDGE PROFESSOR DAVID J. ATTARD (MALTA)
LL.D. (University of Malta)
D. Phil. (University of Oxford)
Advocate (Malta)
Barrister-at-Law (London)
Professor Public International Law and the Law of the Sea



MS. ELDA KAZARA-BELJA (ALBANIA)
Jurist (Ethniko kai Kapodistriako University of Athens)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Senior Lecturer / Head of Administration



MS. RAMAT JALLOH (SIERRA LEONE)
B.A. (University of Sierra Leone)
LL.B. (University of Sierra Leone)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Barrister-at-Law and Solicitor Lecturer



MS. NOUR NOHRA (LEBANON)
Bachelor of Laws (Lebanese University - Filière Francophone de Droit)
Master I (Lebanese University - Filière Francophone de Droit)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Advocate (Lebanon-Beirut Bar Association)
ITF Seafarers' Trust Assistant Lecturer on Seafarers' Rights



PROFESSOR MALGOSIA FITZMAURICE (THE UNITED KINGDOM/POLAND)
LL.B. (University of Warsaw)
LL.M. (University of Warsaw)
Ph.D. (University of Warsaw)
The Nippon Foundation Professor on Marine Environmental Law



DR. MURAT SÜMER (TÜRKIYE)
LL.B. (Ankara University)
LL.M. (Ankara University)
LL.M. (IMLI)
Ph.D. (Maastricht University)
Advocate (Türkiye)
The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law



DR. SANJEET RUHEL (INDIA)
LL.B. (Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University)
LL.M. (The Indian Law Institute)
Ph.D. (University of Delhi)
Advocate (India)
The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law



DR. RAFAEL PRADO (BRAZIL)
LL.B. (Communitarian University of Joinville Region)
LL.M. (University Rovira i Virgili)
Ph.D. (University of Barcelona and Federal University of Santa Catarina)
Advocate (Brazil and Portugal)
The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance

Administrative Staff



*Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja
(Albania)
Head of Administration*



*Ms. Miriam Vella
(Malta)
Head of Finance and Personnel*



*Ms. Tiina Kõibus
(Estonia)
Executive Officer in the
Office of the Director*



*Mr. Alexander Scerri
(Malta)
Information and Communications
Technology Officer*



*Ms. Anusha Fernando
(Sri Lanka)
Admissions/Student Affairs
Officer*



*Ms. Dofilia Sinangui Kaloia
(Angola/Namibia)
Projects and Partnerships
Officer*



*Ms. Natalia Fuentes Ramos
(Colombia)
Librarian*



*Ms. Claudette Camilleri
(Malta)
Publications & Media Officer /
Secretary, Office of the Director*



*Ms. Leslie Ann Curmi
(Malta)
Purchasing Officer*



*Ms. Ivana Riskova
(Slovakia)
Receptionist / Student
Relations Officer*



*Ms. Christabel Bezzina
(Malta)
Finance Assistant*



*Mr. Jhersson Tamariz
(Peru)
Finance Assistant*



*Mr. Joseph Mifsud
(Malta)
Maintenance / Driver*



*Mr. Aaron Sultana
(Malta)
Maintenance*

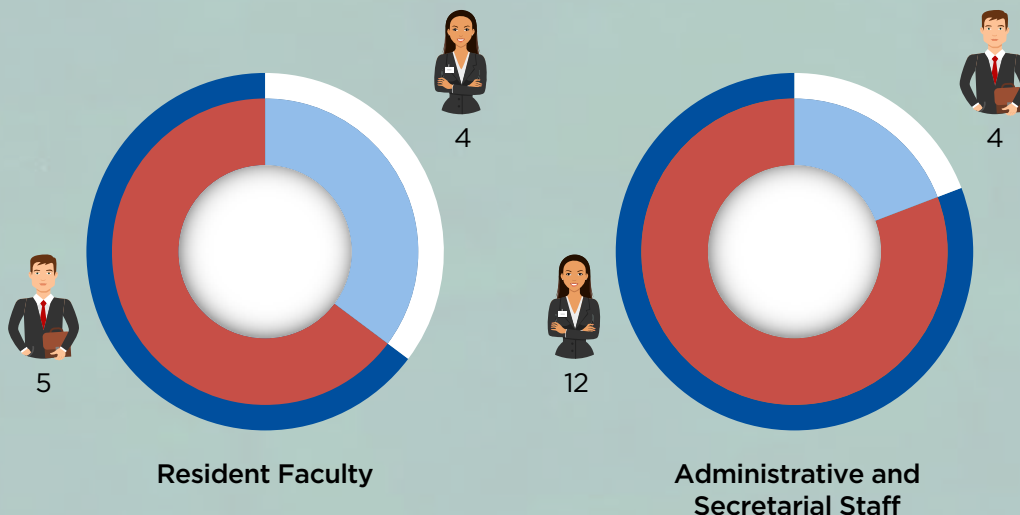


*Ms. Mary Rose Inskip
(Malta)
Housekeeper*



*Ms. Josette Spiteri
(Malta)
Housekeeper*

Staff grouped by Gender as of 31 December 2025



IMLI Programmes

DURING 2025, IMLI OFFERED A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF HUMANITIES (M.HUM.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LEGISLATION, A RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF THE DEGREES OF MAGISTER JURIS (M.JUR.) AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (M.PHIL.) IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW/LEGISLATION AND OCEAN POLICY IN COOPERATION WITH THE WMU, A PROGRAMME LEADING TO THE AWARD OF AN ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, AND SEVERAL SPECIALIZED SHORT COURSES IN ALL AREAS WITHIN IMLI'S SYLLABI.

LL.M. PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

The LL.M. programme in International Maritime Law was designed to respond to the shortage of legal experts, especially in the developing world, who possess the necessary skills to incorporate and efficiently implement international instruments into domestic legislation. Whereas there has been a plethora of international instruments which regulate the multifaceted aspects of international maritime law, some States have failed to translate them into effective national measures which will ensure uniform applicability across the oceans. Accordingly, the programme provides dedicated training in the drafting of maritime legislation, with emphasis on the techniques for the incorporation and implementation of IMO instruments into domestic legislation. With this in mind, the LL.M. programme provides studies not only in maritime law from an international perspective, but also examines the maritime affairs of the major legal systems from a comparative perspective. Through its international faculty composed of eminent academics, practitioners and members of the judiciary, the programme addresses current challenges facing the international maritime community and the various responses put forward to ensure safety of navigation, security of shipping, protection of the marine environment, safeguarding of human rights, and peaceful use of the oceans. This one academic year programme is open to candidates who hold a degree in law and are proficient in English.

M.HUM. PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LEGISLATION

IMLI's specialized post-graduate programme leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) in International Maritime Legislation is open to candidates who hold an undergraduate degree from a recognized university or other academic institution in a related discipline to international maritime law, and are proficient in English. The programme aims to respond to the needs of IMO Member States to have trained specialists in international maritime legislation drafting. Intensive drafting exercises are carried out to build the students' drafting skills so as to enable them to draft national legislation which effectively implements IMO instruments. The programme is suitable for qualified professionals working in the maritime field such as maritime administrations, port authorities, or other organizations concerned with maritime affairs.

RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

IMLI offers a Research Degree programme leading to the award of the Degree of Magister Juris (M.Jur.) in International Maritime Law and the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in International Maritime Law. Candidates are expected to undergo their studies in IMLI's Research Degree programme with a high degree of independence; thus, the programme can be largely undertaken from abroad. Candidates are assigned individual academic supervisors drawn from a list of internationally recognized experts.

M.PHIL PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW/LEGISLATION AND OCEAN POLICY

IMLI and WMU offer a joint Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) programme leading to the award of the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in International Maritime Law/ Legislation and Ocean Policy. The programme is designed to train expert maritime professionals, immersed in the UN system structure and goals, to advocate sound policies and legislation which will support sustainable development. This two-year programme recognizes that the current legal and institutional framework for ocean governance is limited in dealing with the emerging challenges in the field. As a result, the programme has identified that the fragmentation of both legal and institutional framework has led to the adoption of well-intended action occasioning unintended consequences for the oceans. Thus, the need for a new paradigm of ocean governance captured by this initiative is geared towards ensuring the establishment of effective ocean governance for the 21st century and beyond, as reiterated in Goal 14 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ADVANCED DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

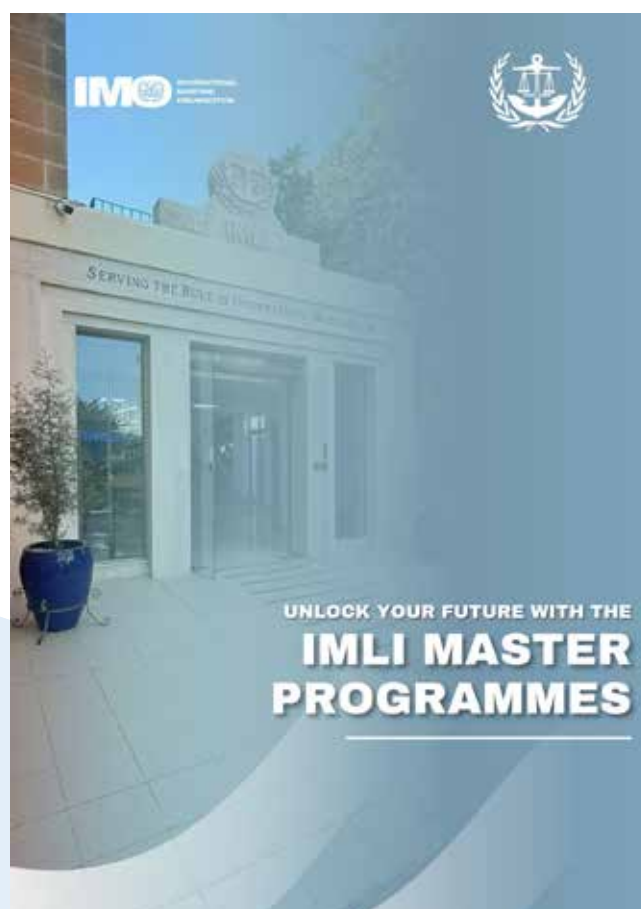
The Advanced Diploma programme in International Maritime Law is designed to benefit professionals (including those at the most senior level) involved in maritime practice in both private and public sectors and who, because of their careers, are unable to be away from their jobs for a period of more than a few weeks / months per year. The programme is structured on a credit system and, to be awarded the Advanced Diploma, candidates must earn a sufficient number of credits after successfully following and completing courses on distinct subject areas within either the Public International Maritime Law strand or the Private International Maritime Law strand. The credits offered broadly follow the subjects offered within the Institute's LL.M. programme. Candidates are required to have a degree from a recognized university or other academic institution, or a comparable standard qualification, including relevant professional or practical experience, or both, recognized for this purpose by the Institute. This programme can be undertaken between one and five years.

SPECIALIZED SHORT COURSES

The Institute's teaching in the Master's programmes is based on a modular system which enables a number of applicants to attend these modules as independent short courses. The duration of such courses ranges between one to several weeks, depending on the subject area. At the conclusion of each short course, a certificate of attendance is awarded. The specialized short courses have over the years attracted a large number of participants who are especially interested in the training offered by the Institute in a specific area. On request of government entities, the Institute also organizes tailor-made specialized courses in areas of interest to government officials who register their participation.

More information regarding IMLI's programmes and courses is available on the IMLI website: <https://imli.org/programmes-and-courses/>.

For information on admissions, please contact: admissions@imli.org.



Academic Year 2025-2026

On 1 October 2025, IMLI Welcomed its 37th Generation of Lawyers and Maritime Professionals

During the academic year 2025-2026, 40 students were enrolled in the LL.M. programme, 15 students in the M.Hum. programme and 1 student in the M.Phil. programme. These students hail from 30 countries around the world. In addition, 4 students were enrolled in the Advanced Diploma Programme and 3 students enrolled in the Institute's Research Degree Programme.

The academic year attracted 45 fellowships of which 23 were awarded to female candidates. During this year a total of 29 female students participated in the Institute's Master's programmes.

As in the previous academic years, the IMLI programmes were conducted in a methodical and consistent manner demonstrating IMLI's commitment to its mission of educating and training fellows in international maritime law, while conforming to the highest academic standards.

During the period under review the Institute further expanded its global outreach through the organisation of its specialized short courses for government officials in niche areas of international maritime law. These courses continued to be offered by the Institute in the reporting year and continued to be well attended by many high-ranking officers including Permanent Representatives of the respective countries to IMO, Ministers, Counsellors, Senior Foreign Officers, Government Officials and Maritime Professionals. They were exposed to the formidable body of work of IMO in ensuring sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet and the vital role of other international organisations, courts, and tribunals in upholding the rule of international maritime law.



