



# COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

## PRESIDENT

18 March 2020

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

I hope this letter finds you, your family and colleagues healthy and in good spirits, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has not unduly disrupted your lives as we deal with the crisis and many of us work remotely until Government policies and preventive measures are successful in flattening the curve of new infections around the world.

A number of you have inquired regarding the status of the 2020 Tokyo Conference (21-24 October), and the short answer is the Conference remains scheduled to go forward as planned in a little over 7 months from this date. However, we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and have taken several measures to deal with the current uncertainty surrounding the crisis.

Specifically, we have delayed signing a contract with the New Otani Hotel until we have more clarity on the effect of COVID-19 on the Conference. The International Olympic Committee's decision on whether to hold the Summer Olympics in Tokyo may provide a preliminary marker for the Japanese MLA and our Executive Council as we move forward with planning arrangements for the Conference.

In the meantime, we hope to go live with our website (<https://cmi2020tokyo.org/>) within the next 15 days, and would encourage you to visit the website which will provide preliminary information on the substantive work programme and social events featured during the Conference. I have also taken the liberty of attaching copies of the welcome letters for the Tokyo Conference from President Kenjiro Egashira of the Japanese MLA, as well as from Rosalie Balkin and myself.

Needless to say, these are trying times and the situation with COVID-19 remains extremely fluid with developments and updates on a daily basis. The Japanese Government has done an excellent job in containing the virus and flattening the curve of new COVID-19 cases and, thus, we are optimistic other Governments will act with equal vigor and successfully contain with the pandemic.

Pending further developments, we urge you to stay informed by consulting the World Health Organization's website (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>), as well as the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's website ([https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/newpage\\_00032.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/newpage_00032.html)).

Finally, I am providing a link to one of the better articles on COVID-19, perhaps somewhat outdated as far as the number of infections to date but nonetheless informative and relevant, with a plethora of graphs for those of us who tend to benefit from visual learning (<https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-act-today-or-people-will-die-f4d3d9cd99ca>).

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 this Fall!

Faithfully yours,



Christopher O. Davis