

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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IMLI WELCOMES ITS 38TH GENERATION OF MARITIME PROFESSIONALS

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) welcomed on 30 September 2026 its 38th generation of maritime professionals who commenced their studies at the Institute for the academic year 2026–2027. The newly admitted students participated in an orientation session conducted by the Members of the Institute's Staff, providing them with an introduction to the Institute and its academic and administrative frameworks.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Faculty and Staff, together with Members of the IMLI Class of 2026-2027



The Institute records with pride that 77 students from 46 States will receive quality training in the full spectrum of international maritime law within all the programmes offered at IMLI. In line with the Institute's longstanding policy of reserving 50% of its places for female students, a total of 41 female candidates have enrolled in all the Institute's programmes.

On 1 October 2026, the newly enrolled Class was formally welcomed to the Institute by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), during their first official meeting with him. The occasion marked the beginning of their academic journey at IMLI and provided an opportunity for the Director to extend his warmest welcome to the Class.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) meeting the IMLI students

Following his meeting with the students, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director IMLI) proceeded to deliver the *Welcoming Address*, wherein he introduced the Class of 2026-2027 to IMLI, its history, its mission, and its goals.

Professor Dr.
Norman A. Martínez
Gutiérrez (Director
IMLI) delivering the
Welcoming Address
to the IMLI Class of
2026-2027





The Director informed the students that IMLI was set up nearly four decades ago to train maritime experts in the whole spectrum of international maritime law and on the incorporation and the effective implementation of IMO treaties and rules into their domestic legislation.

Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez highlighted to the Class that, since its establishment, IMLI has seen 1,311 maritime professionals from 156 States and territories successfully graduate from its various programmes. He further noted that, thanks to the specialised education and training received at IMLI, many of its graduates have gone on to hold influential positions within their national administrations and international fora. A significant number also lead or serve as members of their respective countries' delegations to the IMO.

Prior to the Director's Address, Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Chief of Administration, IMLI) guided the students through the Oath of Allegiance to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute.



Class of 2026-2027 taking the Oath of Allegiance to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute

At the conclusion of the Director's Address, Ms. Kazara-Belja invited the students to formally introduce themselves to the Director, Staff and their classmates.



IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL OFFICIALLY INAUGURATES IMLI'S 38TH ACADEMIC YEAR

On 6 October 2026, the Institute welcomed Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) who officially inaugurated IMLI's 38th Academic Year.

Secretary-General Domínguez was warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the Institute's Faculty and Staff, and the Class of 2026–2027, as this newest generation of maritime professionals gathered to embark on their academic journey at IMLI.



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), meeting members of the IMLI Class of 2026-2027



Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) signing the distinguished visiting fellows' book

Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) together with members of the IMLI Class of 2026-2027



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

Mr. Arsenio Domínguez (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivering the Inaugural Address of the IMLI 38th Academic Year



In his Inaugural Address, the Secretary-General shared his perspective on the remarkable evolution of the Organization over the years, highlighting its continued transformation and the wide range of initiatives currently shaping its work and advancing the goals of global maritime community. He also shared invaluable professional advice with the Class, drawing on his own experience to inspire the students as they embark on the next stage of their careers in international maritime law.

Following his Address, Secretary-General Domínguez engaged with the students, responding to questions raised by both those present in the auditorium and those participating online.



Members of the IMLI Class of 2026-2027 posing their queries to the IMO Secretary-General



The questions covered a broad range of topics, including specific legal and technical matters, the functions of the Organization and its work for a sustainable shipping. His answers also provided reflections on the Secretary-General Domínguez’s own professional experiences and career.

The inauguration culminated with the ringing of the ceremonial bell, officially ushering in the 38th Academic Year and signalling the start of a new phase of learning, professional development and international engagement at IMLI.