



WELCOME LETTER

Dear members of Maritime Law Associations and maritime lawyers around the world,

The Japanese Maritime Law Association is deeply pleased and honored to host the 43rd International Conference of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) from October 21–24, 2020 in Tokyo. On behalf of the Japanese Maritime Law Association, I sincerely invite you, all maritime lawyers, scholars, and those engaged in maritime transport business, to this international conference.

This will be the second CMI conference to be held in Tokyo, the first being the 28th International Conference held in 1969. 51 years ago, the first Tokyo Conference was concluded with a great success with adoption of three draft conventions, including the draft Civil Liability Convention for Oil Pollution Damage.

At this second Tokyo Conference, various sessions will be devoted to discussions on current important issues in maritime law, such as autonomous ships, polar shipping and judicial sale of ships. We are expecting lively discussions in all sessions, which would contribute significantly to the unification of maritime law, the goal of the CMI. The program also provides a special opportunity to visit experiments of autonomous and remotely controlled ships at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology to the delegates who are interested in.

International conferences of the CMI, which are held once every four years, have not only played an important role in the unification of maritime law, but also provided opportunities for the participants to cultivate mutual friendships and broaden their experience. This time, the Japanese Maritime Law Association has prepared various social programs, a lunch cruise around the Tokyo Bay, a visit to the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation or Zojoji, a historic Buddhism temple founded in late 14th century, and a performance by traditional Japanese artists. Substantial programs are also prepared for those accompanying conference attendees. It is also highly recommended to extend your stay before or after the conference to travel around Japan, as the weather in October is very pleasant. I hope that all participants and their accompanying persons will thoroughly enjoy both the modern and historical aspects of Japan.

I look forward to meeting you at the conference, at Hotel New Otani Tokyo in October 2020!

Kenjiro Egashira

President, Japanese Maritime Law Association