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

IMLI Class of 2025-2026

LT Danielle Christa-Joy Emanuel
(ANTIGUA & BARBUDA)

Ms. Kristan Benedicia Verian Stubbs
(the BAHAMAS)

Ms. Sherneé Destini Symonette
(the BAHAMAS)

Ms. Kefalotse Seratwa Tsalale-Mmese
(BOTSWANA)

Ms. Attia Abe Sola Solange
(CAMEROON)

Ms. Sandra Oriye Dzobosse Mapou
(CAMEROON)

Ms. Akwi Ekwaiya Ukumukah
(CAMEROON)

Ms. Adi Salaseini Muavesi Lesianawai
(FIJI)

Ms. Fatoumata Mballow
(the GAMBIA)

Ms. Sarah Awenteme Abalansah
(GHANA)

LCDR Larry Nii Ashie Djanie
(GHANA)

Ms. Nana Yaa Abuua Faibilie
(GHANA)

Ms. Rita Hamidu
(GHANA)

Ms. Mariela del Carmen Martínez Perdomo
(HONDURAS)

DEP. 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. D. Darlington Doue
(LIBERIA)

Mr. Amaan Mohamed Najeeb
(MALDIVES)

Ms. Aishath Zahaa
(MALDIVES)

LT Matthew Aquilina
(MALTA)

Ms. Filippa Lora Buontempo
(MALTA)

Mr. Jean Luke Camilleri
(MALTA)

Mr. Michael Sean Mallia
(MALTA)

Ms. Sarah Marie Vella
(MALTA)

LCDR Abdelillah Bhilil
(MOROCCO)

Mr. Othmane Lamrani
(MOROCCO)

Ms. Aye Myat Thu
(MYANMAR)

Ms. Omobola Akinmurele
(NIGERIA)

Ms. Elozino Faith Eteghrara
(NIGERIA)

Mr. Richard Chimaroke Nwosu
(NIGERIA)

Ms. Sally Ntui Omang
(NIGERIA)

Mr. Zahran Akef Waheed Hamdallah
(State of PALESTINE)

LCDR Carlo Nico B. Aguilana
(the PHILIPPINES)

LCDR Princess Cue Aragon-Gebilaguin
(the PHILIPPINES)

LCDR Reynaldo Madilag Gaano
(the PHILIPPINES)

Mr. Benedicto De Guzman Manlapaz
(the PHILIPPINES)

MAJ Justine Dawn Garcia 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 Adikari Mudiyansele Kasun
Bandara 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'Kouleté Yaovi Amedegou Kpadenou
(TOGO)

Mr. Can Berk Atasoy
(TÜRKIYE)

Mr. Shatlyk Garabegov
(TURKMENISTAN)

Mr. Artem Kharlov
(UKRAINE)



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



the BAHAMAS



the BAHAMAS



BOTSWANA



CAMEROON



CAMEROON



CAMEROON



FIJI



the GAMBIA



GHANA



GHANA



GHANA



GHANA



HONDURAS



INDIA



INDIA



ITALY



KENYA



KENYA



KIRIBATI



LIBERIA



LIBERIA



MALDIVES



MALDIVES



MALTA



MALTA



MALTA



MALTA



MALTA



MOROCCO



MOROCCO



MYANMAR



NIGERIA



NIGERIA



NIGERIA



NIGERIA



State of PALESTINE



the PHILIPPINES



the PHILIPPINES



the PHILIPPINES



the PHILIPPINES



the PHILIPPINES



SEYCHELLES



SIERRA LEONE



SOMALIA



SOUTH AFRICA



SRI LANKA



SRI LANKA



SRI LANKA



TANZANIA



TANZANIA



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TANZANIA



TANZANIA



TANZANIA



TANZANIA



TOGO



TÜRKIYE



TURKMENISTAN



UKRAINE

Graduates in all Programmes by Region



The IMLI Class of 2025-2026 taking the Oath of Allegiance to the Institute



IMLI's Inaugural Lecture



Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska delivering the Inaugural Lecture of IMLI's 37th Academic Year

The Institute had the distinct pleasure of welcoming on 6 October 2025, Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) to officially inaugurate the academic year 2025-2026. Dr. Lost-Sieminska was met by the IMLI Faculty and Staff and was introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI).



Director Lost-Sieminska ringing the ceremonial bell signifying the official opening of IMLI's 37th Academic Year

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

Dr. Lost-Sieminska then proceeded to ring the ceremonial bell, signifying the official opening of IMLI's 37th academic year, and to deliver the Inaugural Lecture.

Dr. Lost-Sieminska concluded her lecture by stating that she looks forward to meeting many of the students again at IMO, as part of their countries' delegations to IMO meetings.



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 of 2025-2026

Annual Flag Raising Ceremony

The annual Flag Raising Ceremony was held at the Institute wherein a flag representing each country was hoisted by a representative/s of the country. The countries represented at IMLI during the 2025-2026 academic year are:

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

The flags of these countries will adorn the Institute's premises throughout the academic year.



Country Flags displayed in the IMLI Foyer

IMLI's Contribution to the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

IN 2025, THROUGH ITS INTENSIVE EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH AGENDA, IMLI CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF SEVERAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ENCAPSULATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

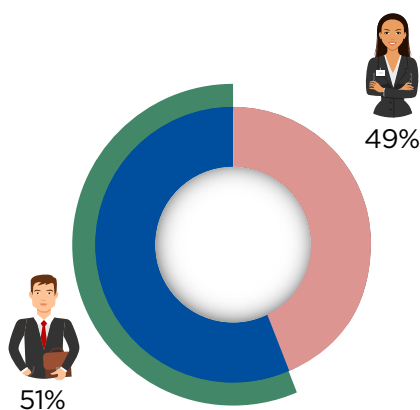
In line with the spirit of **Goal 14, Life below Water**, the Institute provides quality training and research in the areas of ocean governance and law of the sea, as well as protection of the marine environment from pollution. Students are also encouraged to conduct research in those areas.

Goal 4, Quality Education, reflects the Institute's education mission. IMLI provides the platform necessary to enhance capacity-building, particularly in the developing world, through quality training in international maritime law for sustainable development across the globe.

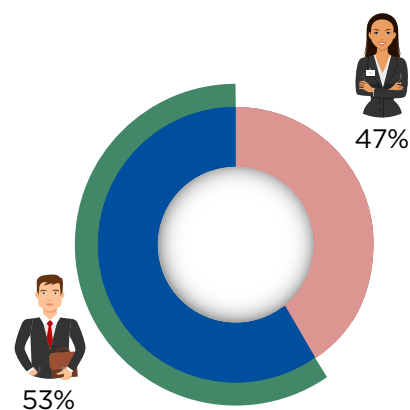
IMLI has taken a proactive stance to achieve **Goal 5, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls**, by way of mandating in its admissions process that fifty (50) percent of places in the Institute is reserved for suitably qualified female candidates.

To achieve **Goals 7, 13** and **17** that aim to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, respectively; and in line with **Goal 14**, IMLI, together with The Nippon Foundation, authored "*The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance*". The Treatise covers different areas of ocean governance such as the protection and preservation of the marine environment, maritime security, protection of biodiversity, and climate change.

To champion **Goals 9** and **16** that aim to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, and just, peaceful and inclusive societies, the Institute offers courses on international maritime law to enhance specialization of individuals working in the shipping industry, incentive business and to ensure best practices.



Enrolment by Gender in the Institute's Master's Programmes in the Year 2024 - 2025



Enrolment by Gender in the Institute's Master's Programmes in the Year 2025 - 2026



IMLI Publications



*The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law and
The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance*

Throughout 2025, “*The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law*”, University Press, continued to be regarded as an essential reference material for students, researchers, academics, and practitioners. The Manual provides a unique and comprehensive guide to all the major branches of international maritime law covering, in its three volumes, the Law of the Sea, Shipping Law, Marine Environmental Law and Maritime Security Law, respectively. The Manual examines these fields from an international and comparative perspective and provides an in-depth analysis from the point of view of international conventions, customary law, and commercial practices.



*The Book Series "IMLI Studies in
International Maritime Law"*

between IMLI and The Nippon Foundation. In its three volumes, the Treatise deals with “*The United Nations (UN) and Global Ocean Governance*”, “*The UN Specialized Agencies and Global Ocean Governance*”, and “*IMO and Global Ocean Governance*”, respectively. Fifty-eight leading experts, chosen on the basis of their eminence and expertise in the various areas covered by the Treatise, published contributions assessing the current state of the international regime regulating the use of the oceans to ensure that proposals for a new framework are based on reliable information.

The book series “*IMLI Studies in International Maritime Law*” published by Routledge simultaneously in London and New York, is dedicated to the publication of original, scholarly

“*The IMLI Treatise on Global Ocean Governance*” is an authoritative statement on the current state of the law on global ocean governance. Published by Oxford University Press, the Treatise is the product of the fruitful collaboration

contributions that analyse key issues in international maritime law, which are of interest to an audience of students, scholars and practitioners in international maritime law.



The IMLI e-News

The Institute publishes a weekly electronic newsletter entitled IMLI e-News, featuring the latest updates on events including visits and presentations delivered by eminent personalities, Class academic exercises, Director’s and Faculty’s engagements abroad and which also acts as an advertising platform for all courses and initiatives.

By the end of 2025, the Institute had published 26 issues of *IMLI e-News*, 22 issues of *IMLI Alert*, and issues No. 52 and No. 53 of the biannual *IMLI newsletter*. Additionally, 369 online posts were shared via the “*Happening Now*” publishing tool and social media platforms including Facebook, LinkedIn, X (Twitter), Instagram, and YouTube. To further expand its reach, the IMLI Connect WhatsApp Chat Network was also utilized for this purpose connecting with the majority of 1500 IMLI Graduates. Furthermore, 132 Lecturing Posters were published, highlighting the invaluable contributions of distinguished visiting fellows who, year after year, tirelessly share their expertise with the IMLI Class and participants in all the specialized Courses. In line with the Institute’s motto *IMLI - Training the Maritime Leaders of Tomorrow*, the Institute published 15 posters showcasing the outstanding achievements of its graduates around the globe making impactful contributions to the international maritime community at large.

The Institute published the *Annual Report 2024*, providing a comprehensive overview of its activities throughout the whole year. This 64-page report included a Message from the Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, a Message from the IMLI Director, details on IMLI’s Academic Programmes, IMLI’s Contribution to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Governance, Human Resources, IMLI Publications, Academic Conferences and Events, Financial Overview, the Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme, Class Academic Projects, Fellowships and Donors.



The Annual Report 2024



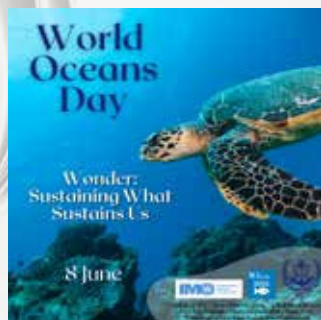
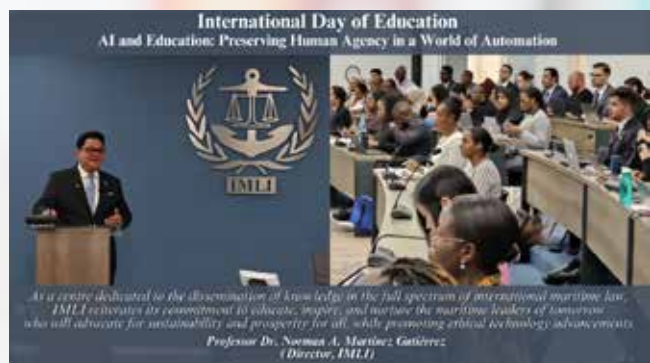
IMLI Graduation Brochure published yearly by the Institute

The annual Graduation Brochure was published and distributed during the Graduation Ceremony in celebration of the conclusion of yet another successful Academic Year for IMLI and its Graduates.

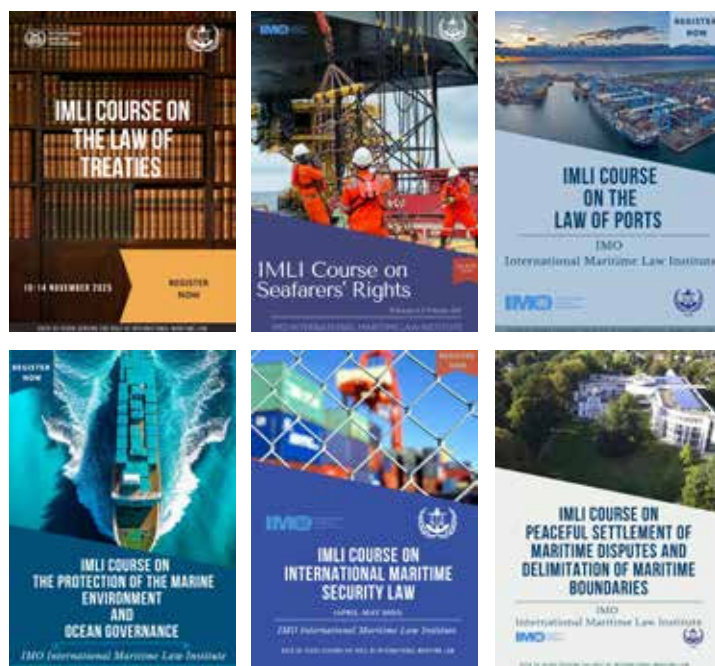
During the year, a number of globally recognized international days were celebrated, especially those relating to maritime and education. Among these important dates were the International Day of Education, International Women's Day, International Day of Women in Maritime, International Day of the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, World Oceans Day, International Day of the Seafarer, and World Maritime Day. To promote these international days IMLI published a poster for each day and these were commemorated on all its Social Media Platforms. In 2025, IMLI published six of these commemorative posters and on two occasions, IMLI commemorated the international days by preparing and publishing a short video.

As of 2023, IMLI started following an initiative introduced by IMO which included lighting its façade in blue to commemorate World Maritime Day.

All the afore-mentioned brochures and e-publications enjoy extensive global distribution, reaching audiences in over 150 States. These publications serve as key resources for governments, academic institutions, international organizations, and maritime professionals, ensuring that IMLI's initiatives, achievements, and contributions to legal education and maritime affairs are widely recognized and accessible. Through this broad dissemination, the Institute continues to strengthen its global network, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing across diverse regions and sectors.



Courses, Conferences and Events



SPECIALIZED COURSES

Since its inception, IMLI has had the objective of enhancing capacity-building, especially in developing States. Recognizing that capacity-building is key in ensuring sustainable States' development, in particular, in its efforts to ensure an effective international maritime regime, IMLI has spearheaded numerous academic activities in the areas of international maritime law, particularly regarding the effective implementation of existing IMO regulations and prescriptions. During the year 2025, IMLI delivered specialized courses on the Law of Ports, Seafarers' Rights, Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance, International Maritime Security Law, Law of Treaties as well as Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries.

These specialized short courses, which may also be followed online, have enabled professionals who are unable to leave their countries, to be able to attend

courses at IMLI to enhance their knowledge in all areas of international maritime law through IMLI's hybrid learning facilities. This has been the case for many country delegates to IMO who benefited from the free seats made available by the Institute. The free seat initiative was deeply appreciated by the Permanent Representatives of countries to IMO who applauded the Institute for its capacity-building efforts. These specialized courses have also contributed to the realization of IMLI's mission and to expand its global outreach.



