



IMLI NEWS



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IMLI DIRECTOR DELIVERS THE BERLINGIERI LECTURE AT CMI COLLOQUIUM IN BRAZIL

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered the prestigious Berlingieri Lecture entitled “50th Anniversary of the Convention on Limitation of Liability 1976” during the opening day of the 2026 CMI Colloquium which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 14 May 2026. Named in honour of Professor Francesco Berlingieri, former President of the CMI and one of the most distinguished figures in maritime law, the Lecture remains one of the most prestigious addresses in the field of international maritime law.

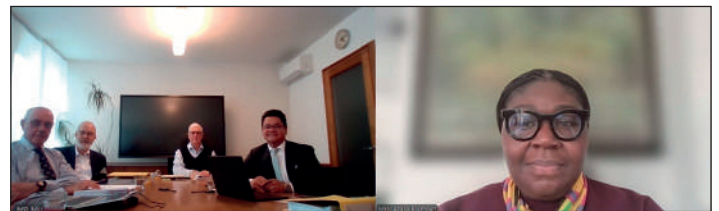


Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) the prestigious Berlingieri lecture delivering the 2026 CMI Colloquium



IMLI FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS MEETING IN SWITZERLAND

The IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee (FINCOM) held its first meeting for the year 2026 to discuss important governance, financial, and personnel matters in Basel, Switzerland. Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison (Former Group Legal Director, Lloyd’s Register) presided over the meeting in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee. On the occasion, the IMLI Director expressed his sincere appreciation to the members of the Committee for their continued guidance, commitment, and valuable support in strengthening the governance and operational framework of the Institute.



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

IMLI had the distinct pleasure of welcoming again the Honourable Dr. Chris Bonett MP (then Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works, Malta) on 15 January 2026. Minister Bonett was warmly greeted by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff, and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026. On the occasion of his visit, Minister Bonett delivered a lecture entitled “Malta - The Maritime Nation”. In his presentation, Minister Bonett described how Malta has evolved through the ages to transition into a maritime nation.



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

IMLI DIRECTOR ATTENDS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION

On 10 March 2026, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) had the distinct pleasure of participating in a high-level commemorative event organised by Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo (Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO)), in celebration of the 20th anniversary since the adoption of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), which was held at the ILO Headquarters in Geneva.



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

Amongst the eminent speakers was Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), who

participated in the discussion entitled “Delivering Impact on Seafarers’ Rights: The MLC 20 years on”. On this occasion, Professor Martínez Gutiérrez also engaged with Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (Head of the Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, ILO), to discuss further the enhanced collaboration between IMLI and ILO for the effective implementation of the Convention.

Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (Head of the Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, ILO) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



ANNUAL FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

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

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



Country Flags on Display in the IMLI Foyer

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

IMO held its “Workshop on General Principles of Drafting National Legislation to implement IMO Conventions” at IMLI between 20 and 23 January 2026. Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) headed the team of IMO experts. Alongside Ms. Cherif, IMLI had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. George Demetriades (Audit Officer, Sub-division for Member State Audit and Implementation, IMO), Ms. Jennifer Watson (Legal Consultant, UK Department for Transport; Legal Consultant, IMO), and Mr. Marc Patel (Legal Consultant, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, UK; Legal Consultant, IMO) who together delivered several presentations both *in-situ* and online to the IMLI Class. The Workshop commenced with an overview of the implementation of IMO Conventions, highlighting the roles and responsibilities of flag, port and coastal States, as well as key concepts such as the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) and the meaning of “to the satisfaction of the Administration”. Participants were also introduced to the law-making process in common law countries, followed by sessions on drafting national legislation for the effective implementation of IMO instruments.

A significant part of the programme was dedicated to drafting exercises, allowing the participants to apply theoretical knowledge into practice. These exercises dealt with major IMO conventions such as the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs), the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). Each exercise was supported by expert guidance from the IMO Team and concluded with detailed debriefing sessions, encouraging reflection and peer discussion.

