



## **INDIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS VISITS IMLI**

H.E. Mrs. Preet Kaur (Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs of India) paid an official visit to the Institute on 9 April 2013. The Honourable Minister was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Anil Trigunayat (High Commissioner of India to Malta), Mr. Rahul Chhabra (Director General - Central Europe - Ministry of External Affairs), Mr. Abhishek Singh (Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs), Mr. Sandeep Sood (Second Secretary, High Commission of India, Tripoli) and Mr. Johann Cuschieri (Honorary Consul of India to Malta). Minister Kaur and the delegation were welcomed by Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI) who expressed his great pleasure at their visit. Upon briefing her and the delegation on the work of the Institute, Professor Attard introduced the Minister to the IMLI Class of 2012/2013.

Professor Attard stated that the links between India and IMLI date back to the very inception of the Institute. He recalled that thanks to the great support of the then IMO Secretary-General, Dr. C.P. Srivastava, KCMG, the Institute was established in Malta and enabled lawyers from developing countries to receive qualified training in international maritime law. Since then, the Institute has maintained its links with India and to date 10 lawyers have received training at the Institute's programmes.



*H.E. Mrs. Preneet Kaur (Honourable Minister of State for External Affairs of India) with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) in front of the portrait of Dr. C.P. Srivastava, KCMG (Secretary-General Emeritus, IMO)*

The Minister was very pleased to have had the opportunity to visit the Institute and meet the IMLI students. She discussed with Professor Attard the possibility of closer co-operation in the area of maritime and shipping since both India and Malta are essentially maritime nations. She noted with satisfaction the great participation of women lawyers in the programme thanks to IMLI's policy to reserve 50 per cent of its places to qualified women lawyers. She concluded by wishing the students all the best in their academic endeavours.



*H.E. Mrs. Preneet Kaur with Professor David Attard, the members of the Indian delegation and the IMLI Class of 2012/2013*

H.E. Mrs. Preneet Kaur assumed the office of Minister of State for External Affairs of India on 29 May 2009. Currently she is a Member of several Committees; including the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, the Standing Committee on Water Resources, the Committee on Empowerment of Women, the Committee on Public Undertakings, Consultative Committee for Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Regional Direct Taxes Advisory Committee. She is also a Member of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms Advisory Council Punjab, of the Renovation Committee for Renovation of Famous Shrine of Hazrat Mashad Ali, situated at Samana, and of the State Health Commission. She is the Chairperson of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee on DRTA, the Patiala Division and Urban Planning Authority and the Patiala Heritage Society. She was educated at St. Bedes College and Convent of Jesus and Mary College, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

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