The Role of the IMO
International Maritime Law Institute and its Contribution

A SMALL INSTITUTION WITH A GLOBAL MISSION

IMLI Governing Board

IMLI Staff
Origins of IMLI

By the end of the 1980s the International Maritime Organization (IMO) had adopted numerous treaties, regulations and prescriptions to regulate maritime affairs.

These legal instruments were not however adhered to by a considerable number of Member States, especially developing States.

This was a major problem for, if such instruments are to be enforced, they must be adhered to and incorporated into the domestic laws of Member States.

The reason for this lack of adherence was the fact that many States did not have the necessary expertise:

(a) to fully understand the rights and obligations which were created under the said legal instruments; and

(b) in maritime legal drafting, especially in the capacity to incorporate and implement effectively international conventions into domestic legislation.
IMLI’s Status

- IMLI was established on 13 May 1988 through an international agreement between IMO and the Government of Malta.
- The Institute’s Statute was originally approved by the IMO Assembly at its 16th Session in 1988 and was revised by the IMO Council at its 109th session in 2012.
- Under Article 6, the Institute shall enjoy autonomy within the framework of IMO and enjoy the academic freedom required for the achievement of its objectives.

Signing of the Agreement establishing IMLI on 13 May 1988

Center of Excellence

The Institute is an international post graduate education and research centre of excellence for specialists in maritime law and the development and dissemination of knowledge and expertise in international maritime law and the law of the sea with special reference to the IMO legal instruments.
IMLI’s Purpose

To fulfill its purpose, the Institute provides suitably qualified candidates with the opportunity to undertake advanced training, study and research in international maritime law and legislative drafting over one academic year.

IMLI offers a Unique Programme

The Institute’s LL.M. programme allows students to develop expertise in international maritime law on a comparative basis under the guidance of renowned professors and experts from the major legal systems of the world.
IMLI offers a Unique Programme

IMLI’s LL.M. programme is unique in that it covers the whole spectrum of international maritime law, including:

- Shipping Law;
- Law of the Sea;
- Marine Environmental Law;
- Maritime Security Law; and
- Maritime Legislative Drafting.

Transnational Study of Maritime Law

Although teaching of maritime law at IMLI is primarily taken from an international perspective (mainly the study of international conventions), the major systems of law in the world, including the civil law and common law systems, are comparatively considered.

Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation) during his first visit to IMLI in 2003
Maritime Legislation Drafting

- IMLI’s LL.M. programme offers a dedicated course on maritime legislation drafting.

- This course provides participants with the necessary legal drafting techniques they require to prepare a maritime draft law which incorporates the provisions of an international convention into the domestic law of their respective countries.

Government Nominated Lawyers

- While many selected candidates are Senior Legal Officials nominated by their Governments, some private students are also admitted. All LL.M. participants must have a degree in law.

- Upon completion of their LL.M. studies, graduates return to their home countries and assist their Governments in formulating national policies and adopting legal frameworks in line with international standards.
Promotion of Women Lawyers

In line with the IMO strategy for the integration of women into maritime activities, up to fifty per cent of admissions – under the IMLI Statute – are reserved for deserving women candidates.

Judge Anthony Lucky (Judge, ITLOS) with Mrs. Cintra Lucky, Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice (The Nippon Foundation Professor in Marine Environmental Law) and the female lawyers of the IMLI Class of 2012-2013

Research Degree Programme

➢ 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 on a non-residential basis.

➢ Candidates are assigned individual academic supervisors drawn from a list of eminent academics, not necessarily faculty members. This ensures that the research is of the highest quality.
Advanced Diploma Programme

➢ This IMLI Programme is designed to benefit professionals involved in maritime practice both in the private and in the public sector (including at the most senior levels) who, because of their careers, are unable to be away from their jobs for any length of time in excess of a few weeks per year.

➢ The programme is also suitable for non-lawyers who are interested in international maritime law.

➢ The Programme is split into three distinct strands as follows:
  ➢ Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law (Public);
  ➢ Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law (Private); and
  ➢ Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law (General).

Mr. Elchin Ganjaliyev (Government Official from Azerbaijan)

Worldwide Network of IMLI Graduates

To date, a total of nearly 800 participants from over 130 States and territories have completed studies at the Institute’s programmes and courses
Recognition by United Nations General Assembly

IMLI’s role in capacity building is leaving its mark in the international maritime community as confirmed by the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution A/Res/69/245 entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", adopted on 29 December 2014, which:

“Recognizes the importance of the work of the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, which celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2014, as a centre of education and training of government legal advisers, mainly from developing States confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute.”
Academic Co-operation

- IMLI maintains strong institutional links with national and international organizations, institutions and corporations pre-eminent in the field of maritime affairs.
- IMLI has established strong co-operation with academics from leading institutions such as the University of Yale, University of Paris 1 Pantheon - Sorbonne, University of Oxford, Queen Mary – University of London, Rikkiyo University, University of Kobe, and the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”.
- Further, the Institute maintains extensive links with national maritime law associations, members of the CMI.

