

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Circulated in more than 150 States



THE IMLI GOVERNING BOARD HOLDS ITS 40TH SESSION IN MALTA

IMLI had the pleasure of hosting the 40th session of the IMLI Governing Board at its own premises in Malta. The meeting was chaired by the IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Arsenio Domínguez, in his capacity as Chair of the Governing Board. The Board discussed important governance matters, including the substantive work of the Institute's Academic and Financial and Human Resources Committees. The Board approved the Institute's initiative to introduce multilingualism in the maritime legislation drafting projects which will be prepared by the IMLI students. Accordingly, IMLI students will be able to prepare their drafting projects in either English, French or Spanish.



The Members of the IMLI Governing Board

From L-R: Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the IMO), LCDR Paula Grillo (Lieutenant Commander, Head of International Regulations Division, Safety of Navigation Directorate, Argentine Coast Guard), Vice Admiral Cristiano Aliperta (Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to IMO), Professor Atsuko Kanehara (Research Director for the Canon Institute for Global Studies and Senior Fellow for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General; Chair, IMLI Governing Board), Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarers' Trust), Dr. Tim Slingsby (Director of Skills and Education, Lloyd's Register Foundation), Ms. Kiran Khosla (Principal Director (Legal), Secretary, Insurance and Maritime Law Committee, International Chamber of Shipping), and Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO)

The Board also discussed the revisions to the Institute's Statute which the Secretary-General initiated for approval by the IMO Council. Other important matters related to the Institute's financial position, amendment to its regulatory framework, as well the implementation of the Institute's Strategic Plan.

The Director thanked all the Board Members for their contribution to the Institute's governance, especially its Chair for the unwavering support.



The Members of the IMLI Governing Board together with the IMLI Class of 2025-2026

Prior to the commencement of the Board meeting, Chair Domínguez unveiled a commemorative plaque officially inaugurating the beautifully refurbished Board Room. In tribute to a monumental legacy, the room has been officially named the C.P. Srivastava Board Room.

*Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General;
Chair, IMLI Governing Board)
unveiling the name plaque of the newly refurbished
C.P. Srivastava Board Room*





The newly refurbished C.P. Srivastava Board Room where the Board held its meeting

DELEGATION FROM CÔTE D'IVOIRE VISITS IMLI

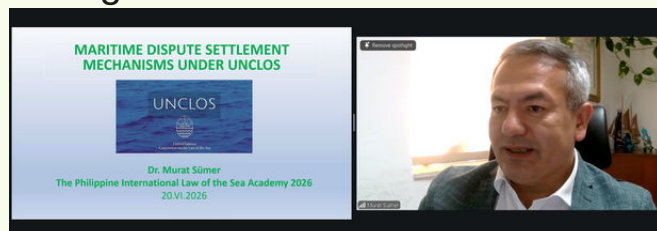
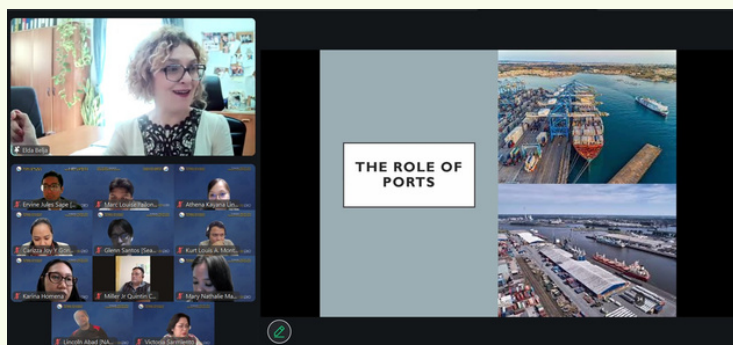
A delegation from Côte d'Ivoire paid a courtesy visit to the Institute. Headed by Mr. Benjamin Dauangui B. Soriano (Chief of Delegation, Ministry of Maritime Affairs), the delegation was warmly welcomed by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI), IMLI Faculty and Staff. Ms. Kazara-Belja delivered a presentation introducing IMLI, its mission and its programmes to the members of the delegation. This was followed by a discussion meeting between the Delegation, Ms. Kazara-Belja and the members of the IMLI Faculty on possible future cooperation between IMLI and Côte d'Ivoire's authorities.



Mr. Benjamin Dauangui B. Soriano (Chief of Delegation, Ministry of Maritime Affairs) and Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI) together with the members of the Delegation from Côte d'Ivoire and the members of the IMLI Faculty

IMLI MEMBERS OF STAFF LECTURE AT THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA ACADEMY 2026

IMLI Members of Staff delivered several lectures to the Philippine International Law of the Sea Academy. For the year 2026, Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI) delivered a lecture entitled “*Internal Waters and Port State Control and Jurisdiction*”. Dr. Murat Sumer (The Nippon Foundation Assistant Professor in International Maritime Law) delivered a lecture entitled “*Maritime Dispute Settlement Mechanisms under UNCLOS*”. Dr. Rafael Prado (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance) also lectured on “*the Regime of Marine Protected Areas in the Law of the Sea*”.



IMLI DIRECTOR MEETS DELEGATES FROM KEY NIGERIAN MARITIME INSTITUTIONS

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) held a successful consultative meeting with Delegates from key Nigerian maritime institutions on 7 July 2026. Attending this meeting were Mr. Yusuf Girei (Board Chairman/Acting Managing Director/CEO, National Inland Waterways Authority), Barrister Akutah Pius Ukeyima (Executive Secretary, Nigeria Shippers Council), Dr. Kevin Okonna (Rector, Maritime Academy of Nigeria), and members of Nigeria’s Permanent Mission to IMO. During this meeting, possible future cooperation between IMLI and the Nigerian authorities was discussed.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with the Delegates from the Nigerian maritime institutions

IMLI DIRECTOR MEETS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION



On 8 July 2026, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) held a meeting in London with Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation).

During this meeting, Executive Director Unno and Director Martínez Gutiérrez discussed the Institute's latest developments and key achievements. The discussions covered student outcomes, new admissions, personnel updates, and significant milestones recently reached, highlighting the Institute's continued progress and commitment to academic excellence and organisational growth.

IMLI DIRECTOR DELIVERS TWO INTERVENTIONS AT THE 137TH SESSION OF THE IMO COUNCIL

During the 137th Session of the IMO Council, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered two interventions. The Director's first intervention outlined the Institute's capacity-building activities and initiatives, as well as institutional developments that have occurred during the calendar year 2025.

This was followed by a second, equally important intervention, wherein the IMLI Director informed the IMO Council that, in line with the IMO Assembly and the Council's commitment to multilingualism, IMLI's Governing Board has approved a new initiative allowing students to prepare their maritime legislation drafting projects in English, French, or Spanish. He explained that this measure will enhance legal accuracy by enabling students to draft in national or official languages, while strengthening inclusivity in legal education and supporting IMO's phased multilingualism roadmap. The Director noted that the initiative will contribute to more effective implementation of maritime treaty obligations and will reaffirm IMLI's role in advancing IMO's global legal training efforts.

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) intervening during the 137th Session of the IMO Council