*Dr. David Nanopoulos
(Chief, Treaty Section,
Office of Legal Affairs,
United Nations)*

IMLI COURSE ON THE LAW OF TREATIES

The IMLI Course on the Law of Treaties commenced on 4 November 2025. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered the Introductory Address and Dr. David Nanopoulos (Chief, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations), delivered the Inaugural Address entitled "*Treaty Law and Practice: The UN Treaty Section's Contribution*

to the International Treaty Framework". Through an analysis of the provisions of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) and developments found in jurisprudence and doctrine, this specialized Course provided, an overview of the Law of Treaties with lectures addressing the relationship between treaties and customary international law, States' expression of consent to be bound by treaties, treaty interpretation, third States and treaties, invalidity of treaties, methods of revision and amendment, duration and termination, UN global

and regional treaties for the oceans, and enforcement of treaties. The Course was complemented by lectures delivered by IMO officers on the IMO treaty-making process and the implementation of IMO instruments in national law, and other fundamental aspects of the Law of Treaties drawing examples from jurisprudence and the latest developments in this important area.

Among the participants, there were Ambassadors, Alternate Permanent Representatives of countries to IMO, Directors of Government Departments, and Diplomats, who were nominated by their respective Permanent Representatives to IMO.

IMLI COURSE ON SEAFARERS' RIGHTS

This specialized Course, which commenced on 29 January 2025, brought together world experts in the field who provided practical perspectives and experiences. The Course was inaugurated by Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (Head of the Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, International Labour Organization [ILO]). It addressed many aspects of



*Ms. Beatriz Vacotto
(Head of the Maritime
Unit, International
Labour Standards
Department,
International Labour
Organization (ILO))*

maritime labour law, the functions of ILO, IMO, ITF and other organisations committed to the protection of seafarers' rights, including emerging trends in respect of the challenges of technological developments for seafarers rights and the different international instruments dealing with seafarers, their rights and duties, with particular emphasis on the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC). The Course also included dedicated lectures on the sterling work of the ITF and ITF Seafarers' Trust in promoting seafarers' rights.



*Ms. Tatjana Krilic
(Deputy Director,
Sub-division for
Member State Audit
and Implementation,
Technical Cooperation
and Implementation
Division, IMO)*

IMLI COURSE ON THE LAW OF PORTS

The annual IMLI Course on the Law of Ports commenced on 13 February 2025. The Course was inaugurated by Ms. Tatjana Krilic (Deputy Director, Sub-division for Member State Audit and Implementation, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO), who warmly welcomed the IMLI students and the external participants hailing from around the globe. The Course participants, in addition to building their theoretical skills on Law of Ports through intensive lectures delivered by distinguished

fellows, also had the opportunity to benefit from the practical expertise of leading professionals, working in the ports sector.

The Course covered various aspects of port operations, as well as several areas regulated by IMO legal instruments, including safety, security, marine environmental protection, and trade facilitation.

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

This unique IMLI Course focused on the protection of the marine environment within the integrated global ocean governance of various maritime activities. Participants were introduced to the international regulatory framework, especially IMO treaties, which contribute to the prevention of marine pollution as well as to cooperation, response and compensation in case of pollution incidents.

The Course ran from 4 March up to 19 May 2025, bringing together world experts in the field who provided practical



*Ms. Patricia Charlebois
(Deputy Director,
Marine Environment
Division, IMO)*

perspectives and experiences. It was inaugurated by Ms. Patricia Charlebois (Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO) and attended by nominated participants, including Ambassadors, Alternate Permanent Representatives, Ministers, Counsellors and Senior Foreign Officers nominated by their respective Permanent Representatives to IMO.



*Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada
(Director, Maritime
Safety Division, IMO)*

IMLI COURSE ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW

The Course covered critical maritime security threats to the international rule of law at sea and the freedom of navigation. It addressed the gravity of these threats and the existing international laws and State practices deterring the same. The Course also

focused on the current legal developments ensuring the safe navigation of ships, protection of offshore installations and coasts of maritime States as well as the contribution of international organisations, especially IMO, and regional cooperation in overcoming maritime security threats. The Course ran from 3 April up to 19 May 2025. Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada (Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO) delivered the Inaugural Address.

As part of this specialized Course, on 2 May 2025, IMLI hosted a *Workshop on IUU Fishing and Maritime Security*. Its main aims were to explore the legal, policy, and security challenges related to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, with a focus on its intersection with broader maritime security issues.



*Judge Tómas H.
Heiðar (President,
International Tribunal
for the Law of the Sea
[ITLOS])*

IMLI COURSE ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF MARITIME DISPUTES AND DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES

Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]) delivered the Inaugural Address of the IMLI Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries. This Course was designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to, and an analysis of, different international maritime dispute settlement mechanisms. The Course, which ran from 15 April to the 16 May 2025, brought together world

experts in the field who provided practical perspectives and experiences and was attended by government nominated participants, including Ambassadors, Alternate Permanent Representatives and Senior Foreign Officers, who were nominated by their respective Permanent Representatives to IMO.

IMO WORKSHOP ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF DRAFTING NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT IMO CONVENTIONS HOSTED AT IMLI

From 15 to 23 January 2025, IMLI proudly hosted, for the very first time, the “Workshop on General Principles of Drafting National Legislation to Implement IMO Conventions”, organized by IMO and previously held in London. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Nihan Ünlü (Deputy Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division), who delivered the Keynote Address “IMO’s Role in Enhancing Capacity-Building for the Adequate Implementation of International Instruments”. Further invaluable contributions were also delivered by Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, IMO), and IMO Consultants Ms. Jennifer Watson and Mr. Mark Patel.

The Workshop emphasized the crucial role of national legislation in implementing IMO conventions, which depend on domestic frameworks for enforcement. Through lectures, discussions, and hands-on drafting exercises, participants developed practical skills to translate international obligations into effective national laws.



Dr. Nihan Ünlü (Deputy Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

Bringing together 60 maritime professionals from 38 countries, the event showcased IMLI’s global outreach and reinforced its reputation as a centre of excellence in international maritime law.



R-L Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Ms. Jennifer Watson (IMO Consultant), and Mr. Mark Patel (IMO Consultant)

FANNIE COPLIN REGENTS CHAIR IN LAW AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LECTURES AT IMLI



During his visit to lecture at the Institute, Professor Michael Sturley (Fannie Coplin Regents Chair in Law, School of Law, University of Texas, Austin), presented a copy of the second edition of his publication entitled “The Rotterdam Rules” to the IMLI Library.



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

IMLI DIRECTOR MEETS WITH THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS OF MALTA

On 31 January 2025, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director IMLI) met with the Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta) at the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works to discuss Malta’s enhanced contribution to IMLI and its capacity-building activities.

IMLI DIRECTOR VISITS ITLOS

During a visit to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Professor Dr. Norman Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) held a meeting with Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, ITLOS) and Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar, ITLOS) to discuss possible future cooperation between IMLI and ITLOS.



Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, ITLOS), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Registrar, ITLOS)

IMLI DIRECTOR LECTURES AT THE ITLOS-NIPPON FOUNDATION CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a presentation to the Fellows of the ITLOS-NIPPON Foundation Capacity Building and Training

Programme, held at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg. His presentation, which was delivered within Module 8: Maritime Law, was entitled “The IMO Conventions and the Law of the Sea”.



THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTE’S GLOBAL MISSION

The Government of Malta, as the Host State of IMLI, continues to extend its support to the Institute’s mission through a generous financial contribution to assist the Institute in the refurbishment of its facilities and to provide for other running expenses of the Institute. The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works) presented a letter of enhanced support to the Institute by the Maltese Government to Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) in the presence of Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Mr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of Malta to the IMO; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Mr. Kurt Farrugia (CEO, Transport Malta), Mr. Bjorn Callus (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works) and Ms. Stephanie Bonello (Chief of Staff of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works).



From L-R: Mr. Kurt Farrugia (CEO, Transport Malta), Mr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of Malta to the IMO; Member, IMLI Governing Board), Mr. Bjorn Callus (Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works), Honourable Dr. Chris Bonnett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works), Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and Ms. Stephanie Bonello (Chief of Staff of the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works)

ANNUAL FIELD TRIP TO LONDON

As part of their studies at IMLI, the Class of 2024–2025 took part in the annual field trip organized by the Institute and held in London. Whilst in London, the Class had the

unique opportunity to observe the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee and to attend a joint IMO/ITLOS Workshop held in conjunction with the Committee’s Session. At IMO, the students had the honour of meeting Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and to take the traditional group photograph with him.

The trip also included visits to the Headquarters of several prominent maritime institutions, including Lloyd’s Register Foundation, the IOPC Funds, the International Association of Classification Societies, the International Mobile Satellite Organization, the ITF Seafarers’ Trust, and the International Group of P&I Clubs.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the IMO Headquarters



The IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the IOPC Funds Headquarters



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the offices of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the offices of the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 at the Lloyd's Register Foundation (LRF)



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 attended the Deep dive on Seafarer Sustainability Launch Event organized by Lloyd's Register Foundation at the Trinity House, London



Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 visiting the ITF Seafarers' Trust Headquarters



The IMLI Class of 2024-2025 visiting the International Group of P&I Clubs Headquarters

IMO/ITLOS WORKSHOP HELD AT THE IMO HEADQUARTERS

During the Field Trip, the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 also had the unique opportunity to attend the joint IMO/ITLOS



Workshop that took place at IMO Headquarters. This Workshop was organized in conjunction with the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee.

IMLI GRADUATES REUNITE FOR THE TRADITIONAL COMMEMORATIVE GROUP PHOTO

During the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee, IMLI graduates—whether serving at IMO or participating as members of their respective national delegations—had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Arsenio Domínguez, IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez, Director of IMLI. The occasion was marked by the traditional commemorative group photograph, uniting IMLI graduates from around the world.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and IMLI graduates present at IMO during the proceedings of the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee

IMLI DIRECTOR INTERVENES DURING THE 112TH SESSION OF THE IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) made an intervention during the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee wherein he informed the Committee on IMLI's activities for the calendar year 2024.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) making his intervention at the 112th Session of the IMO Legal Committee

THE 7TH FAO INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON FISHERIES LAW HOSTED AT IMLI



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The 7th FAO International Course on Fisheries Law was held at IMLI. Professor

Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) welcomed the participants and delivered the *Inaugural Lecture* of the Course. The Course which was held at IMLI, ran from 1 to 17 April 2026, was attended by officials from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.

Members of the IMLI Faculty as well as other eminent personalities in the field delivered insightful presentations throughout the duration of this Course.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW AT IMLI DELIVERS A LECTURE AT SISTER INSTITUTION WMU

Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI) delivered a lecture entitled “*Implementation of IMO Conventions: Law in Action*” to Students within the *Maritime Law and Policy* specialisation, in the Module of *Maritime Safety, Security and Labour* at the World Maritime University (WMU). Dr. Sümer was invited to visit WMU by IMLI distinguished visiting fellow Professor Khanssa Lagdami (Associate Professor of Maritime Labour Law & Policy, ITF Seafarers Trust Trust [WMU]).



IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER IN CROATIA



From L-R: Dr. Mišja Grbec (Secretary-General, Maritime Law Association of Slovenia; Attorney-at-Law; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management, University of Primorska; Class of 2001), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Dr. Adriana Padovan (Associate Professor, Senior Research Associate, Adriatic Institute, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Class of 2003), and Mr. Ante Vojković (Attorney-at-Law, Law Firm Stanić & Partners LLC; Class of 2024)

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated as a Keynote Speaker at the 5th International Scientific Conference on Maritime Law – *Modern Challenges of Marine Navigation* held in Split, Croatia. His speech was entitled “*Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims: 100 Years of International Regulation*”. He also had the pleasure of meeting IMLI graduates who were attending the Conference.



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON GLOBAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE AT IMLI ATTENDING THE 83RD SESSION OF THE IMO MEPC

From L-R: Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMLI), Dr. Harry Conwoy (Alternate Permanent Representative of Liberia to IMO; Chair of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)), and Dr. Heike Deggim (Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO)

Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMLI) attended the Marine Environment Protection Committee 83rd Session (MEPC 83) at IMO Headquarters in

London, where issues discussed included reduction of GHG emissions from ships, energy efficiency of ships, air pollution prevention, pollution prevention and response, marine plastic litter, ballast water management, Identification and protection of Special Areas, ECAs and PSSAs.

IMLI SENIOR LECTURER AND THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW AT IMLI PARTICIPATE AT FAO COURSE IN BUSAN



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer / Head of Administration, IMLI) delivering her presentations

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) and Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, IMLI) delivered lectures to the participants of the 8th FAO International Training Course on Fisheries Law, held in Busan, South Korea.

Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, IMLI) delivering his presentations

NEW COUNTRIES BEING REPRESENTED AT IMLI

In separate ceremonies marking the expansion of IMLI's global outreach, President Tómas H. Heiðar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]), the Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta), and Judge Professor David J. Attard (Professor, Public International Law and the Law of the Sea, IMLI), each placed an IMLI Pin on the Institute's world map. This pinning ceremony celebrated the participation for the first time of Rwanda, Qatar, and Curaçao in all the IMLI programmes, symbolizing the Institute's growing international representation.



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

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS OF MALTA LECTURES AT IMLI

The Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta) delivered a lecture entitled "Malta - The Maritime Nation" to the IMLI Class of 2024-2025.

IMLI SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATES AS PANELLIST AT A CONFERENCE HELD IN MALTA

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) participated as Panellist in a Panel discussion entitled "Maritime Academies and Universities Forging Paths to Diversity and Inclusion" at the *I Exist Too 2025 Forum-Humanising the Maritime Industry*, which took place in Malta.



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW PARTICIPATES AS SPEAKER AT A CONFERENCE HELD IN MALTA

Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI) participated as a Speaker at the *University of Malta Maritime Platform Conference*

2025 entitled "Innovation in Marine & Maritime Sustainable Developments: Research and Applications" held in Malta. Following Dr. Sümer presentation, participants attending this Conference paid a courtesy visit to IMLI.



