

IMLI'S 26TH ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 30 MAY 2015

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held its 26th annual Graduation Ceremony on Saturday 30 May 2015 at the *Aula Magna*, University of Malta Valletta Campus in Valletta. The Ceremony is the culmination of a very intensive year of studies in all the areas of international maritime law, including international law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law, international maritime security law and maritime legislation drafting.

The Ceremony was presided over by Mr. Frederick Kenney (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division), who was representing Mr. Koji Sekimizu, IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board. Many other distinguished personalities were also present, including Honourable Carmelo Abela (Minister for Home Affairs and National Security), H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus of Malta), Mr. Gabino Gonzalez (Head of Office, REMPEC), Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO), Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation, Japan), MEP Therese Comodini Cachia and MEP Roberta Metsola (Members of the European Parliament), Honourable Kristy Debono (Member of Parliament, Malta) and Professor Francis M.B. Reynolds, Q.C. (Professor Emeritus / University of Oxford).



Mr. Frederick Kenney (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Members of the Faculty, Visiting Fellows and the IMLI Class of 2014/2015 during the 26th Graduation Ceremony

During the Graduation Ceremony 34 students from 28 countries, were awarded the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law, four students were awarded the Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law and one student was awarded the Degree of Magister Juris (M.Jur.) in International Maritime Law.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), whilst the Graduation Address was delivered by Mr. Frederick Kenney. The Valedictory Address on behalf of the IMLI class of 2015 was delivered by Ms. Anoushka Kishtoo, a graduant from Mauritius.

In his address, Professor Attard noted the unfortunate and unavoidable absence of Mr. Koji Sekimizu, and further expressed deep gratitude to him for his continuous and generous interest in the welfare of the Institute. He then welcomed warmly, Mr. Frederick Kenney who was representing the Secretary-General. Professor Attard also welcomed all the dignitaries present and also the friends and families of the graduands. The Director stated:

“[...] these graduates will be joining the global network of a total of 740 lawyers from 134 States and territories who have successfully undertaken studies in all the Institute’s programs and courses.”

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

“Please remember that your participation in the IMLI programme is an opportunity granted to a few well-chosen lawyers. This privilege carries with it a responsibility which I am confident you will bear with great pride. You have now been endowed with the knowledge and skills required to assist your Governments in adopting and implementing international maritime rules, measures and standards.”

For further details on the graduation, please find attached to this e-news the 26th Graduation Ceremony Brochure.

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