The final day of the Workshop included discussions on gender-related issues in the maritime and legislative drafting context which were followed by a feedback session where participants shared their experiences and the lessons they had learned. This Workshop marked yet another successful and intensive capacity-building programme that enhanced the participants’ ability to draft clear, effective national legislation which aligned with IMO conventions.



Ms. Aicha Cherif (Legal Officer, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Ms. Jennifer Watson (Legal Consultant, UK Department for Transport; Legal Consultant, IMO), and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

113TH SESSION OF THE IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE

The 113th Session of the IMO Legal Committee (LEG 113) was held between 13 and 17 April 2026 at IMO’s Headquarters in London. During this Session, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) made an intervention wherein he outlined IMLI’s activities and developments for the year 2025.

IMLI is proud to record that many of its graduates attended this event as part of their countries’ delegations. These delegates along with the IMLI graduates who work at IMO joined Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) for the traditional commemorative photo taken during these sessions.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering his intervention during the 113th Session of the IMO Legal Committee (LEG 113)



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI graduates who are part of their countries’ delegations together with those graduates who work at IMO

ANNUAL CLASS FIELD TRIP TO LONDON

As part of the IMLI programme, the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 participated in the annual Field trip held in London. During this event, the Class had the opportunity of observing the proceedings of the 113th Session of the IMO Legal Committee held at IMO Headquarters. As part of their visit to IMO, the students also had the privilege of meeting Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and to take a commemorative photo with him and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI).

During the Field Trip the Class visited various maritime landmarks including the IOPC Funds, ITF Seafarers’ Trust, Lloyd’s Register Foundation, International Group of P&I Clubs, International Association of Classification Societies, International Mobile Satellite Organization, and the International Chamber of Shipping. As part of the Field Trip activities, the female students of the IMLI Class attended individual meetings with their respective mentors under the IMO Gender Mentorship Programme at IMO Headquarters.

The IMLI Class attended an event hosted by Lloyd’s Register Foundation at IMO Headquarters, during which, a short film entitled “Voices of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute” was screened. This video featured a series of testimonials portraying the significant contributions and positive impact of Foundation-sponsored IMLI graduates within the national maritime sector. Dr. Tim Slingsby (Director of Skills and Education, Lloyd’s Register Foundation), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Ms. Kefalotse Seratwa Tsalale-Mmese (Botswana, member of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026) and Ms. Ruth Boumphrey (Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd’s Register Foundation) addressed the students and countries’ delegates who were in attendance. The event was followed by a reception generously hosted by the Foundation.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the IMLI Faculty and the IMLI Class of 2025-2026



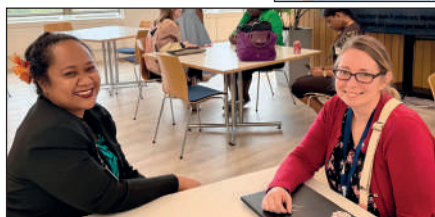
IMLI Class of 2025-2026 at IMO



IMLI Class of 2025-2026 at Lloyd's Register Foundation



Female members of IMLI Class of 2025-2026 meeting their Mentors as part of the IMOGender Mentorship Programme



Members of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 at the International Mobile Satellite Organization



Members of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 at the IOPC Funds



Members of the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 at the ITF Seafarer's Trust



The distinguished Panel that addressed the IMLI Class of 2025-2026 at the Lloyd's Register Foundation event

IMLI DIRECTOR LECTURES AT ITLOS

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a presentation titled “*The IMO Conventions and the Law of the Sea*” at the ITLOS - Nippon Foundation Capacity Building and Training Programme. This joint programme was held at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany on 16 February 2026. The IMLI Director's presentation was a component within the Module entitled “*Convention Institutions and other Relevant Organisations*”. During this visit, Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez also had the pleasure of meeting with Judge Tómas H. Heiðar (President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea [ITLOS]). President Heiðar has visited IMLI on many occasions throughout the years and delivered insightful presentations to the IMLI students.



