



IMLI HELD ITS 25TH ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 7 JUNE 2014

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held its 25th Graduation Ceremony on 7 June 2014 at the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa. The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Koji Sekimizu, IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, and was attended by many distinguished personalities, including The Hon. Anglu Farrugia (Speaker of the House of Representatives), H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus of Malta), Mr. Jo Espinoza Ferrey (Director, Administrative Division, IMO), Mr. Frédéric Hébert (Director of REMPEC), Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO), Mr. Tomoyuki Hashimoto (Manager, Maritime Affairs Department of The Nippon Foundation), and Professor Francis M.B. Reynolds, Q.C. (Professor Emeritus / University of Oxford).

*Mr. Koji Sekimizu (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) with
the Graduates of the academic year 2013/2014*

During the Graduation Ceremony 32 students from 25 countries, were awarded the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law and 5 more students were awarded an Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law.

The welcome address was delivered by Professor David Attard, whilst the graduation address was delivered by Mr. Koji Sekimizu. The valedictory address on behalf of the IMLI class of 2014 was delivered by Mr. Richard Adjei-Frimpong, a graduant from Ghana.

In his address, Professor Attard welcomed Mr. Sekimizu and thanked him for consenting to preside over the Ceremony and for holding a commemorative seminar at IMO Headquarters in London in April to celebrate IMLI's 25th anniversary. He also warmly welcomed all the dignitaries present and also the friends and families of the graduands. The Director stated:

“This is an important landmark in the history of our Institution, as we celebrate 25 years of academic and professional contribution to the training of lawyers, particularly from developing countries. [...] these graduates will be joining the global network of a total of 683 lawyers from 13 States and territories who have successfully undertaken studies in the Institute's programs and courses.”

The Director further acknowledged the financial supporters of the Institute, particularly the IMO, The Nippon Foundation, the Lloyd's Register Foundation and a number of governments for their generous contributions in providing scholarships and support to the Institute's academic activities.

In concluding his address, he said to the graduands as follows:

“...Yours praiseworthy accomplishments today open up a world of opportunities for you and the countries you come from. Do savour your success, for you deserve it! And lest you forget, your future achievements will continue to consolidate the Institute's academic reputation. Remember

you are now the Institute Ambassadors, dedicated to serving the rule of international maritime law. I wish you well in all your endeavours. We are proud of you!”

In his graduation address, Mr. Sekimizu stated that he is a great believer in the value of education and training. In his view, time spent learning is never time wasted, and in the maritime world the need for high-quality, well-educated people at all levels, in all sectors (at sea and on shore) is as great as it has ever been.

Mr. Sekimizu noted that to promote safe, secure, environmentally safe shipping through cooperation, IMO has adopted a comprehensive portfolio of treaty instruments. The true value of these instruments however, is reflected in their effective, thorough and uniform implementation throughout the world, and therefore States, in their turn, need to enact appropriate domestic legislation to reflect their provisions and provide thereby a mechanism for implementation and enforcement. Recognizing the role of IMLI towards the achievement of this goal, the Secretary-General stated:

“By providing a steady influx of highly trained legal professionals, IMLI has been instrumental in affective implementation of international instruments and has thereby played a central role in helping to establish the solid legal foundations needed for the maritime sector. IMLI graduates now occupy positions of great responsibility throughout the world and their knowledge, expertise and influence has been of immense and tangible benefit, particularly for the developing world, and indeed for all the economies and communities that rely on the safe and secure passage of their goods across the seas. The contribution of IMLI graduates to the international maritime community serves also as a testament to the Institute's success in achieving the objectives for which it was created.”

In this regard, Mr. Sekimizu, urged the graduands, throughout their careers, to continue to support the ideals of the IMO and international shipping, promising that in so doing, they will in turn have the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped to maintain and strengthen the established system that regulates international shipping.

For further details on the graduation, please find attached to this e-news the 25th Graduation Ceremony Brochure.

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