IMLI DIRECTOR VISITS THE NIPPON FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS IN TOKYO, JAPAN

On 13 May 2025, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) held a meeting with Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation) at The Nippon Foundation Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. During this meeting, Professor Martínez and Mr. Unno discussed strengthening the very successful and important joint project entitled "Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Legal Order for the Oceans". This meeting cemented the decades-long cooperation between the two institutions which will continue in the future for the benefit of the international maritime community.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation).

IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES AS SPEAKER IN THE CMI COLLOQUIUM 2025 IN TOKYO, JAPAN

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated as Speaker in the Comité Maritime International's Tokyo Colloquium 2025 held in Tokyo, Japan. The IMLI Director also delivered a presentation entitled "IMLI: Over 35 Years in the Service of the Rule of International Maritime Law".



IMLI CLASS PARTICIPATES AT A MOOT COURT

As part of their IMLI studies, the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 participated in a Moot Court on *International Dispute Settlement under Part XV of UNCLOS* organized annually by the Institute. This Moot Court formed part of the *Module on Law of the Sea: Specific Regimes II*.



IMO-IMLI-WMU PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION HELD AT IMO

The IMO-IMLI-WMU Partnership presentation on “*Enhancing Domestic Ferry Safety*” was held at IMO during the 75th Session of the Technical Cooperation Committee. Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (IMLI Senior Lecturer/ Head of Administration, IMLI) was the IMLI Focal Point in the partnership. This initiative was funded by Lloyd’s Register Foundation.

IMLI AT THE 75TH SESSION OF THE IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE

During the 75th Session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee held at IMO Headquarters in London, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez, (Director, IMLI), actively contributed to the discussions. In his interventions, he reaffirmed IMLI’s commitment to supporting IMO’s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme and highlighted the Institute’s activities in 2024, emphasizing its continued dedication to providing comprehensive education in international maritime law in pursuit of safe, secure, and sustainable shipping.



As part of the session, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez delivered a presentation entitled “*Enhancing Capacity-Building in Maritime Administrations for the Development of an Effective Maritime Legal Framework*”. He underscored IMLI’s vital work in enhancing capacity-building in national administrations

for the adequate implementation of international rules and regulations, especially those developed by IMO, in national legislation.

Together with Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer / Head, Administration, IMLI) and Ms. Tiina Kiipus (Executive Officer, Office of the Director), Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez also participated in the *Thematic Exchange Day Exhibition, “From Insights to Impactful Action.”* Organized by IMO, this event featured focused sessions on Safety, Environment, Security, and Facilitation, providing a platform for sharing experiences and best practices in advancing the Organization’s technical cooperation objectives.



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer / Head, Administration, IMLI), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Ms. Tiina Kiipus at the IMO Expo

IMLI LECTURER ATTENDS IMO SYMPOSIUM

Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Lecturer, IMLI) attended a Symposium entitled “*Protecting seafarers against criminalization: What more can be done?*”. This one-day Joint IMO/ILO/ICS/ITF event held at IMO Headquarters in London, brought together key stakeholders from the maritime sector to address the criminalization of seafarers and the need for their fair treatment.



IMLI SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATES AT FAO WORKSHOP IN ROME

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) participated at the “*Global Ocean Governance Workshop: From Theory into Practice*” held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Workshop was an advanced capacity-building event that maximized



interactive discussion and learning for the purpose of connecting ocean governance practitioners from around the world to exchange knowledge, experience and identify solutions and opportunities. The Workshop aimed to identify key legal and institutional challenges for Ocean Governance and capacity development needed at the global, regional and national level.



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW AT IMLI PARTICIPATES AT A CONFERENCE IN HAMBURG

Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, IMLI) participated at the *4th Young Sustainability Law Conference (JNR 2025)* organized by Bucerius Law School, the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law & Universität Hamburg which took place from 19-21 June 2025. The focus of the Conference was on *"Sustainability Law: Comparative, Interdisciplinary, and Intradisciplinary Perspectives"*. Dr. Ruhel's presentation was entitled *"The Ambivalent Promise of the Abyss: Deep Seabed Mining and the Contentious Path to Sustainable Development"*. In his talk, he explored the complexities and challenges associated with deep-seabed mining in the context of achieving sustainable development.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON GLOBAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE AT IMLI PARTICIPATES AS PANELLIST IN A SUMMIT HELD IN BARCELONA

Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMLI) participated as a Panellist in the Green Marine Med Final Summit which took place between 2-3 July 2025, in Barcelona, Spain. His presentation was part of the Panel on Policy, Planning and Regulatory/Certification Frameworks which focused on the connection between Green Shipping and other Aspects of Sustainable Blue Economy and Capacity-building Process.



MARITIME LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION DAY HELD IN GHANA

On July 3, 2025, maritime leaders and IMLI Alumni gathered in Accra, Ghana for the inauguration of the *"Maritime Leadership and Innovation Day"*. The event focused on legal reform, innovation, and blue economy futures, and called for bold leadership and collaboration to transform West Africa's maritime sector into a force for sustainable development. This bears testament to the leading role that IMLI Alumni take in the realization of events of this nature.

IMLI DIRECTOR MEETS EMINENT OFFICIALS FROM EL SALVADOR

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) held a meeting with H.E. Ambassador Diana Marcela Vanegas Hernández (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to IMO) and Ms. Astrid Almendares (Minister Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative of El Salvador to IMO) on 8 July 2025 to discuss closer cooperation between the Institute and the Government of El Salvador. On the occasion, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez was presented with a draft Memorandum of Understanding between IMLI and the Government of El Salvador on academic cooperation.



From L:R: Ms. Astrid Almendares (Minister Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative of El Salvador to IMO), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and H.E. Ambassador Diana Marcela Vanegas Hernández (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to IMO)

IMLI TRADITION UPHELD

On 8 July 2025, IMLI Graduates attending the IMO Council as delegates of their respective home countries, as well as those who work at the IMO, gathered together for the traditional commemorative group photo with Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI).



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW AT IMLI PARTICIPATES AT A CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL

Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI) participated as a Panellist at the *5th Maritime Security Conference* convened by the NATO Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE) in Istanbul. The Conference welcomed 255 participants from 22 countries, including senior military leaders, academics, and experts. During the panel discussion, he discussed the *Protection of Navigational Rights in the Red Sea*. His intervention focused on the legal classification of recent attacks on international shipping, the asymmetric and hybrid nature of these threats, and the broader implications for the rules-based international maritime order. He also underscored the collective duty of the States to safeguard navigational freedoms in volatile maritime environments.



IMLI DIRECTOR MAKES AN INTERVENTION AT THE 134TH SESSION OF THE IMO COUNCIL

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) made an intervention on IMLI's activities for the calendar year 2024 to the IMO Council during its 134th Session held at IMO Headquarters in London.



IMLI SENIOR LECTURER LECTURES AT THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA ACADEMY 2025

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) delivered an online lecture to the *Philippine International Law of the Sea Academy 2025* on 14 July 2025. Her presentation which was entitled "*Internal Waters and Port State Control and Jurisdiction*" formed part of Module 1 of the Academy entitled "*Zonal Approaches and Navigational Regimes*".

IMLI DIRECTOR'S ENGAGEMENTS IN MALAYSIA IN JULY AND SEPTEMBER

In July 2025, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) visited Malaysia where he met with Dato' Jana Santhiran Muniayan (Secretary General, Ministry of Transport of Malaysia) during the Malaysia Maritime Week 2025 in Kuala Lumpur to discuss further cooperation between IMLI and the Government of Malaysia. Also present at the meeting were Mr. Siva Sanger Krishnan (Undersecretary, Maritime Division), Datuk Haji Dickson Dollah (Director General, Malaysia Marine Department), Captain Abdul Samad Shaik Osman (Deputy Director General of Marine (Operations) Malaysia Marine Department), Mr. Mohd Hazwan Din Bin Hashim (IMLI graduate Class of 2018), Mr. Kevin Chin Ket Vui (IMLI graduate Class of 2024), Mr. Syahrizan Bin Jili (IMLI graduate Class of 2020), and Mr. Mohd Nurruil Faiz Mohd Taib (IMLI graduate Class of 2019).



On 16 July 2025, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a presentation at the Maritime Conference (Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity) organized during the Malaysia Maritime Week 2025 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His presentation, which was entitled "*Multiplicity of Limitation of Liability Conventions: The Unfortunate Effects Caused by Lack of Harmonization*", formed part of the panel discussing "*Shipping Liability: Challenges, Developments and the Impact of Global Conflicts*".



IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General) was also present during the Malaysia Maritime Week 2025, wherein he delivered the Keynote Address of the event. Secretary-General Domínguez and Director Martínez Gutiérrez together with other distinguished guests, visited Cape Rachado Lighthouse, the oldest lighthouse in Malaysia on 17 July 2025. They were both welcomed by Mr. Syamsul Aminudin Samat (Secretary, Light Dues Board), Mr. Mohamad Safwan Othman (Chairman, Malaysia Shipowners' Association), Mr. Mohd Nasiruddin Abdul Razak (Head Maritime

Services, Marine Services, MISC Group), Captain Mohd Nor Kassim (Honorary Secretary, Malaysia Shipowners' Association), Mr. Hairizam Albukhari (Director, Malaysia Marine Department of Central Region), Dr. Tan Fee Cheng (Deputy Under Secretary Maritime Division, Ministry of Transport), accompanied by Dr. Marika Martínez Gutiérrez (Malta, IMLI graduate Class of 1998), Mr. Luca Spataro (Principal Secretary, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, IMO), Mr. Mohd Nurrul Faiz Mohd Taib (Malaysia, IMLI graduate Class of 2019), Mr. Mohd Hazwan Din Bin Hashim (Malaysia, IMLI graduate Class of 2018) and Mr. Syahrizan Bin Jili (Malaysia, IMLI graduate Class of 2020).

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) then visited the Malaysia Marine Department on 18 July 2025, where he was welcomed by Datuk Haji Dickson Dollah (Director General, Malaysia Marine Department). During this visit, the IMLI Director delivered a lecture entitled “*IMLI: Your Pathway to Global Recognition in Maritime Law*” to the Officers of the Malaysia Marine Department, held at the Auditorium, Menara Dius Api.

In September 2025, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) was the Keynote Speaker at the Sarawak Maritime Day Forum (SMarD 2025) held in Malaysia. His Keynote Address was entitled “*Multiplicity of Limitation of Liability Conventions: The Unfortunate Effects Caused by Lack of Harmonization*”.



The Director's next engagement was participating as a Panellist in Forum 3 entitled “*Navigating Liability and Claims in a Complex Maritime Economy*” at the *Sarawak Maritime Day Forum (SMarD 2025)* on 18 September 2025. His presentation was entitled “*The Need to Harmonize National Law on Limitation of Liability: The Unfortunate Effect of Having Incorporated Two Conventions*”. Alongside Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez were other distinguished panellists including Mr. Egbert Adolf Naintin, (Maritime Institute of Malaysia [MIMA]), Mr. Rudy Andrew Jeyaraj (Chief Executive Officer, P&I Malaysia), and Mr. Abd Azim bin Abd Razak (International Malaysian Society of Maritime Law [IMSML]).

On 19 September 2025, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez



Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin (Minister for Transport Sarawak). During this visit, a meeting was held wherein Possible future cooperation between IMLI and the State of Sarawak was discussed.

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) paid a courtesy visit to the Sarawak State Attorney-General Dato Sri Saferi Bin Ali at the Sarawak State Attorney-General's Chambers in Sarawak, Malaysia. During this visit, a meeting was held wherein possible future cooperation was discussed.



IMLI SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATES IN A TRAINING PROGRAMME IN TURKMENISTAN



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) delivered several presentations on the “*Law of the Sea and Shipping Law with Particular Focus on their Application to the Caspian Sea*”

at the *10th Training Programme on the Sustainable Development and Governance of the Caspian Sea* which was organised by the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and the Caspian Sea Institute of Turkmenistan (CSI) and was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from 14 to 25 July, 2025.

IMLI DIRECTOR ATTENDS THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ITALIAN COAST GUARD

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) attended the military ceremony commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Italian Coast Guard in Forte Michelangelo in Civitavecchia, Italy. During this event, the IMLI Director was delighted to meet Vice Admiral Cristiano Aliperta (Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to IMO; Member, IMLI Governing Board).



IMLI DIRECTOR DELIVERS A PRESENTATION AT THE KHAS INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA SUMMER ACADEMY IN ISTANBUL



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a presentation entitled “*Liability of the Shipowner under International Maritime Conventions*” at the Khas International Law of the Sea Summer Academy held in Istanbul from 21 July to 6 August 2025. The Academy

was organized by Kadir Has University in collaboration with the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS), Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM), and the National University of Singapore International Law Centre. This event brought together judges from international courts, as well as academics and practitioners working in the field of international law and provided training on fundamental issues relating to Maritime Law. Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez was welcomed by Professor Aslıhan Erbaş Açikel (Assistant Professor of Maritime Law, Kadir Has University Faculty of Law).

IMLI DIRECTOR LECTURES AT IFLOS, HAMBURG

On 30 July 2025, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a lecture to the participants of the 2025 *International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS) Summer Academy* held at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg between 13 July and 8 August 2025. His annual lecture was entitled “*Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims*”. The Director was warmly welcomed by Professor Alexander Proelss (Director, International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS); Full Professor, University of Hamburg).

During his visit to the Tribunal, the Director had the pleasure of meeting IMLI graduates from different



academic years who were attending the Summer Academy; namely Mr. Omar Almohammadi (Saudi Arabia, Class of 2025), Ms. Mamie Sanyang (the Gambia, Class of 2020), Ms. Esther Wabulala Matulile (Tanzania), Mr. Mussa Jacobo Luhiso (Tanzania, Class of 2025), Ms. Marver B. Woodley (Antigua & Barbuda, Class of 2024), and Mr. Abdulahi Mohamed Abdulahi (Somalia, Class of 2023).

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY LAW AT IMLI PARTICIPATES AT VARIOUS EVENTS HELD IN INDIA

Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, IMLI) delivered a lecture entitled “*Maritime Criminal Jurisdiction and Crimes at Sea*” to the 38th Naval Higher Command Course (NHCC-38) of the Naval War College in Goa, India. Subsequently, Dr. Ruhel participated as a Subject Matter Expert in maritime security law in a two days event ‘*Exercise Mahasagar*’.

