Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) visited the Institute on 29 March 2017 and addressed the IMLI Class of 2016-2017. Accepting Professor David Attard’s invitation to address the students, the IMO Secretary-General described IMLI as a prestigious educational institution of whose role in maritime education the IMO and the entire international maritime community is always very proud. He described his visit as a great opportunity to meet the students who come from all over the world. Mr. Lim told the students that by their presence at IMLI, they are already part of the greater IMO family. He affirmed that his training at the World Maritime University (WMU) has given him the opportunity to be able to appreciate how important IMLI is for the students and how their experience from IMLI will be beneficial to them as they progress in their career.

Mr. Lim explained that the expansion of IMO’s mandate from safety related issues to multifaceted regulatory issues including environmental considerations, maritime security among issues that affect the overall efficiency of shipping, led the Organization to adopt a comprehensive body of international conventions. He further went on to say that these conventions are supported by over 100 guidelines and recommendations to govern every facet of shipping industry. He believes that these instruments by themselves do not give it a force of law. In many cases people trusted with the task of incorporating IMO conventions into national laws are the IMLI graduates.

The Secretary-General underscored the need for expertise in international maritime law within the IMO Member States and in particular the developing States so as to ensure that IMO instruments are implemented through the national legal system. He also stated that though IMO has a vast array of regulatory instruments, the same need to be constantly updated in order to keep pace with technological advancements. By providing a steady influx of highly trained legal professionals, IMLI has been very instrumental in enabling the Members States and IMO alike to be able to measure up to the above challenges.

Mr. Lim confirmed that IMLI graduates occupy positions of great responsibility throughout the maritime world and their knowledge, expertise and experience have been of immense benefit particularly to the developing world. He expressed great confidence in the students, referring to them as the “warriors, assets and treasures to the maritime world.” He told the students that they are the agents who can facilitate, through their education, mutual and harmonious understanding between the developed and developing countries in their engagements.

On ‘who you meet and when?’ Mr. Lim advised the students to use their presence at IMLI as an opportunity. “You are the luckiest students to work and interact with Professor Attard”, Mr. Lim told the students. He advised them to serve as real assets and treasures to one another and to maintain their global outlook through thinking and communication. Mr. Lim thanked Professor Attard for his selfless and valuable contributions to the development of IMLI.

In honour of his visit, Professor Attard invited Mr. Lim to unveil his portrait.

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE ACADEMIC WORK OF IMLI

The Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of More Effective Legal Order for the Oceans, is the joint Project between The Nippon Foundation and IMLI. The Project was launched in 2003 as a vehicle to support government-nominated scholars pursuing studies in international maritime law at a post-graduate level at the Institute. Under this cooperation, the Institute undertakes to provide academic and technical expertise whilst The Nippon Foundation contributes financially to the training of deserving candidates to pursue their studies in international maritime law at the Institute.

Additionally, The Nippon Foundation has extended its support to the work of IMLI by establishing three teaching posts within the Institute. Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice from the United Kingdom is appointed as The Nippon Foundation Professor on Marine Environmental Law, Ms. Tety Lubis from Indonesia is appointed as The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Maritime Security Law, and Mr. Buba Bojang from the Gambia is recently appointed as The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance.

Mr. Lim thanked Professor Attard for his selfless and valuable contributions to the development of IMLI.

Mr. Lim reiterated his commitment to provide the Members States and IMO alike to be able to measure up to the above challenges. He informed the students that, as a leader in shipping, will continue to support the IMO in its crucial role of setting rules because according to him, ‘global business needs global rules’ and that shipping and maritime transport is a field that connects people. The Honourable Minister described his visit as a useful and enriching experience for him and his delegation. He pointed out that it is important that IMLI develops closer cooperation and partnership not only with the Aegean Institute of Maritime Law but also with the other Greek universities undertaking maritime law studies.
**IMLI STUDENT’S WORK Praised at the IMO Legal Committee Meeting**

Ms. Daffodill D’vore Maxwell (Trinidad and Tobago), an IMLI graduate of the Class of 2015-2016, was commended for her research work carried out during her studies at the Institute by the IMO Member States during the 104th Session of the IMO Legal Committee.

Her dissertation won the IMO Secretary General’s Prize for Best Dissertation during the Institute’s Graduation Ceremony on 28 May 2016. Her research entitled “Determining Causes of the Problem of Ineffective Implementation and Enforcement of Maritime Conventions Particularly in Dualist States: A Trinidad and Tobago Perspective” was introduced to the meeting by Professor David Attard.

The IMO Secretariat noted that the Secretary-General has placed a high priority on the effective implementation of the IMO Conventions and that the legislation drafting projects and dissertations of IMLI students can be of assistance to the realization of this goal. The presentation of Ms. Maxwell’s dissertation is thus the IMO’s effort to disseminate the work of IMLI students to the Member States.

