



COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

6 April 2021

MLA Presidents
Titulary Members
Consultative Members

Re: *Postponement of 2021 Tokyo Conference to 4-8 April 2022*

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

I hope this letter finds you, your families and colleagues in good health and spirits, and trust that the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines in your respective countries is well underway.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Board of the Japanese Maritime Law Association (which met last week) and the Tokyo Conference Organizing Committee (which met earlier today via videoconference) have decided to postpone the 2021 Tokyo Conference by six months to 4-8 April 2022. The new dates coincide with the Cherry blossom season (please see attached photo).

Given the New Otani Hotel's cancellation deadline to avoid incurring a substantial monetary penalty (which expired last week and the Hotel was unwilling to extend or waive), and the inability to predict what requirements will be in place by the Japanese Government in September 2021 to allow foreign delegates to enter Japan (even if they have been vaccinated which, according to medical reports, may not preclude reinfection of the virus and/or mutations), the Japanese MLA Board and Tokyo Conference Organizing Committee concluded we simply could not commit to holding the Conference this year.

At this juncture, it appears unlikely we will be able to conduct an in-person Assembly in 2021 and, thus, we will schedule another correspondence Assembly (as was done in 2020) or, alternatively, conduct the Assembly via Zoom or Microsoft Teams on or about 30 September 2021. I will provide more details in this regard after the Executive Council holds its next virtual meeting during the week of 24 May 2021.

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Please note we are likely to have two CMI events in 2022, six months apart and on different continents, since we will be meeting in Antwerp during the third week of October in 2022 to commemorate the CMI's 125th anniversary. We also anticipate convening an extraordinary Assembly in Antwerp on or about 20 October 2022 to vote on changes to the CMI Constitution (including a change in fiscal year) which are required to remain in compliance with the new Belgian Companies' Act.

On behalf of the Executive Council, thank you for your continued participation in the work of the CMI, and we very much look forward to seeing you in Tokyo and Antwerp in 2022.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris O. Davis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher O. Davis