



## **IMLI HELD ITS 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY**

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held its 24<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony on 27 April 2013 at the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa. The ceremony, which was presided for the first time by Mr. Koji Sekimizu, IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, was attended by many distinguished personalities, including The Hon. George Vella (Minister for Foreign Affairs), The Hon. Joe Mizzi (Minister for Transport and Infrastructure), The Hon. Christian Cardona (Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business), The Hon. Anglu Farrugia (Speaker of the House of Representatives), Dr. Edward Zammit Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary for Competitiveness and Economic Growth), Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (Chairman of the IMO Legal Committee), Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO), Mr. Frederic Hebert (Director of REMPEC), Ms. Yukiko Kuwata (Project Coordinator, Maritime Affairs Department of The Nippon Foundation), and Professor Francis M.B. Reynolds, Q.C. (Professor Emeritus / University of Oxford).

During the Graduation Ceremony 34 students from 23 countries, were awarded the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law and two more students were awarded an Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law. During the same ceremony, the Institute also awarded the first Degree of Magister Juris in International Maritime Law.



*Mr. Koji Sekimizu (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) with the Graduates of 2012/2013*

IMLI's Director, Professor David Attard, delivered the welcoming address wherein he noted that:

“It gives me great satisfaction to look at our graduands, newly-crowned with academic success, and to congratulate them for having succeeded despite the magnitude of their task. For the past months they have undertaken an exceptionally intensive and comprehensive programme covering the full spectrum of international maritime law. Their task should not be underestimated. The subject matter covered is vast. Our academic standards are very demanding, as confirmed by the external examiners. It is therefore a great pleasure to be able, on this important day, to honour their academic success.”

Then, the IMO Secretary-General was invited to deliver the graduation address. In his graduation address, Mr. Sekimizu stated that:

“We congratulate the students who have successfully completed their studies at this august Institution; we celebrate their achievements; and we contemplate, with them, the opportunities now before them to make their own, unique mark in the maritime world and in their own countries, as they return home after their time at IMLI.

[...] For twenty-four years, IMLI has been providing the training and education needed to produce lawyers with the background and qualification to establish, develop and maintain such national legal infrastructures.”

Ms. Iva Parlov (Graduant from Croatia) delivered the valedictory address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2013.

During the Graduation Ceremony the “IMLI Graduate International Achievement Award” was conferred on Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (Chairman of the IMO Legal Committee), an IMLI graduate who has excelled in the international arena. The Hon. Christian Cardona (Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business) presented the IMLI Award to Dr. Mbiah.

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