**MEDAC Honours IMLI Director**

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) has recognised Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) at a ceremony in the Academy’s Premises (University of Malta Campus) on 8 February 2017. During the ceremony, a plaque was unveiled in honour of Professor Attard, commemorating the initiative he led which resulted in the establishment of the Academy in 1990.

In his statement, Professor Stephen Calleja (Director, MEDAC) expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Professor Attard for all his support through the years and for inspiring MEDAC in its activities through his excellent leadership and wisdom. Addressing the gathering, Professor Attard recalled how his engagement with the Governments of Malta and Switzerland, at the diplomatic level, resulted in the establishment of the Academy. He expressed gratitude to MEDAC for the recognition.

**Maritime Transport Policy Workshop Held at IMLI**

Dr. George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, World Maritime University) and Mr. Jonathan Pace (Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) conducted a three-day workshop on maritime transport policy between 7-9 February 2017.

During the workshop, the guest speakers introduced the students to the basic concepts defining maritime policy strategies and objectives, and the justification for developing and adopting a maritime policy.

The highlight of the seminar was the presentation of a group exercise. The group was required to define maritime policy strategies and objectives, and the justification for developing and adopting a maritime policy.

**EU Commissioner Visits IMLI**

The Honourable Karmenu Vella (EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) visited the Institute on 5 May 2017.

In his address to the students, the Honourable Commissioner Vella explained that the EU adopted a Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance which proposed 50 actions for safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans. He explained that this agenda is an integral part of EU’s response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 14. He stated that by 2050 the earth will be home to more than 10 billion people and resolutely, people will increasingly turn to the oceans for resources as the demand for food and raw materials grow.

The Honourable Commissioner said: ‘At our activities at sea expand, it is our responsibility to avoid repeating the same mistake we made on land. We need to ensure that our oceans are used sustainably.’ According to him, law is the instrument that can help us achieve the sustainable use of the oceans and to this end, it is great to see IMLI taking an active role in the discourse to strengthen ocean governance and that IMLI’s forthcoming publication on the same will no doubt provide the necessary guidance.
Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and Dr. Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee) with IMLI Alumni representing their respective countries at the IMO Legal Committee Meeting

Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) addressed the IMO Legal Committee at its 104th Session at the IMO Headquarters, London on 24 April 2017 where he presented the report on the Institute's activities for the year 2016.

In presenting the report, Professor Attard informed the Committee that IMLI’s contributions to the international maritime community was recognized again by the United Nations General Assembly through its resolution A/Res/71/257 of 23 December 2016 entitled ‘Oceans and the law of the sea.’ The resolution further confirmed the Institute's effective capacity-building role in the field of international maritime law, shipping law and marine environmental law, and urged States, intergovernmental organisations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute.

The Committee learnt that the 2015-2016 graduation brought the number of students who had undergone studies in all of IMLI’s programmes and courses to 834 from 136 States and territories of which, 703 students from 133 States and territories had successfully completed the LL.M. programme.

The Committee was also briefed about the launching of the new specialized post-graduate programme, namely the Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) programme in International Maritime Legislation which is open to graduates from all over the world holding a degree in a discipline related to international maritime law and which was established to meet the need of States to have trained specialists in international maritime law to effectively discharge their obligations by ensuring that national legislation complies with the international standards adopted by the IMO and other international organizations.

Professor Attard dilated, as well, on the joint Master of Science (M.Sc.) programme in International Maritime Law and Logistics with Kühne Logistics University (KLU) in Hamburg which commenced on 16 October 2016 and the new two-year Joint Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) programme in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy which will be launched by IMLI and the World Maritime University (WMU) in September 2017.

Professor Attard further informed the Committee that in the current academic year, 37 students from 28 States are pursuing studies under the LL.M. programme, two students from Ghana and Ukraine respectively, are pursuing studies under the M.Hum. programme, and one student from Norway is pursuing studies under the M.Sc. programme. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lesotho are represented for the first time in the Institute’s LL.M. programme.

In his address, Professor Attard noted the publication of the last two volumes of “The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law”, a publication which has been considered as of fundamental importance for anyone interested in the public and private aspects of the international maritime law.

On IMO’s continuous support to the academic activities of the Institute, Professor Attard expressed his thanks to the lectures delivered at the Institute by Mr. Frederick J. Kenney (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) and Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Head, IMO Legal Affairs Office) as an example of such commitment.

Lastly, Professor Attard reported on the global project on “Ocean Governance: Security, Stability, Safety and Sustainability” which is being undertaken at the request of The Nippon Foundation. The Committee was informed that the proposed Project has been established as a follow-up to the address of Dr Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation) to the IMO and is based on the current fruitful collaboration between The Nippon Foundation and the Institute. To this end, authoritative studies will be carried out by 58 leading experts in the field which will focus on ocean governance’s challenges and fragmentation providing a blueprint for a more effective global governance in the interest of present and future generations.

The IMLI activity report demonstrates the Institute’s continuous relevance as an international centre of excellence for the training of specialists in international maritime law, including maritime legislation drafting techniques to incorporate international maritime instruments into national law.