On 2 September 2025, Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel delivered a master class at Pankaj Kumar Jha Centre for Security Studies (PKJCSS), O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) Sonapat, India on “*The Legal Quagmire of Deep-Seabed Mining, Green Necessities, and Geopolitics: The Race for Rare Earths*”. The session was deeply insightful and intellectually enriching, shedding light on the critical intersections of law, sustainability, and global strategy.



Furthermore, he addressed the *International Maritime Conference* (NALIMC 2025) during its inaugural session on 15 September 2025. This was followed by Dr. Ruhal's delivery of an engaging technical session on *Maritime Piracy*, offering insights on evolving threats and the role of international law in strengthening maritime security.

IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS 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. On 10 September 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.*"



IMLI SENIOR LECTURER PARTICIPATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARITIME LOGISTICS AND PORTS IN MALAYSIA



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) participated as a Panellist in the *International Conference on Maritime Logistics and Ports* held in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Her presentation was entitled "*Port State Control Measures as an Important Tool to Support Flag State's Efforts to Ensure*

Compliance with International Norms" and formed part of Session 6 entitled "*Securing the Seas: The Role of Law Enforcement in Maritime Logistics and Port Operations*". Also participating as Panellists in this event were IMLI graduates Mr. Mohd Nurrul Faiz Mohd Taib (Senior Assistant Director, Malaysia Marine Department, Class of 2019) and Ms. Adel Alsrawi (Current IMLI Research Degree Fellow, Mexico, Class of 2021).

ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST ASSISTANT LECTURER ON SEAFARERS' RIGHTS AT IMLI DELIVERS JOINT PRESENTATION IN CROATIA

Ms. Nour Nohra (ITF Seafarers' Trust Assistant Lecturer on Seafarers' Rights, IMLI) delivered a joint presentation with IMLI graduate Ms. Masha Stampic (Montenegro, Class of 2023) entitled "*Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006) in Practice: Challenges for Small Maritime States*" during the *International Maritime and Transport Law Conference - Transport Law De Lege Ferenda*, at the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, Croatia, between 3rd and 6th September 2025. This event was organised by the Croatian Maritime Law Association. Alongside Ms. Nohra within the same Panel was IMLI graduate Mr. Ante Vojkovic (Croatia, IMLI Class of 2024)



IMLI HOSTS THE IMO, IMLI, WMU ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING ORGANIZED BY IMO

Between the 16 and 17 September the IMO, IMLI, WMU Annual Finance Meeting organized by IMO was hosted at IMLI. 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 Finance Teams of IMO, IMLI and WMU discussed financial strategies for the forthcoming year.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION ORGANIZES A BREAKFAST MEETING FOR IMLI GRADUATES BASED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

On 18 September 2025, Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI) and other IMLI graduates based in the United Kingdom attended a breakfast meeting with Dr. Yohei Sasakawa (Honorary Chair, The Nippon Foundation) in London. Present at the meeting, courtesy of Dr. Sasakawa, were WMU graduates also based in the United Kingdom.



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW PARTICIPATED AT THE NMF-KAS INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN DELHI

Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel presented his expert views on "Legal Challenges within Eastern African EEZs" at the NMF-KAS International Seminar on Public International Maritime Law (PIML) held on 18-19 September 2025. His presentation addressed critical regional issues under the seminar's core theme of developing collaborative solutions to legal challenges across the Indo-Pacific. The theme of the seminar was "Collaborative Solutions to Legal Challenges of Public International Maritime Law (PIML)".

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW LECTURES AT CUSAT IN KERALA, INDIA

Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel delivered a lecture entitled "India and the Global Maritime Commons" to Master's students at the School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kerala on 16 September 2025. His

presentation explored the core principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind, tracing its historical development and analyzing recent updates in global maritime governance, deep-seabed mining, and India's strategic approach to ocean exploration.

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). 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)).

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON GLOBAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE AT IMLI PARTICIPATES AT A CONFERENCE IN SRI LANKA

Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMLI) participated as a Panellist in the *Galle Dialogue 2025: International Maritime Conference* held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 24 September 2025. Dr. Prado's presentation entitled "Responding to IUU Fishing in the Indian Ocean: Sustainable Practices and Marine Environmental Stewardship Amid Shifting Geopolitical and Climatic Dynamics" formed part of Session 2 of the Conference under the rubric "Maritime Governance under Changing Dynamics".



IMLI DIRECTOR ATTENDS WORLD MARITIME DAY 2025 CELEBRATIONS HELD AT IMO



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) attended, 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; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), 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.

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 de Chavez Aledo (the Philippines, Class of 2021), Ms. Patricia Peñaranda (Colombia, Class of 2021), CDR Mary Leizl Barbero (the Philippines, Class of 2018), Mr. Siphon Mbatha (South Africa, Class of 2008), and Ms. Li Guanyu (China, Class of 2004).

On 25 September 2025 IMLI joined IMO in celebrating World Maritime Day 2025. "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity" was selected as this year's World Maritime Day Theme. To further promote this important international event the Institute's façade was lit up in blue.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW AT IMLI PARTICIPATES AT AN INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE CONSULTATION IN MALTA

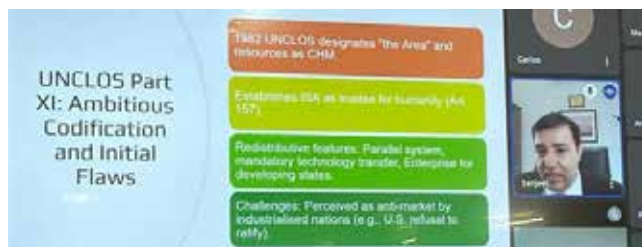
Dr. Murat Sümer (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Law, IMLI) participated as a Speaker at the *International Roundtable Consultation on "Maritime Order in the Global Era - National Interest vs. Common Good of Humanity"* held in memory of Arvid Pardo and Elisabeth Mann Borgese. Dr. Sümer's presentation was entitled "*Treatment of Islands in Maritime Boundary Delimitation*". The Roundtable, organized by the International Progress Organization, took place between 25 and 26 September 2025 in Malta, bringing together distinguished academics

and practitioners of international law. As part of the programme, the eminent personalities participating at the Roundtable also paid a courtesy visit to IMLI.



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION LECTURER ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY LAW AT IMLI PARTICIPATES AT THE CIMC 25 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On 10 October 2025, Dr. Sanjeet Ruhel (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, IMLI) delivered online a critical appraisal of *Deep-Seabed Mining Governance* at the *4TH CUSAT International Maritime Conference 2025*, organized by the School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT). The session, entitled "*Sustainability and Governance in Deep-Seabed Mining: Legal and Ecological Challenges*," examined the ISA's governance chasm, advocating for the urgent finalisation of the Mining Code to uphold the Common Heritage of Mankind principle and ensure effective marine environmental protection.



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

On 13 October 2025, a Delegation from the Association of Traffic Engineers of Slovenia paid a courtesy visit to the Institute. The Delegation was warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director,



IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff. The IMLI Director delivered a presentation about IMLI to the Delegation outlining IMLI's global mission and academic programmes.

FAO HOLDS ITS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON FISHERIES LAW AT IMLI

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) once again held its International Course on Fisheries Law with the technical collaboration of IMLI. The Course was delivered at IMLI from 20 October to 7 November 2025. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered the Inaugural Address of this international course, whilst the members of the IMLI Faculty delivered several presentations within the duration of the Course.

Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Senior Fisheries Officer; Leader, Global and Regional Processes (Fisheries); Technical Secretary, Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO) visited the Institute on 21 October 2025 to address the participants of this Course.



Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Senior Fisheries Officer; Leader, Global and Regional Processes (Fisheries); Technical Secretary, Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and the participants of the FAO International Course on Fisheries Law

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF IDENTITÀ AND IMLI GRADUATE VISITS IMLI



Colonel [Ret.] Dr. Edric Zahra (Chief Executive Officer, Identità; IMLI graduate of Class of 2009) paid a courtesy visit to the Institute. Colonel Dr. Zahra was warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff and was introduced to the

IMLI Class of 2025-2026. A meeting between Colonel Dr. Zahra and Director Martínez Gutiérrez ensued soon after.

IMLI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES AT THE MALTA INTERNATIONAL SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (MISA) EVENT IN MALTA

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated as a Moderator at the Malta International Shipowners Association (MISA) event entitled "Shaping the Future of Shipping: MISA's 20th Anniversary Exchange of Views". This event was organized by MISA in collaboration with IMLI and was sponsored by Grimaldi Group. Director Martínez Gutiérrez moderated Session 1 which was entitled "Rule of Law, Security and Multilateralism: Securing Global Shipping in Times of Turbulence".



LEADING MARITIME INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS VISIT IMLI

On 29 October 2025, a delegation from the Malta International Shipowners' Association (MISA), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and representatives of the newly formed Women's International Shipping & Trading Association Malta (WISTA Malta), paid a courtesy visit to the Institute. The delegation was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff and subsequently introduced to the IMLI Class of 2025-2026. This was followed by a presentation delivered by the IMLI Director, wherein he outlined IMLI's global mission and academic programmes to the delegation. The delegation and WISTA Malta representatives included Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi (Chairman, International Chamber of Shipping [ICS]; Founding Member, MISA), Mr. John Lyras (Principal Paralos Maritime Corporation SA & ICS Board Member, Greece; Founding Member, MISA), Ms. Claudia Vella Casagrande (Secretary General, MISA), Mr. Simon Bennett (Deputy Secretary General, International Chamber of Shipping [ICS]), Mr. Metin Düzgüt (Vice Chair, Düzgüt Group; Vice-



Chair, International Chamber of Shipping, Türkiye), Dr. Ramón García-Gallardo (Founder, G-Gallardo Legal EU), and Captain Alexia Fenech (President, WISTA Malta).



MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY SEMINAR HELD AT IMLI

For the tenth consecutive year, IMLI had the distinct pleasure of holding, in collaboration with IMO and World Maritime University (WMU), the annual three-day Seminar on *Maritime Transport Policy*, which ran

from 3 to 5 November 2025. As per the previous years' tradition, Professor George Theocharidis (Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, World Maritime University [WMU]) coordinated and delivered the Seminar's sessions.

Professor Theocharidis was warmly greeted by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff, and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026.

Over the span of the three-day seminar, the students explored the concept of a Maritime Transport Policy, with particular focus on the relationship between policy and legislation and how both influence the maritime industry.

In keeping with tradition, the Seminar ended with the presentation of draft outlines for a National Maritime Transport Policy for a fictional country. These outlines were prepared by the Class after being divided into working



Members of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 delivering their group work



groups. While developing their proposals, each working group was requested to take into account the nation's obligations under international maritime agreements, along with its wider socio-economic development objectives.

EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY PROJECT OFFICER VISITS EMSA FELLOWS AT IMLI

Mr. Erik Noor (Project Officer, European Maritime Safety Agency [EMSA]) paid a courtesy visit to IMLI to meet the EMSA fellows. Mr. Noor was welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI). IMLI's EMSA fellows for Academic Year 2025-2026 Mr. Shatlyk Garabegov (Turkmenistan), Mr. Zahran Akef Waheed Hamdalla (State of Palestine) and Mr. Kharlov Artem (Ukraine) who then proceeded to attend a meeting with Mr. Noor.



From L:R: Mr. Shatlyk Garabegov (Turkmenistan), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Mr. Erik Noor (Project Officer, European Maritime Safety Agency [EMSA]), Mr. Zahran Akef Waheed Hamdalla (Palestine), and Mr. Kharlov Artem (Ukraine)

IMLI LECTURER PARTICIPATES AS A SPEAKER AT A CONGRESS IN JAPAN

Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Lecturer, IMLI) participated as a Speaker at the 13th Annual World Congress of Ocean held in Osaka, Japan. Ms. Jalloh's presentation formed part of WCO 01: Ocean Economy and Maritime Law and was entitled "One Ocean, One Law: Unification of Maritime Law and its Importance for the Effective Protection of the Ocean".



IMLI CLASS ATTENDS THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE & EXPO MALTA 2025

The IMLI Class of 2025–2026, together with Members of the IMLI Faculty, attended the International Maritime Conference & Expo Malta 2025 held in St. Julian's, Malta. This event gathered eminent personalities to discuss policy, innovation, sustainability, and emerging technologies, with workshops and special networking events.



THE 34TH SESSION OF THE IMO ASSEMBLY

IMLI is proud to record that many of its graduates attended the 34th Session of the IMO Assembly as part of their countries' delegations. During this event, they joined Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) for a commemorative photo.

At the IMO Assembly, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a report outlining IMLI's activities and developments for the period commencing in August 2023 and ending in July 2025.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering his intervention at the 34th Session of the IMO Assembly

IMLI ACADEMICS AND THE CLASS OF 2025-2026 ATTEND A SHIPPING CONFERENCE HELD IN VALLETTA, MALTA

On 3 December 2025, IMLI Academics and the Class of 2025–2026 had the unique opportunity to attend the *Fenech & Fenech Shipping Conference 2025*. The event, entitled “*Navigating the Current*”, brought together industry stakeholders to share ideas on three very important issues within the maritime sector: *Decarbonisation, Judicial Sales, and Sanctions*. The event was held at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry in Valletta, Malta.

ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST ASSISTANT LECTURER ON SEAFARERS' RIGHTS ATTENDS ILO SYMPOSIUM



Between the 4 and 5 December 2025, Ms. Nour Nohra (ITF Seafarers' Trust Assistant Lecturer on Seafarers' Rights) attended the online *Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and Case Law Symposium* organised by the International Training Center of the International Labour Organisation (ITC-ILO).

FESTIVE SEASON AT IMLI

The Institute's annual Christmas light switch-on and decoration of its premises took place on 10 December 2025. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the students of the IMLI Class of 2025–2026, the IMLI Faculty and Staff came together to participate in this joyous occasion. Ornaments were placed on the Christmas tree until it was vibrantly decorated. This was followed by the Christmas tree light switch-on, which officially marked the beginning of the festive season at IMLI.



