



# COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

## PRESIDENT

### 2020 TOKYO CONFERENCE WELCOME LETTER

**21-24 OCTOBER 2020**

18 March 2020

The 2020 Assembly of the CMI will take place in Tokyo, Japan on the afternoon of Saturday, 24 October 2020, preceded by a three-day conference organized jointly by the CMI and the Japanese MLA. This is in accord with the tradition and historical format of holding a full international Conference only once every four years, with Seminars and Colloquia in intermediate years, coinciding with our annual Assembly. The last Conference was held in New York City in 2016, and it is noteworthy that the first CMI Conference in Asia was hosted by the Japanese MLA in Tokyo in 1969.

As many of you know, Tokyo is a cosmopolitan, exciting and energizing city on the eastern coast of the island of Honshu (the largest of the four islands that make up Japan), and has world-class museums, restaurants and hotels. The programme for Tokyo begins with a welcome cocktail reception for delegates and their partners at the Hotel New Otani in the Akasaka district of Tokyo, an elegant and iconic hotel which has a 400-year-old Japanese Garden on its grounds.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hotel New Otani, where the Assembly and Conference programme will take place. Topics to be discussed during the Conference will include recent technologies in shipping, legal issues in maritime autonomous surface ships, the future of the IOPC Funds, polar shipping, judicial sales of ships, general average, maritime arbitration and enforcement of awards, ship recycling, *lex maritima*, pandemic (COVID-19) issues, as well as yCMI and judges panel sessions.

There will be a break in the Conference programme after the Friday morning session on 23 October 2020, to allow delegates and their partners to visit the Port of Tokyo, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, or Zojoji Temple, followed by a performance by traditional Japanese artists and cocktail reception.

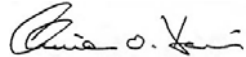
The Conference will conclude with the traditional Gala Dinner for delegates and their partners which will take place on Saturday evening, 24 October 2020, at the Hotel New Otani. The CMI's Executive Council holds its annual meeting on Tuesday, 20 October 2020, the day before the start of the Conference. We anticipate that meetings of some CMI International Working Groups and International Standing Committees will take place before, during or after the Conference. If you are an IWG or ISC Chair and would like to reserve a venue for a meeting of your committee, please contact the CMI Secretary General, Rosalie Balkin.

Beginning on or about 1 April 2020, you will be able to register for the Conference via the CMI event site for yourself as a Delegate and for your partner as an Accompanying Person, and to book a hotel from those listed. Please note "early bird" registration will close at midnight GMT on 31 May 2020.

Tokyo is awaiting to delight and mesmerize you, and we look forward to seeing all of you at the Assembly and Conference. And of course, there will be pre- and post-event tours available to some of the other wonderful cities, fascinating attractions and cultural sites Japan has to offer.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tokyo.

Christopher O. Davis  
President, CMI



Rosalie Balkin, AO  
Secretary General, CMI

