

Press Release 14/03/2017

## **1<sup>ST</sup> SOLOMON ISLAND FEMALE STUDYING AT IMO - IMLI**



Ms. Ha'a Hazel Haurae is the first Solomon Islands woman to be studying at the International Maritime Organization – International Maritime Law Institute (IMO-IMLI) in Malta. Ms. Ha'a Hazel Haurae is currently pursuing her Masters in Maritime Law and is the only Solomon Islander/Pacific Islander among 30 plus other students ranging from all parts of the Globe. According to Ms. Ha'a Hazel Haurae *“I call it an international class, as it entails diverse cultures; however we all can relate on a common ground and that is, International Maritime Law”*.

Ms. Ha'a Hazel Haurae:- Read Law at the University of the South Pacific (USP) 2011-2014, attained the Professional Diploma in Legal Practice 2015, and then commenced employment with the Attorney General's Chambers as a Senior Legal Counsel (Drafting Division) the same year.

When asked how her studies at IMO-IMLI will contribute in her role in the Solomon Islands within the Attorney General's Chambers, Ms. Ha'a Hazel Haurae stated, *“Generally the International Maritime Law Institute is a platform that raises resourceful individuals, introducing them to all levels of*

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*maritime law from the international perspective to the national perspective. International Law (International Conventions and Treaties) is not national law as the enforcement of international law nationally cannot be done unless it has been domesticated. This is a big part of my line of work i.e. legislation review, interpretation and drafting of legislation”.*

Being the first Solomon Islands female to study in IMO-IMLI and being able to foster the pathway for Solomon Island Women in Maritime (SIW) to raise interest in both women and men to attend IMO-IMLI, Ms. Ha’a Hazel Haurae sees herself as a medium of development for the Solomon Islands maritime industry, a step forward for her country. This is her motivation as a young lawyer from the Solomon Islands and encouraging other young lawyers and non-lawyers within the Maritime Industry to consider Maritime Studies. Ms Ha’a Hazel Haurae stated *“It is not only fulfilling but from a coastal State point of view, it gives a broader view and understanding of how all elements in International Maritime Law connect”.*

When asked on how she came about in selecting IMO-IMLI, Ms. Ha’a Hazel Haurae stated that she was accepted to join IMO-IMLI for the Class of 2016-2017 under the sponsorship of the Nippon Foundation. Ms. Ha’a Hazel Haurae believes that, *“The institute offers a wide range and cross section of the core elements of Maritime Law, which is why the institute is the best choice to further studies on maritime law”.*

As a motivation for other young women, *“I would like to say, do not bury your head in the sand; meaning have the desire to know more, to read more, to know your country, the politics, the economy, the private sector, the public sector and not to limit yourself. You are only average if you think you are average, build yourself up because the development of your country lies within your reach”* Ms Ha’a Hazel Haurae said.

The International Maritime Organization - International Maritime Law Institute is a world recognized centre for the training of specialists in international maritime law. IMO-IMLI offers different programmes of study ranging from short courses to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in International Maritime Law. Since the inception of IMO-IMLI in 1988, there have been 9 women graduates from the Pacific Region. On her successful completion of the program, Ms. Ha’a Hazel Haurae will become the 10<sup>th</sup> women from the Pacific Region to hold a Masters in Maritime Law from IMO-IMLI.

Ms. Ha’a Hazel Haurae is keen on learning more and at the same time broadening her view and understanding of how all elements of International Maritime Law connects. Pacific Women In Maritime Association (PacWIMA) wishes Ms. Ha’a Hazel Haurae the very best in her studies and future plans within the maritime industry.

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