36th Annual Graduation

14 June 2025

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute held its 36th Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, 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 within the Government of Malta, and Members of the Diplomatic Corps. IMLI past graduates, IMLI former 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 received sterling training at IMLI.

During the Ceremony, Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) delivered the Graduation Address online, 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 the Ceremony in person due to delays in his flight schedules. 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 on decarbonization, noise and plastic pollution reduction, 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.

In his Welcoming Address, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez 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 for the very first time a candidate trained at IMLI.

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 from 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 have been possible without their generous support.



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



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



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

The Honourable Minister Bonett 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 expressed how proud Malta was, 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 Valedictory Address, on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025, was delivered by LCDR Vicedomini, in which he extended deepest appreciation to the Secretary-General of IMO, and the Director of IMLI for his vision

and dedication which has created an environment where the students could thrive and grow both academically and personally. LCDR 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 the IMLI studies.

The Addresses were followed by the conferment of degrees, concluding with the awarding of prizes for outstanding performances in various categories as listed below.

This culminated in the ringing of the ceremonial bell, signifying the official conclusion of the Graduation Ceremony and IMLI’s 36th Academic Year.



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



Graduates of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025

Prize Winners for the Academic Year 2024-2025



IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation:
Mr. Kunal Suresh Gaikwad
(India)



Government of Malta Prize for the Best Maritime Legislation Drafting Project:
Ms. Ramida Ismayilova
(Azerbaijan)



Professor David Attard Prize for Best Performance in the Law of the Sea:
Mr. Mcphyson Ndibalema
(Tanzania)



Transport Malta Prize for Best Performance in Shipping Law:
LCDR Sameera Lakshanta Hughmaye
(Sri Lanka)



Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholar:
LTJG Hind Deldou
(Morocco)



LRF Prize for the Best Performing Lloyd's Register Foundation Scholar:
Ms. Jacqueline Agyemang-Gyau
(Ghana)



Dr. Kofi Mbiah's Prize for the Best Performing African Scholar:
Ms. Christine Jesang Chongwo
(Kenya)



ITF Seafarers' Trust Prize on Seafarers' Law:
Ms. Nana Ama Gyamfua Marfo
(Ghana)



Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Malta Branch) Prize for Best Performance in Maritime Transport Law:
Ms. Tiffany Ann Hoenkirk
(Guyana)



REMPEC Marine Environment Law Prize:
CDR Prashant Bhatt
(India)



CMI Prize for Best Overall Performance:
LCDR Pietro Vicedomini
(Italy)

Fellowship Donors 2025-2026



INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

IMO continues to support IMLI's funding requirements by annually providing fellowships which are intended for deserving government nominated candidates who wish to pursue post-graduate studies in the full spectrum of international maritime law. Thanks to this funding, the following students were able to receive training at IMLI during the current academic year: Kristan Stubbs (Bahamas, the), Orlye Sandra Dzobosse (Cameroon), Fatoumata Mballow (Gambia, the), Nana Yaa Faibille (Ghana), Larry Ashie Djanie (Ghana), Amaan Mohamed Najeeb (Maldives), Abdelillah Bhilil (Morocco), Benedicto G. Manlapaz (Philippines, the), Ahmed Hassan Jama (Somalia), Kapugama Vithanage Aravinda Gihan Gunaratne (Sri Lanka), and Loveness Jacob Nyumayo (Tanzania). IMO also awarded a fellowship to Pudensiana Patrice Mrema (Tanzania) in collaboration with the Government of United Arab Emirates.



THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

The Nippon Foundation, through its joint project with IMLI, known as the "Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Legal Order for the Oceans," continues to support deserving government nominated fellows. For the academic year 2025-2026 the following students were selected as Fellows under the said Project: Danielle Christa-Joy Emanuel (Antigua & Barbuda), Sherneé Destini Symonette (Bahamas, the), Mariela del Carmen Martínez Perdomo (Honduras), Roy Mghanga Bwabi (Kenya), Romeo G. Clarke JR. (Liberia), Aishath Zahaa (Maldives), Elozino Faith Eteghrara (Nigeria), Justine Dawn Santos-Timpac (Philippines, the), Corrine Hilary Bernadette Rose (Seychelles), Gbakai Francis Kaindaneh (Sierra Leone), Ganepola Achchige Vishni Lakna Ganepola (Sri Lanka), John Kuyela Kidando (Tanzania), N'Koulete Yaovi Amedegou Kpadenou (Togo), and Can Berk Atasoy (Türkiye).



THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF) SEAFARERS' TRUST

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Seafarers' Trust has provided funding that enabled maritime professionals from mostly developing States to receive training in the Institute's LL.M. and M.Hum. programmes. For the current academic year, the ITF Seafarers' Trust provided five fellowships to government nominated officers to pursue training at IMLI. They are Rita Hamidu (Ghana), Senteu Koinary Tutui (Kenya), Anieli Fuatino Noa (Kiribati), A.M. Kasun B. Adikari (Sri Lanka), and Mafuru Mbuga Moses (Tanzania).



LLOYD'S REGISTER FOUNDATION

Lloyd's Register Foundation was established to fund the advancement in transport, science, engineering, and technology education, training and research worldwide for the benefit of all, and to enhance the safety of life and property at sea, land and in the air. Since 2002, the Foundation has been generously funding nominated candidates to IMLI. For the year 2025-2026, the Foundation sponsored Kefalotse Seratwa Tsalaiile-Mmese (Botswana), Salaseini Muavesi Lesianawai (Fiji), and Sifiso Kaula (South Africa).



EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY (EMSA)

In the year 2023, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) awarded the Institute a contract for services in the sum of Euro 600,000. Through this contract, EMSA has been sponsoring the studies of suitable government officers from beneficiary countries, in the Institute's masters' and Research Degree programmes. For the academic year 2025-2026, EMSA sponsored Othmane Lamrani (Morocco), Zahran Akef Waheed Hamdalla (State of Palestine), Shatlyk Garabegov (Turkmenistan), and Kharlov Artem (Ukraine) to pursue studies in the Institute's masters' programmes. It also sponsored Abdalla Keshlaf (Libya) and Ahmad Assasleh (Jordan) to pursue studies in IMLI's Research Degree Programme.



INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I CLUBS

The International Group of P&I Clubs, comprising of thirteen P&I Clubs, provides marine liability cover (protection and indemnity) for approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage. The aim of this Group is to inter alia, promote the insurance related interests of shipping companies as one voice. The Group has been supporting IMLI by providing a fellowship, which for this academic year, was awarded to Zaituni Simba Abdalla (Tanzania).



INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING

The International Chamber of Shipping is the global trade association for shipowners and operators, which represents the world's national shipowner associations, and over 80% of the world merchant fleet. A long-standing supporter of IMLI, the Chamber extended its collaboration with the Institute for this academic year through the provision of one fellowship to Carlo Nico B. Aguilana (Philippines, the).

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

In 2025, the Government of Malaysia supported IMLI through the provision of two full fellowships to Sarah Awenteme Abalansah (Ghana) and Mossie Wakil Kaima (Tanzania). The Government of the Republic of Korea continued to support the studies of government nominated officers and, thanks to its generous funding, Darlington Doue (Liberia) and Princess C. Aragon-Gebilaguin (Philippines, the) were able to pursue studies at IMLI for this academic year. The Government of Nigeria sponsored the training of two of their Government Officials, namely Omobola Akinmurele and Sally Ntui Omang. Other government entities who funded the studies of their officers include the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) which sponsored Florence Packshady Madelemo and Jamaly Juma Said; the Indian Coastguard which sponsored Rajat Mathuria; the Philippines Coast Guard which sponsored Reynaldo M. Gaano, and the Italian Coastguard which sponsored Ciro Bianco. For the very first time the Government of Belgium sponsored the studies of a Government officer to IMLI, namely Nuru Pipino from Tanzania. As already mentioned, the Government of the United Arab Emirates awarded a fellowship to Pudensiana Patrice Mrema (Tanzania) in collaboration with IMO. IMLI is also grateful to the Government of Malta for its continued and dedicated support.

Finances

Statement of Financial Performance and Fund Balances and Reserves (Euro)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (EURO)	2023	2024	2025
REVENUE			
DONOR CONTRIBUTION	603,171	428,414	653,578
FELLOWSHIPS AND FEES	1,914,930	2,166,448	2,086,074
Ph.D. PROGRAMME AND VISITING RESEARCHERS	6,793	35,338	30,371
SPECIALIZED COURSES AND PROJECTS	284,220	275,302	466,765
INVESTMENT INCOME	68,412	153,923	188,307
OTHER REVENUE	36,806	48,903	36,727
GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF INVESTMENTS	-	-	64,716
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	2,914,332	3,108,328	3,526,538
EXPENSES			
STAFF AND OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS	1,317,788	1,395,784	1,580,578
STUDENT DIRECT AND TRAINING COSTS	463,616	581,196	591,732
TRAVEL EXPENSES	24,673	27,512	38,327
LIBRARY MAGAZINES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	15,818	17,747	29,833
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	360,639	400,755	306,156
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	22,568	18,285	25,870
DEPRECIATION	64,911	66,004	54,203
SPECIALIZED COURSES AND PROJECTS COSTS	47,256	71,620	133,149
LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF INVESTMENTS	37,922	2,994	-
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	2,355,191	2,581,897	2,759,848
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	559,141	526,431	766,690
INCREASE IN FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	118,258	100,148	51,879
CURRENCY EXCHANGE DIFFERENCES	2,997	317	(6,596)
OTHER EXPENSE	(111,448)	-	-
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	568,948	626,896	811,973
FUND BALANCES AND RESERVES (EURO)			
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	4,116,790	4,685,738	5,312,634
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	568,948	626,896	811,973
RESERVES	148,603	148,603	148,603
NET EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER	4,834,341	5,461,237	6,273,210

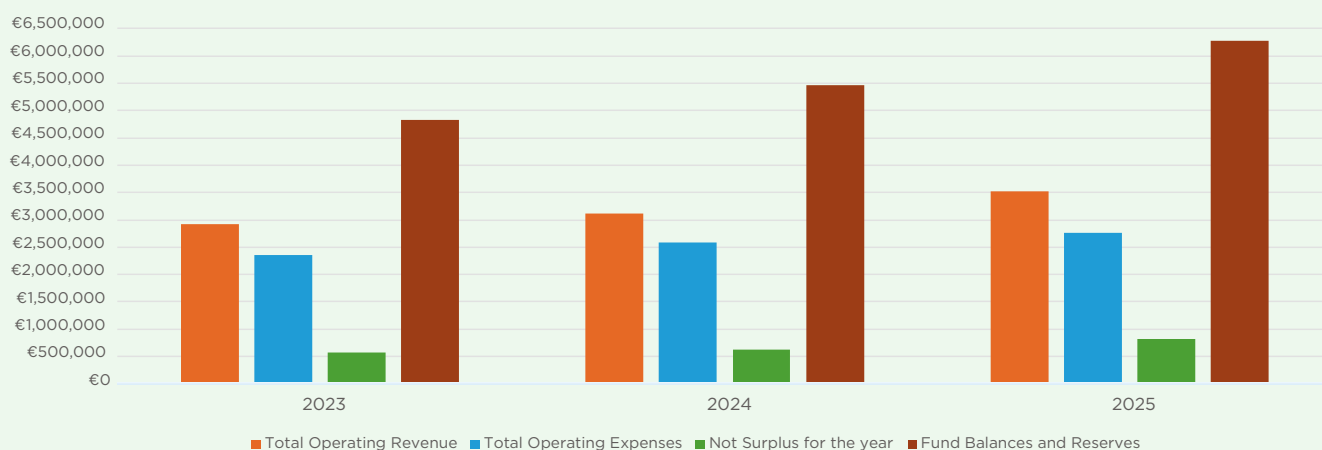
The Institute has steadily built up its Fund Balances and Reserves attributed to the surplus generated over the years since inception, which is transferred to form part of the Fund Balances and Reserves.

The Fund Balances and Reserves of EUR6.27 million as at 31 December 2025, will contribute to the long term financial sustainability of the Institute, and cover 227.3% or 27.3 months of sustainable operational support.

The External Auditor of IMO, *The Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia (BPK)*, has conducted the annual audit of the Institute's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2025, and thereafter expressed an unmodified audit opinion. Moreover, in the report, the Auditor declared that the key financial indicators remain sound and that the analysis of the key financial ratios demonstrates that the Institute has the ability to meet its liabilities.

