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DIRECTOR OF THE IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION VISITS IMLI

The Director, Staff and Students of the IMLI Class of 2014-2015 had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Nicolaos Charalambous (Director of the Technical Cooperation Division of the IMO) who recently visited the Institute and delivered a lecture on “*Technical Cooperation and Assistance: what does it means in IMO speak.*”



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Mr. Nicolaos Charalambous (Director, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) with the IMLI Class of 2015-2016

In his lecture, Mr. Charalambous elaborated on the rationale and mandate of the IMO’s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). He noted that the IMO’s rules and standards are accepted and enforced by Governments because they provide a single, universal framework governing maritime operations and ensure the efficient, safe and environmentally friendly carriage of global trade. However, he explained, many developing countries cannot yet give full and complete effect to the IMO’s instruments.

For this reason, he said, the IMO established the ITCP with the sole purpose of assisting countries in building up their human and institutional capacities for uniform and effective compliance with the Organization's regulatory framework. Mr. Charalambous stated that the importance of the ICTP increases further with the development of new, and the amendments to existing, instruments by IMO in which the particular needs of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed countries are taken into account.

In presenting the achievements of ICTP in fostering capacity-building in the maritime sector, Mr. Charalambous also explained the maritime assistance provided to developing countries in all its fields of competence. The achievements include the establishment of Regional Coordinator Offices in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya and the Philippines, the position of a Regional Maritime Adviser for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago, and the establishment of and support to networks for women employed in the maritime sector. Mr. Charalambous in particular highlighted the long contribution of IMO to offer Developing and Developed Countries the possibility to accede to a high-level maritime education, through the establishment of two prestigious training institutions, the World Maritime University (WMU) in Sweden and the IMO-IMLI in Malta.

Mr. Nicolaos Charalambous pursued his education in Cyprus, Canada and Sweden.

He began his working career as Ship surveyor, in May 1981 and joined the Department of Merchant Shipping of the Ministry of Communications and Works of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as Marine Surveyor and Assistant Registrar of Cyprus Ships in November 1987. He joined the Department of Merchant Shipping, Limassol, Cyprus where he assumed two senior positions of the Head of Division for Maritime Safety and Security and the Acting Director.

Mr. Charalambous joined the IMO in 2001 where he served as the Alternate Permanent Representative of the Cyprus to the IMO. He was later appointed as the Head of the Maritime Security Section, Maritime Safety Division, to then assume the position of a Deputy Director, Sub-division for Maritime Security and Facilitation. In October 2013, Mr. Charalambous was appointed as the Director of the Technical Cooperation Division of the IMO.

Mr. Charalambous has represented Cyprus to numerous meetings and conferences of IMO, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, the International Mobile Satellite Organisation and the European Union.

In December 2002, he received the Distinguished Public Service Award of the United States Coast Guard from the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and in January 2010 the Commissioner's Commendation from the Commissioner of the Canadian Coast Guard.

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