

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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IMLI CONTRIBUTES TO THE IMO SMART-C LEADERS PROJECT HELD IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

IMLI's contributions toward IMO's initiatives and goals for knowledge dissemination and expertise sharing continued with participation in the SMART-C Leaders Project. This project helps build capacity for Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to implement IMO conventions and strengthen maritime safety governance.

This on-going project supports improvements in ship inspection, port state control, flag state inspection, and implementation of corrective action plans following the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) audits. The focus of this project is on the challenge of integrating more than 50 IMO treaties into national legislation by strengthening legal and administrative frameworks, developing training materials, establishing an online platform for IMO conventions, assessing IT infrastructure, delivering professional training for maritime leaders, supporting CAP implementation, and improving project management and communication systems.

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI) delivered several presentations as part of this initiative which took place in Tonga and Vanuatu at the beginning of July 2026.





Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI) together with the participants of the IMO SMART-C Leaders Project



IMLI DIRECTOR CONTRIBUTES TO THE 14TH ANNUAL WORLD CONGRESS OF OCEAN 2026 IN HELSINKI

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) participated as a Speaker at the 14th Annual World Congress of Ocean 2026 held in Helsinki, Finland. The Director delivered a presentation entitled *“Developing and Implementing International Shipping Standards: IMO’s Role in Global Ocean Governance”* during the Congress’s first session, on *“Maritime Law and Blue Economy”*.



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

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a presentation entitled “*Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims*” at the Khas International Law of the Sea Summer Academy on 30 July 2026 in Istanbul, Türkiye.

The Academy was organized by Kadir Has Üniversitesi 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.

Professor Aslıhan Erbaş Açikel (Assistant Professor of Maritime Law, Faculty of Law, Kadir Has Üniversitesi and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



During this trip, Director Martínez Gutiérrez also had the pleasure of meeting IMLI graduates who attended the event.



*Mr. Suriya N. Sundarajan (India, Class of 2021)
Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
(Director, IMLI) and Ms. Esther Rodriguez
Alvarado (Mexico, Class of 2024)*

IMLI DIRECTOR LECTURES AT IFLOS SUMMER ACADEMY

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered a lecture to the participants of the 2026 International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS) Summer Academy, which was held at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg between 19 July and 14 August 2026. The IMLI Director's lecture was entitled "*Maritime Law: Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims*".

Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez was warmly welcomed and introduced to the Academy's participants by Dr. Maurus Wollensak (IFLOS Summer Academy Director). During his visit, he also had the pleasure of meeting with a number of IMLI graduates attending this Academy.



Dr. Maurus Wollensak (IFLOS Summer Academy Director) introducing Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



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



Dr. Maurus Wollensak (IFLOS Summer Academy Director) giving a token of appreciation to Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with IMLI graduates that attended this Course