The above figures are as per the Institute's audited financial statements.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND FUND BALANCES AND RESERVES (EURO)



DONOR CONTRIBUTION

	2024		2025	
	EURO	%	EURO	%
THE NIPPON FOUNDATION	329,097	76.82	325,733	49.84
GOVERNMENT OF MALTA	25,370	5.92	250,000	38.25
ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST	4,521	1.06	60,522	9.26
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA	50,000	11.67	-	-
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION	3,782	0.88	11,782	1.80
CMI CHARITABLE TRUST	5,044	1.18	3,401	0.52
PROFESSOR THOMAS J. SCHOENBAUM	-	-	1,000	0.15
PROFESSOR MICHAEL F. STURLEY	-	-	324	0.05
REMPEC	-	-	244	0.04
TRANSPORT MALTA	-	-	176	0.03
THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT, MALTA	-	-	296	0.05
PROFESSOR DAVID J. ATTARD	100	0.02	100	0.01
THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY	10,000	2.33	-	-
PROFESSOR A. SAKOTA	500	0.12	-	-
TOTAL	428,414	100.00	653,578	100.00

FELLOWSHIPS DONORS

A limited number of full fellowships are available to IMLI students annually on a competitive basis. The following donors provided fellowships:

	ACADEMIC YEAR	
	2024-2025	2025-2026
THE NIPPON FOUNDATION	15	14
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION	11	11
ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST	5	5
EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY	3	4
LLOYD'S REGISTER FOUNDATION	3	3
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2	2
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA	2	2
AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY	2	-
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING	1	1
INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I CLUBS	1	1
KINGDOM OF BELGIUM	-	1
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	-	1
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS	1	-

Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme 2025

Mr. Charles Abela (Malta)

Senior Project Officer, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA); Alternate Representative of the European Commission to IMO
“Port Security and Trade Facilitation”

Mr. Julián Abril García (Spain)

Head, Facilitation Section, Maritime Safety Division, IMO
“Benefits of Maritime Trade Facilitation for the Port States”

“Introduction to the IMO Facilitation Convention on International Maritime Traffic and Its Annex”

Professor Pinar Akan (Türkiye)

Head, Maritime Law Department, Marmara University
“Containerization: From Freight to Demurrage”

Ms. Sandra Rita Allnutt (Brazil)

Head, Technical Cooperation Analysis and Audit Integration, Sub-division for Planning and Programming, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO
“IMO’s Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID): Role and Achievements”

Judge Frida Maria Armas Pfirter (Argentina)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

“Provisional Measures”
“Conciliation”

Mr. Robert Ashdown (the United Kingdom)

Secretary General, International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

“The Role of the International Association of Classification Societies”

Dr. Paula Bäckdén (Sweden)

President, Swedish Maritime Law Association; Swedish Average Adjuster [Dispascheur]

“General Average: Practice and Procedure”

Professor Pieter Bekker (the Netherlands)

Chair in International Law, University of Dundee (UK)

“Maritime Limits and Boundaries: Legal & Scientific Delimitation Workshop”

Ms. Hassiba Benamara (Canada)

Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Section, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics (UNCTAD)

“Review of Maritime Transport: Navigating Maritime Chokepoints”

Mr. Marco Benatar (Belgium)

Legal Officer, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

“Limitations and Exceptions Under UNCLOS Part XV Section 3”

Professor Dr. h.c Philippe Boisson (France)

Maritime Arbitrator and Maritime Consultant to Bureau Veritas, Paris; Member, IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM)

“Maritime Safety Law, Realities and Perspectives in the 21st Century”

Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (Malta)

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works of Malta

“Malta – The Maritime Nation”

Professor Simone Borg (Malta)

Ambassador for Malta on Climate Action; Professor of Environmental and Resources Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta

“The Climate Change International Regulatory Framework Implications on the Maritime Sector”

Judge Kathy-Ann Brown (Jamaica)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

“International Dispute Settlement”

Dr. Alicia Bugeja Said (Malta)

Parliamentary Secretary, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Animal Rights of Malta

“Inaugural Address of the IMLI Workshop on IUU Fishing and Maritime Security”

Judge Oscar Cabello Sarubbi (Paraguay)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

“Advisory Opinion on Fishing in The EEZ of Other States (Case No. 21)”

Judge Ida Caracciolo (Italy)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

“Management of the Case: Creation and Coordination of the Legal Team”

Professor Laura Carballo Piñeiro (Spain)

Professor, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations, University of Vigo

“The Role of Port States in Upholding Maritime Labor Standards”

Mr. Andrew Chamberlain (the United Kingdom)

Partner, Holman, Fenwick & Willan

“Law of Salvage”

Ms. Patricia Charlebois (Canada)

Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, IMO

“Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI specialized Course on The Protection of the Marine Environment and Ocean Governance”

Ms. Aicha Cherif (France)

Legal Officer, Legal Affairs Office, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO
“Implementing IMO Instruments: Turning International Conventions into National Law”
“Workshop on General Principles of Drafting National Legislation”
“Fraudulent Registration and Fraudulent Registries of Ships”

Mr. Watchara Chiemankulkit (Thailand)

Chief, International Affairs Division, Marine Department, Thailand; Chair, IMO Facilitation Committee
“Wildlife Smuggling on Ships Engaged in International Maritime Traffic”

Professor Aldo Chircop (Malta)

Professor of Law/Former Canada Research Chair in Maritime Law & Policy (Tier I), Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University
“Access to Ports – Rights and Obligations of the Port States”

Dr. Iliana Christodoulou Varotsi (Cyprus/Greece)

Senior Legal Consultant and Lead Trainer
“Seafarers and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)”
“Challenges For Multi-Flagged Fleets in Ensuring Regulatory Compliance with the MLC: The Role of Maritime Administrations”

Mr. Andrew Clarke (the United Kingdom)

Technical Officer, Maritime Security Section, Maritime Safety Division, IMO
“The ISPS Code and its Implementation”
“IMO Model on the Whole of Government Approach to Maritime Security”

Dr. Kai-Dieter Classen (Germany)

Deputy Director External Affairs/SEC2-2 Workplace Internationalization, EU State Aid Law, Hamburg Port Authority
“The Green Ports Concept – Selected Public Policies for Greening Ports”

Dr. Robin Cleverly (the United Kingdom)

Maritime Boundary Expert, Marbdy Consulting Ltd
“Technical Aspects of the Recent Maritime Boundary Delimitation Cases”

Dr. Harry Conway (Liberia)

Alternate Permanent Representative of Liberia to IMO; Chair, IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
“A Governance Perspective on Marine Litter: Why Innovation is Crucial”

Dr. Ali Kamal Deen (Ghana)

Director-General, Ghana Maritime Authority
“Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy and Maritime Governance Frameworks”

Professor Alan Deidun (Malta)

Ocean Ambassador, Malta; Director, International Ocean Institute Malta Training Centre
“Ocean Acidification and Climate Change”

Ms. Gerardine Delanoye (Belgium)

Capacity Building & Resources Manager, IALA World-Wide Academy
“Introduction to IALA”
“IALA Risk Management Toolbox”
“IMO Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services”

Ms. Chiara Della Mea (Italy)

Head, Pollution Preparedness and Response Section, Sub-division for Ocean Policy and Pollution Response, Marine Environment Division, IMO
“Oil and Chemical Pollution Response – The International Regulatory Framework and a Review of Recent Incidents”

Mr. Rafael Duarte (Portugal)

Head of Sector Cooperation, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
“Overview of EFCA Activities and its Contribution to the Fight Against IUU Fishing”

Professor Peter Ehlers (Germany)

Former President of the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency
“Use of and Threats to the Oceans”
“What has Already been Done for Sustainable Ocean Governance?”
“What Needs to be Done for Sustainable Ocean Governance?”

Mr. Paul Falzon (Malta)

International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Inspector, Malta
“Abandonment – A Stark Reality”

Professor Michael G. Faure (Belgium)

Academic Director, Maastricht European Institute for Transnational Legal Research, Maastricht University
“Criminal Liability for Oil Pollution Damage: An Economic Analysis”

Dr. Ann Fenech (Malta)

President, Comité Maritime International
“The Role of the Maritime Law Practitioner: Local – International”
“General Characteristics of a Maritime Lawyer”
“Judicial Sale of Ships Convention and the CMI”

Dr. Stefano Filletti (Malta)

Leading Partner, Filletti & Filletti Advocates / Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ecuador in Malta
“UNCLOS and the Protection of the Marine Environment”

Professor Craig Forrest (Australia)

Director, Marine and Shipping Law Unit; Fellow, Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law, and Fellow, Australian Centre for Private Law
“Wreck Removal Convention and Potentially Polluting Wrecks”

Ambassador Vanessa Frazier (Malta)

Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations
“International Maritime Security: The Role of the UN Security Council”

Dr. Gotthard Gauci (Malta)

Lecturer, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Business, University of Plymouth
“Liability and Compensation in Case of Bunker Oil Pollution”

Professor Philippe Gautier (Belgium)

Registrar, International Court of Justice (ICJ)
“Treatment of Evidence and Expert Witness”

Ms. Gillian Grant (Canada)

Chair, IMO Legal Committee; HNS Project Manager, IOPC Funds
“Relevance of the HNS Convention for Ports”

Dr. Mitja Grbec (Slovenia)

Secretary-General, Maritime Law Association of Slovenia; Attorney-at-Law; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Management, University of Primorska
“Liability and Compensation Regimes in Case of Oil Pollution”

Dr. Omar Grech (Malta)

Associate Professor, Department of International Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta
“Introduction to International Human Rights”
“Human Rights at Sea”

Dr. Antoine Grima (Malta)

Head of the Environmental and Resources Law Department, University of Malta
“Sea Level Rise and International Security Implications”

Mr. Fredrik Haag (Sweden)

Head of Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs, Marine Environment Division, IMO
“Protection of the Marine Environment from Dumping of Waste and Other Matter”

Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison (the United Kingdom)

Vice-Chairman, IMLI Governing Board; Chairman, IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM)
“How to Succeed as an In-House Lawyer”

Mr. Omar Hassein (Morocco)

Head, Member State Audits, Department for Member State Audit and Implementation Support, IMO
“IMO Member State Audit Scheme – Port States Rights and Obligations under various IMO Instruments”

Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (Iceland)

President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
“Inaugural Address of the IMLI specialized Course on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes and Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries”
“Dispute Settlement under UNCLOS and the Role of ITLOS”
“Advisory Opinion of ITLOS on Climate Change”

Dr. Axel Henriksen (Germany)

Lawyer, Specialist in Commercial and Corporate Law
“Ship Building Contracts: A Practical Perspective”

Mr. Steven Hill (the United States of America)

Executive Secretary, International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law
“The Use of Force, Maritime Terrorism, and Lessons from NATO’s Migration Operations”

Dr. Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce (Chile/Germany)

Registrar, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
“Jurisdiction of the Tribunal”
“Relations Between ITLOS and State Parties”

Mr. Roel Hoenders (the Netherlands)

Head, Climate Action and Clean Air, Marine Environment Division, IMO
“Protection of the Marine Environment from Ships Emissions”

Dr. Jan Hoffmann (Germany)

Global Lead, Maritime Transport and Ports, The World Bank
“Role of Ports in Global Supply Chains, and Recent Trends and Outlooks”

Judge Maria Teresa Infante Caffi (Chile)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
“Appearing Before the Court: A Practitioner’s Perspective”

Mr. Måns Jacobsson (Sweden)

Academic Lecturer and Consultant in Maritime and Environmental Matters; Former Director and Chief Executive Officer, IOPC Funds
“Global Ocean Governance and the IMO Liability Conventions”

Mr. Vladimír Jares (Czech Republic)

Director, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS)
“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”

Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo (Spain)

Ramon y Cajal Research Fellow, University of Cadiz
“Extended Continental Shelf”
“Final Provisions of a Treaty: Entry into Force, Duration, and Termination”

Judge Maurice Kamga (Cameroon)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
“Prompt Release”

Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Poland)

Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO
“Inaugural Lecture of IMLI’s 37th Academic Year”

Professor Atsuko Kanehara (Japan)

Research Director, Canon Institute for Global Studies; Senior Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation; Member, IMLI Governing Board
“The Houthi Rebels’ Attack against Japan - Related Vessel in the Red Sea: An Idea of ‘The Right to Protect Uses of Sea’”

Professor Nobukatsu Kanehara (Japan)

Executive Councillor, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
“Turbulent International Situation and Japan”

Dr. Theofanis Karayannis (Greece)

Head, Marine Biosafety, Sub-division for Protective Measures, Marine Environment Division, IMO
“Implementation and Enforcement of the Ballast Water Management Convention”

Ambassador Nancy Karigithu (Kenya)

Special Envoy for Maritime and Blue Economy, Kenya; Member, IMLI Governing Board
“Blue Economy as a Crucial Action to Attain SDG 14 and Ocean Governance”

Dr. Şadan Kaptanoğlu (Türkiye)

CEO of Kaptanoğlu Shipping; Former President, BIMCO
“Maritime Governance: The Industry’s Perspective”

Professor Stuart B. Kaye (Australia)

Director and Professor of Law, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS)
“Addressing IUU Fishing through Enhanced Maritime Cooperation”

Mr. Andrew Kennedy (the United Kingdom)

Lloyd’s Register’s Global Head of Dispute Resolution and Compliance
“The Legal Position of Marine Classification Societies”

Mr. Frederick Kenney (the United States of America)

Adjunct Professor, Swansea University; Former Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO
“ISPS Code and Ports”
“Legal Foundations of the Black Sea Grain Initiative”

Ms. Lamia Kerdjoudj (France)

Secretary General, Federation of European Private Port Companies and Terminals (FEPORT)
“The Relationship between Shipowners and Ports”

Ms. Kiran Khosla (the United Kingdom)

Principal Director (Legal), Secretary, Insurance and Maritime Law Committee, International Chamber of Shipping (ICS); Member, IMLI Governing Board
“Consistent Application of the 1992 Convention on Liability and Compensation for Ship-Sourced Pollution”
“The Promotion of Greater Ratification of the International Maritime Conventions”

Judge Dr. Kriangsak Kittichaisaree (Thailand)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
“Legality of Enforcement Activities at Sea (ITLOS Cases No. 2, 19, 24, 25 and 30)”

Professor Natalie Klein (Australia)

ARC Future Fellow, UNSW Faculty of Law and Justice
“The International Legal Regime Relating to Underwater Maritime Autonomous Vehicles”

Professor James Kraska (the United States of America)

Chairman and Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Maritime Law, Stockton Center for International Law, US Naval War College
“The Right of Approach and Visit”

Ms. Tatjana Krilic (Croatia)

Deputy Director, Sub-division for Member State Audit and Implementation, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO
“Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI specialized Course on the Law of Ports”

Mr. Blaise Kuemlangan (Papua New Guinea)

Chief, Development Law Service, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
“FAO’s Work in Combatting IUU Fishing”

Judge Markiyani Z. Kulyk (Ukraine)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
“Advisory Proceedings under UNCLOS”

Ms. Sakura Kuma (Japan)

Executive Officer, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd.; Managing Director, MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte. Ltd.
“Digital-Driven Path to Decarbonization”

Dr. Khanssa Lagdami (France/Morocco)

Associate Professor of Maritime Labour Law & Policy, ITF Seafarers Trust (WMU)
“Seafarers’ Work: Challenges and Opportunities in an Era of Emerging Technologies and Green Shipping”

Rear Admiral Hermann Aicardo León Rincón (Colombia)

Director of Maritime and River Interests, Colombian Navy
“Science, Technology and Innovation: Cultural Heritage Governance Model through a Mission-Type Project. BIC San Jose Galleon”
“Maritime Security Challenges: A Colombian Strategic Perspective”