Institutional Co-operation

- Co-operation agreements have been concluded with the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea, Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, and the Croatian Academy of Legal Sciences.
- The Kühne Logistics University (KLU) based in Hamburg and the Institute will launch a unique Joint Master of Science in International Maritime Law and Logistics.

Mr. Nobukatsu Kanehara and Professor Atsuko Kanehara with The Nippon Foundation Scholars for the academic year 2010-2011

Professor Doris König (President, IFLOS and Judge, German Federal Constitutional Court) lecturing at IMLI
Institutional Donors

IMLI’s donors and supporters include the IMO, The Nippon Foundation, Lloyd’s Register Foundation, CMI Charitable Trust, the Government of Malta and the Government of Switzerland.

Mr. Tomoyuki Hashimoto, Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha and Captain Koichi Akatsuka

The IMLI Manual in International Maritime Law

- The IMLI Manual – published with Oxford University Press – is a three-volume work which adopts an all-encompassing approach to the subject of international maritime law. Its three volumes are:
  - Law of the Sea,
  - Shipping Law,
  - Marine Environmental Law and Maritime Security Law.
- The Manual provides an in-depth analysis of all the pertinent issues in these fields.

Volume I: The Law of the Sea
The IMLI Manual in International Maritime Law

- The Manual aims at providing both the academic world and practitioners with a source of information on:
  - what the law is; and
  - the most up to date theory and research relating to it.
- It also provides comprehensive references and bibliography on the subjects, so that its users will have a single source from which to branch out into even more detailed research in the fields.

Volume II: Shipping Law

Volume III: Marine Environmental Law and Maritime Security Law

ICJ and ITLOS Presidents Address IMLI Manual Launch

- The ceremony was attended by Judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps and distinguished personalities of the maritime legal community.

(L-R) Professor David Attard, Judge Peter Tomka (President, ICJ) and Judge Vladimir Golitsyn (President, ITLOS) during the launching of the Manual
IMLI Studies in International Maritime Law


- The series is dedicated to publishing original, scholarly contributions which analyze key issues in international maritime law.

The Nippon Foundation Support

- A Joint Project titled “Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Legal Order for the Oceans” was launched in 2003 and formally inaugurated by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa during his visit to IMLI in 2004.

- To date, a total of 116 lawyers from 54 States have successfully completed legal training at IMLI through the generous sponsorship of The Nippon Foundation.

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa placing the IMLI badge recording Japan’s representation at IMLI

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa delivering his speech titled “IMLI’s Role in Capacity Building” during IMLI’s 20th Anniversary Celebration at IMO Headquarters
Worldwide network of IMLI-NF Scholars

Albania, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas (the), Bangladesh, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Croatia, Dominica, Dominican Republic (the), Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Marshall Islands (the), Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Niue, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines (the), Samoa, Seychelles, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia.

The Nippon Foundation Teaching Posts

The Nippon Foundation has established two teaching posts at IMLI.

- The Nippon Foundation Professor in Marine Environmental Law; and
- The Nippon Foundation Lecturer in International Maritime Security Law
**IMLI’s Contribution to the International Maritime Community**

- Due to the specialized training provided at IMLI, graduates of the Institute almost invariably return to their countries and command influential positions in their national administrations.
- IMLI graduates also hold influential positions in international fora.

**Over 25 Years in the Service of the Rule of International Maritime Law**

- The year 2014 marked the 25th Anniversary of IMLI. To celebrate the Institute’s silver jubilee in the service of the rule of international maritime law, Mr. Koji Sekimizu held a Commemorative Seminar at the IMO Headquarters in London on 28 April 2014.
- The Seminar was attended by Members of the IMLI Governing Board, Ministers, Diplomatic Representatives, IMLI graduates from all over the world and several distinguished guests.
Over 25 Years in the Service of the Rule of International Maritime Law

- During the Seminar, Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno delivered a speech on “IMLI - The Perspective of The Nippon Foundation”.
- He noted the 10 year collaboration between IMLI and The Nippon Foundation, and that IMLI’s sound achievements to date have given the Foundation the assurance that both Institutions can continue to work together in their goal to create a stronger international maritime community.

IMLI Motto

Serving the Rule of International Maritime Law

Mr. Koji Sekimizu addressing the audience during the Commemorative Seminar to celebrate IMLI’s 25th Anniversary held at the IMO Headquarters