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



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with the participants of the ITLOS - Nippon Foundation Capacity Building and Training Programme

IMLI DIRECTOR DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE 7TH ADRIATIC MARITIME LAW CONFERENCE HELD IN SLOVENIA

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated at the 7th Adriatic Maritime Law Conference held in Izola, Slovenia on 10 April 2026. On this occasion, he delivered a Keynote Speech entitled “*IMO and Global Ocean Governance: IMO's Role in the Development of Generally Accepted International Rules or Standards*”. The Conference brought together many renowned experts including, Professor Dr.

Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member, IMLI Governing Board) and IMLI graduates Dr. Mitja Grbec (Slovenia, Class of 2001), Professor Adriana V. Padovan (Croatia, Class of 2003), and Ms. Maja Radunović (Montenegro, Class of 2019). During this event an *Honorary Membership of the Maritime Law Association of Slovenia* was conferred on the IMLI Director.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Professor Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member, IMLI Governing Board), together with IMLI graduates Dr. Mitja Grbec (Slovenia, Class of 2001), Professor Adriana V. Padovan (Croatia, Class of 2003), and Ms. Maja Radunović (Montenegro, Class of 2019).

IMLI DIRECTOR LECTURES AT WMU

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a presentation at World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden on 23 April 2026. It was entitled “*Legal Drafting for Implementation of International Conventions: Considerations when Drafting Conventions - National Law Challenges - Implementation of Conventions*”. On the occasion of his visit to WMU, Director Martínez Gutiérrez had the opportunity of holding a meeting with his mentee Ms. Natalia Suárez Triviño (Colombia).



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Dr. Khansa Lagdami (Associate Professor of Maritime Labour Law and Policy, ITF Seafarers Trust, World Maritime University [WMU]) together with the Course participants

FAO HOLDS ITS INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON FISHERIES LAW WITH THE TECHNICAL COLLABORATION OF IMLI

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) once again organized its International Course on Fisheries Law with the technical collaboration of IMLI. The Course, which was held at IMLI, ran from 20 April to 8 May 2026 and hosted 19 professionals hailing from Albania, Belize, Dominica, Egypt, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Tanzania, and Türkiye. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered the opening



address of the Course, followed by the Inaugural Lecture delivered by Ms. Carolina Torresano (Fishery Officer, FAO). At the end of the Course a formal Closing Ceremony was held, during which participants were awarded Certificates of Attendance.

CLASS FIELD TRIP TO THE ECO NAPOLI VESSEL

IMLI students visited *The Eco Napoli* vessel at the Valletta Gateway Terminal, Laboratory Wharf. The vessel is a modern Ro-Ro (Roll-on/Roll-off) ship which is operated by Grimaldi Group under its Grimaldi Lines brand. During the visit, students gained first-hand experience of the vessel’s daily operations. The Chief Mate explained the ship’s operational procedures, cargo handling processes, and navigation systems. Students toured the main deck, cargo deck, and the bridge, where they were introduced to essential bridge equipment and safety management systems. Special emphasis was placed on maritime safety protocols. The crew explained emergency procedures, including muster station arrangements, life-saving appliances, and the correct actions to take in case of ship abandonment. The visit provided valuable practical insight into Ro-Ro vessel operations and reinforced the importance of safety, teamwork, and professionalism at sea. Students were also provided a tour of the harbour by the *Matis* tugboat owned by Polaris Marine, which offers off-shore vessel support services inside and outside Maltese territorial waters.

IMLI extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Godwin Xerri (Managing Director, Combined Maritime Services Limited), Mr. Kurt Pisani (Port and Marine Operations Manager, Sullivan Maritime), and the officials of Valletta Gateway Terminals—Ms. Annabelle Xuereb, Mr. Saviour Farrugia, and Mr. Randolph Mamo—the seafarers of the *Eco Napoli* vessel, in particular Luca (Chief Mate), and Polaris Marine for their valued assistance in facilitating a unique and enriching experience for IMLI students.



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