Judge Konrad Jan Marciniak (Poland)

Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
“Agreements on Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries”

Dr. Beatriz Martínez-Romera (Spain)

Associate Professor on Environmental and Climate Change Law, University of Copenhagen
“Regulating GHG Emissions from Shipping: Interactions Between IMO, Climate Regime & UNCLOS”

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (the United Republic of Tanzania)

Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme
“Navigating the Blue Frontier: Biodiversity, Ocean Conversation & International Maritime Law”

Dr. Emanuel Kofi Mbiah (Ghana)

Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Chamber of Shipping; Member, IMLI Governing Board
“Blue Economy”

Professor Robert McLaughlin (Australia)

Australian National University, Canberra
“Use of Force by the Private Maritime Security Guards and Vessel Protection Detachments Against Suspected Pirates”

Minister Fernanda Millicay (Argentina)

Minister, Director of Trade and Environment Department, Argentina Ministry of Foreign Affairs
“The New Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction”

Professor Alina Miron (Romania)

Professor of International Law, University of Angers, France
“Consultations and Identification of the Judicial Body & Preparation of Oral Pleading”

Dr. David K. Nanopoulos (France/Greece)

Chief of Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations
Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI specialized Course on the Law of Treaties: “Treaty Law and Practice: The UN Treaty Section’s Contribution to the International Treaty Framework”

Professor Kiara Néri (France)

Professor of Public International Law, University Jean Moulin, Lyon 3, France
“The Enforcement of the Conservation Regulations at Sea”

Ms. Federica Ninni (Italy)

Lawyer, Maritime Unit, International Labor Organization (ILO)
“MLC In Practice: Effective Implementation and the Role of the ILO Committee of Experts”

Brigadier Clinton J. O’Neill (Malta)

Commander, Armed Forces of Malta
“Maritime Domain and Security”

Mr. Lesther A. Ortega Lemus (Guatemala)

LexOceana
“The Contribution of ICJ to the Development of the Law on Settlement of Maritime Disputes”

Professor Adriana V. Padovan (Croatia)

Associate Professor and Scientific Advisor, Adriatic Institute, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts
“Shipbuilders’ Risks Insurance Contract”

Ms. Gina Panayiotou (Greece)

Founder and CEO, Oceans Arena
“ESG Compliance in Maritime”

Mr. Laurent Parenté (Republic of Vanuatu)

Director General, International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
“Regulatory Oversight of Certain Satellite Communication Systems and Coordination of the LRIT System”

Mr. Yuri Parkhomenko (Ukraine)

Partner, International Litigation and Arbitration, Foley Hoag LLP
“Filing Claims and Preparing Written Pleadings in Inter-State Disputes”

Mr. Marc Patel (the United Kingdom)

IMO Consultant
“Workshop on General Principles of Drafting National Legislation”

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Slovenia)

Head, Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member, IMLI Governing Board; Member, IMLI Academic Committee
“Marine Insurance Law”

Professor Raul (Pete) Pedrozo (the United States of America)

Howard S. Levie Professor of the Law of Armed Conflict, Stockton Center for International Law, US Naval War College
“The Right of Hot Pursuit”

Dr. Zuzanna Pełowska-Dąbrowska (Poland)

Professor, Department of Commercial Law, Maritime Law and Civil Procedure, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland
“Conflict of Laws and International Maritime Law”

Professor Dr. iur. Anna Petrig (Switzerland)

Chair of International Law and Public Law, University of Basel
“The Commission of Maritime Crimes with Autonomous Ships: Legal Challenges Ahead”
“The Role of ad hoc Judges”

Professor Alexander Proelss (Germany)

Director, International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS); Full Professor, University of Hamburg
“Oceans and Sustainable Development”

Professor Henrik Ringbom (Finland)

Professor of Marine Law, Åbo Akademi University; Professor, Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, University of Oslo
“Mass and Ports”

Dr. Agnes Rydberg (Sweden)

Deputy Director, Sheffield Centre for International and European Law, University of Sheffield; Lecturer in International Law
“Interim Obligations in the Law of Treaties”
“Principles of State Succession in Respect of Treaties”
“Conflict of Treaties”

Mr. Ivan Sammut (Malta)

Head of Office, Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)
“Regional Approach to Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Case of Pollution Incidents”

Mr. Abdulgani Serang (India)

Programme Development Manager, The ITF Seafarers’ Trust, UK
“Seafarers Mental Health and Wellbeing - Initiatives by Trade Unions”

Mr. Nick Shaw (the United Kingdom)

Chief Executive Officer, International Group of P&I Clubs
“P&I Clubs and their Important Role in the Compensatory Regime”

Captain Gurpreet S. Singhota (India)

Senior Adviser, STM Validation Project; Deputy Director (Retired), MSD, IMO
“COLREGs: An Overview”
“Operational Safety in the Maritime Context”

Professor Eka Siradze (Georgia)

Associated Professor, Faculty of Laws, International Law Institute, Tbilisi State University
“UN Global and Regional Treaties for the Oceans II: Regional Seas Programme”

Mr. Gaute Sivertsen (Norway)

Director, International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)
“The Fund Conventions and their Contribution to Adequate Compensation in Case of Pollution Incidents”

Dr. Chris Soler (Malta)

State Advocate, Malta
“Constitutional Office and the Functions of the State Advocate”

Professor Timothy Stephens (Australia)

Professor of International Law, University of Sydney Law School
“Baselines”

Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson (the United States of America)

Director Emeritus, Center for Seafarers’ Rights at Seamen’s Church Institute of New York and New Jersey
“Seafarers’ Rights under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006”

Professor Aleke Stöfen-O’Brien (Germany)

Assistant Professor, Research/Ocean Sustainability, Governance & Management, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute
“Accommodating a Future Plastics Treaty: The ‘Plasticity’ of UNCLOS”

Professor Michael Sturley (the United States of America)

Fannie Coplin Regents Chair in Law, School of Law, University of Texas, Austin
“The International Regimes Governing Carriage of Goods by Sea”

Professor Yoshifumi Tanaka (Japan)

Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Member, Centre for Private Governance (CEPRI)
“Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI Law of the Sea Module”
“Maritime Transport Policy Seminar”

Mr. Aret Taşçıyan (Türkiye)

Director, Lockton Omni
“P&I Insurance”

Professor George Theodoridis (Greece)

Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, World Maritime University (WMU)
“Annual Seminar on “Maritime Transport Policy”

Ms. Manuela Tomassini (Italy)

Head, Department of Sustainability and Technical Assistance, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
“EMSA in Support of the EU Environmental Agenda”

Dr. Lemonia Tsaroucha (Greece)

Senior Legal Officer, Security Inspector, Internal Market Affairs – Transport & Connectivity, EFTA Surveillance Authority
“Legal Foundations of the Black Sea Grain Initiative”

Dr. Nihan Ünlü (Türkiye)

Deputy Director/Head, Legal Affairs Office, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO
“Keynote Address of the Workshop on General Principles of Drafting National Legislation”

Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (Argentina)

Head, Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)
“Inaugural Lecture of the IMLI specialized Course on Seafarers’ Rights”

Mr. Robert van de Poll (the Netherlands)

Fugro’s Global Law of the Sea Director (responsible for A-to-Z LOS applications in 162 Countries); Geology Director, Dundee Ocean & Lake Frontiers Institute & Neutrals (DOLFIN)
“Maritime Limits and Boundaries: Legal & Scientific Delimitation Workshop”

Dr. Ivan Vella (Malta)

Director & Founding Partner, Vella Advocates; Member, Maritime Law Advisory Council
“International Conventions on Maritime Liens and Mortgages”

Dr. Patrick Verhoeven (Belgium)

Managing Director, International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)
“International Policy and Regulation for Seaports: Global and European Perspectives”

Ms. Jennifer Watson (the United Kingdom)

IMO Consultant
“Workshop on General Principles of Drafting National Legislation”

Ms. Michelle Wiese Bockmann (Australia)

Maritime Intelligence Journalist and Analyst
“Understanding the Dark Fleet and its Legal and Security Challenges”

Mr. Godwin Xerri (Malta)

Chairman of the Worldwide Ship Agencies Association (WWSA) and Chairman of the Malta Maritime Forum
“Shipping Law: An Overview”
“Sale and Purchase Procedure”
“Management and Operation of Ships”

Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada (Japan)

Director, Maritime Safety Division, IMO
“Inaugural lecture of the IMLI specialized Course on International Maritime Security Law”

Captain Joseph Zerafa (Malta)

Maritime Consultant
“Technical Aspects of Shipping”

Academic Projects 2024-2025

LL.M. Programme

Ms. Ramida Ismayilova (Azerbaijan)

Specialist, Law Department, State Maritime and Port Agency, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport
Comparative Legal Frameworks for Underwater Cultural Heritage in International Maritime Law: Application in the Caspian Sea* / A Set of Laws and Regulations to Implement IMO Resolution A.1079(28) - Recommendations for the Training and Certification of Personnel on Mobile Offshore Units in the Laws of Azerbaijan**

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Assistant Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Legal Affairs

A Legal Analysis of the Effectiveness of the Paris Agreement and its Significance for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as a Small Island Developing State* / A Law to Provide for the Incorporation of the 2022 Amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006 into the Laws of the Bahamas and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof**

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Partner, Private Sector Engineering Company

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Payment Executive Process Lawyer

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Ms. Oumouri Fazda (Comoros)

Marine Casualties Investigation, Maritime Administration, Security and Safety Department, National Agency of Maritime Affairs

Exploring Legal Challenges and Opportunities of the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean: A Comorian Perspective* / A Law to Incorporate the London Convention 1972 and London Protocol 1996 into the Laws of Comoros and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof**

Ms. Pälvi Sirikit Virpi Parisius (Curaçao)

Senior Legal Advisor, Maritime Authority of Curaçao

The Small Commercial Vessel Code in Curaçao: A Pathway to Safer Maritime Operations* / Ship to Ship Operations Bylaw**

Ms. Tigst Getahun Asfaw (Ethiopia)

Legal Executive Director, Ministry of Transport and Logistics

Linking Ethiopia to Global Maritime Routes: A Legal Analysis of Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements* / A Law to Incorporate the London Convention 1972 and its Protocol 1996 into the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof**

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Principal Legal Officer, Office of the Attorney-General

Exploring Conciliation under UNCLOS as a Recommendation for Resolving Maritime Boundary Disputes: A Case Study of Claims over the Minerva Reef* / A Bill to Amend the Maritime Transport Act 2013 to Incorporate the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks 2007 and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof**

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Lieutenant, Legal Officer, The Gambia Armed Forces

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Ms. Sandra Adu Boakyewaa (Ghana)

Assistant Officer, Legal, Ghana Maritime Authority

Assessing the Implementation and Enforcement of Seafarers Rights under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC 2006): A Case Study of Ghana* / Ghana Shipping (Load Lines) Regulations, 2025 - Regulations to Provide for the Effective Implementation of the International Convention on Load Lines, as Amended in the Laws of Ghana**

Ms. Jacqueline Agyemang-Gyau (Ghana)

Assistant Officer, Maritime Service Division, Ghana Maritime Authority

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Ms. Florence Nuamaa Darko (Ghana)

Assistant Legal Officer, Ghana Maritime Authority

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Ms. Tiffany Ann Hohenkirk (Guyana)

Legal Officer, Maritime Administration Department
International Maritime Law Enforcement and Compliance Measures to Develop Smart and Green Ports in the Republic of Guyana to Achieve the Blue Economy* / Bunker Oil Pollution (Liability and Compensation) Act**

Ms. Edenia Del Carmen Suazo Guifarro (Honduras)

Legal Officer, General Directorate of the Merchant Marine of Honduras
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Private Lawyer
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COMDT Asha Dahiya (India)

Commandant, Legal Officer, Indian Coast Guard
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Ag. Principal Legal Officer, Kenya Wildlife Service
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Mr. Nevis Obino Ombasa (Kenya)

Principal State Counsel
A Legal Analysis of the Challenges Hindering the Adoption of Alternative Fuels as a Means to Combat Green Gas House Emissions* / The Merchant Shipping Control Regulations of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems**

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Litigation Counsel, Kenya Revenue Authority
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Mr. Patterson Nyenati Blamo (Liberia)

Legal Assistant
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Lawyer
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Legal Officer
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Senior Legal Officer, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
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Manager, Legal, Nigerian Ports Authority

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Commander, Officer in Charge Coast Guard Legal Unit - Finance Service, Philippines Coastguard

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Mr. Daniel Martin Gabisan Oral (The Philippines)

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Search and Rescue Co-ordinator

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Legal Researcher

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Legal Consultant

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State Counsel, Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice

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Court Clerk

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Legal Services Officer

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Mr. Mesia Ernest Gang'olo (the United Republic of Tanzania)

Magistrate

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M.Hum. Programme

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The Future of Seafaring in the Era of Automation*** / Ghana Shipping (Occupational Safety, Health and Accident Prevention) Regulation, 2025 (Subsidiary Legislation to Incorporate the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (Regulation 4.3) into the Laws of Ghana and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof)**

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Commander Prashant Bhatt (India)

Commander (Doctrine & Concepts), Indian Navy
Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships and the Evolving Security Framework under International Maritime Law*** / An Act to Amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLND) 2010, to Incorporate the NUCLEAR 1971, into the Republic of India’s Laws and to Provide for the Effective Implementation thereof**

LCDR Pietro Vicedomini (Italy)

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LTJG Alberto Hernández Gastelú (Mexico)

Lieutenant Junior Grade, Mexican Navy
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LTJG Hind Deldou (Morocco)

Lieutenant Junior Grade, Head of International and National Cooperation Section, State Action at Sea Division, Royal Moroccan Navy
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LTJG Btissam Maaras (Morocco)

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M.Jur. Programme

Mr. Alpha Muctarr Jalloh (Sierra Leone)

Head of Chambers, B&J Partners, Barristers and Solicitors
Advisory Opinions and the CLCS: A Viable Dispute Resolution Alternative to UNCLOS Part XV Compulsory Procedures*

Advanced Diploma Programme

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** Drafting Project

*** Research Project



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