

## *INAUGURATION OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR AT IMLI*

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2004, officially opened its door to its 16<sup>th</sup> generation of lawyers.

The inauguration was introduced by the director of IMLI, Professor David J. Attard, who after welcoming the participants, explained the genesis of the Institute and the purposes for which it was established.



Prof. David J. Attard introducing the inaugural lecture (on the left the Hon. Minister Censu Galea and Dr. Rosalie Balkin).

The director then referred to the message, which the Secretary-General of IMO, His Excellency, Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, gave on occasion of the World Maritime Day 2004. From this message, which focused on maritime security and on the measures taken by IMO, Prof. Attard quoted the following words:

*“Terrorism is not a matter of concern to one country or a group of country – it is a global issue that affects us all and we should spare no effort to ensure that, together, we built a robust and resilient defence”*

The welcome address was then delivered by **Minister Censu Galea**, Minister for Competitiveness and Communications of the Republic of Malta, who elaborated on the progress of Malta in the maritime field. A full copy of his speech will be circulated in the next number of IMLI e- News.

The session was also attended by diplomats from countries represented at IMLI.



Prof. David J. Attard, with the Hon. Minister Galea and the Ambassador of China in Malta, Mr. Liu Zhengxiu.

Afterwards, **Dr. Rosalie Balkin**, Director of the Legal Affairs and External Relations Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), spoke on behalf of the IMO and stressed the importance of IMLI for the International Maritime Organization. She then delivered the inaugural lecture entitled ***“The legal framework of IMO”***.

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