Circulated in more than 100 States to personalities in the legal and maritime professions

IMLIe-News

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**UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOGINZES THE WORK OF IMLI**

On 5 December 2008 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/Res. 63/111 entitled “Oceans and the Law of the Sea”. The Resolution, which was adopted by 155 votes in favour, tackles the main aspects of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and related agreements including the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stock (“The Fish Stocks Agreement”). It calls upon States and International Organizations to cooperate towards the effective implementation of the provisions of UNCLOS.

The Resolution highlights the need of capacity-building for States to be able to achieve the aims set out in UNCLOS. In this respect, it calls upon States and international financial institutions to strengthen the capacity-building activities, in particular, in developing States and small island developing States, in diverse areas as maritime safety and security issues, protection of marine environment, marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology.

Furthermore, the Resolution encourages the capacity-building in the development of national maritime administrations and appropriate legal frameworks to establish or enhance the necessary infrastructure, legislative and enforcement capabilities, to promote the effective compliance with, and effective implementation and enforcement of States’ responsibilities under international law.

In acknowledgment of IMO International Maritime Law Institute’s (IMLI) contribution the international community officially recognized in the Resolution A/Res. 63/111 the importance of IMLI’s work. The text of paragraph 13 of this Resolution - adopted by the UN’s highest representative body - reads as follows:

*“Recognizes the importance of the work of the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization as a centre of education and training of Government legal advisers, mainly from developing States, notes that the number of its graduates in more than 102 States confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute”.*

IMLI was, indeed, established by IMO in 1988 to ensure that governments would have trained maritime legal experts available to incorporate the often complex international maritime legal framework of rules, codes and standards into national legislation. IMLI students are usually nominated by their governments and generally occupy senior posts in their national administrations. Upon completion of their studies at the Institute, IMLI graduates are able to provide the expertise required for the implementation of international conventions into their respective national legal systems.

Over the twenty year period, since its inception, the Institute – through its different programmes and courses - has trained a total of 466 students who have hailed from the following countries:

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote D’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent, Seychelles, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, The Bahamas, The Gambia, The Philippines, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Samoa, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

During this 20 years’ devotion to the service of the rule of international maritime law, IMLI, in the words of IMO Secretary-General Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos *“has, in fact, more than fulfilled its early promise, having become an indispensable part of IMO’s success, with its graduates going on to make a major contribution to the attainment of the Organization’s goals and objectives”.*

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