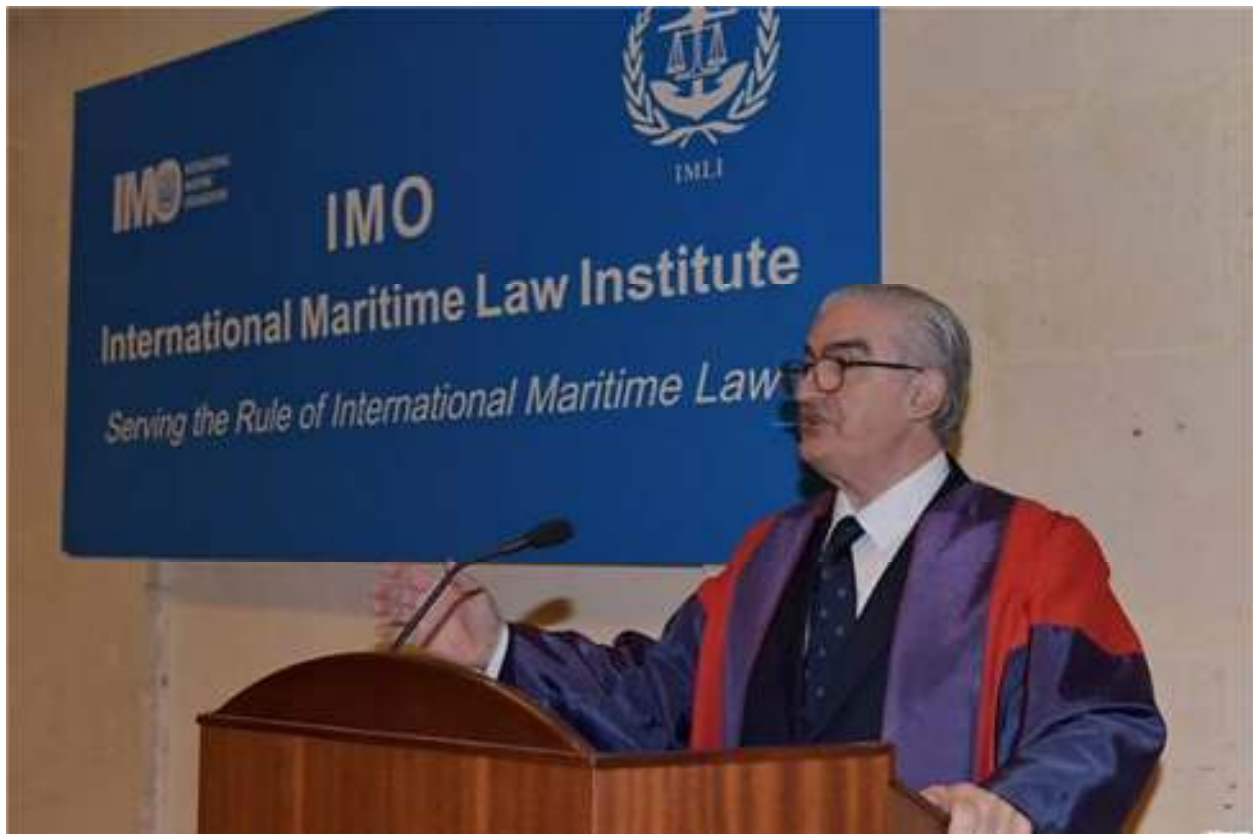


IMLI^e-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 13, Issue No. 51) 9 June, 2016

DIRECTOR OF IMLI DELIVERS THE WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE INSTITUTE'S 27TH ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY

During the Institute's 27th Graduation Ceremony held on 28 May 2016, the Welcome Address was delivered by the Director of the Institute, Professor David Attard. In his Address, Professor Attard welcomed Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board). He also warmly welcomed all the dignitaries present and the friends and families of the graduands.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) delivering the Welcome Address at the Institute's 27th Graduation Ceremony

Professor Attard noted that for the past 27 years, the Institute has contributed to sustainable infrastructure and development in the maritime sector by the academic and professional training of lawyers in the field of international maritime law, particularly from developing countries. This year's graduates, he noted further, will be joining the global network of over 790 maritime professionals from 135 States and territories, including the first lawyer from Turkmenistan, who have successfully undertaken studies in all the Institute's programs and courses.

In addressing the graduands, he congratulated them and assured them that their praiseworthy accomplishments have opened up a world of opportunities not only for themselves personally but for their countries as a whole. He encouraged them to savour their success, for it is well deserved. He advised them to always be mindful that their future achievements will continue to consolidate the Institute's academic reputation. He concluded by wishing them further success in their respective professional careers, and to always be mindful that they are now the Institute's Ambassadors, dedicated to serving the rule of international maritime law.

The Welcome Address of the Director is reproduced below:

Your Excellency Secretary-General,
Honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Honourable Minister for Transport,
Excellencies,
Members of the Judiciary,
Director of the IMO Technical Cooperation Division,
Director of IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division,
Members of the IMLI Governing Board,
Malta's Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen
Representative of the CMI Charitable Trust,
Head of Office of REMPEC,
IMLI Visiting Professors,
Graduands,
Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you to IMLI's 27th Graduation Ceremony, which celebrates the academic success of our graduands.

I am honoured this morning to welcome Mr. Kitack Lim, the IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, who despite his many commitments has graciously agreed to preside over today's Graduation Ceremony. Secretary-General, I am particularly pleased to note that, in a message upon your appointment as IMO Secretary-General, you expressed your intention of focusing in particular on the effective implementation of international conventions

and regulations, and building capacity in developing countries, particularly Small Island developing States and least developed countries. I am delighted to note that your vision harmonizes with the main goal for which IMLI was founded, namely as an international post graduate education and research centre for specialists in international maritime law. We are really looking forward to working with you towards the achievement of our common goals.

We are particularly privileged that The Honourable George Vella (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and The Honourable Joe Mizzi (Minister for Transport), who have shown great commitment to IMLI, are with us this morning. Your presence here today is a reflection of the long-standing support which the Institute has received since its establishment, from the Government and people of Malta.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Nicolaos Charalambous for his unwavering support to the Institute. In his capacity as the Director of the IMO Technical Co-operation Division his immense contribution is evident today in the graduation of those deserving candidates who were awarded a scholarship to receive training at IMLI. His efforts to promote the Institute and ensure that the highest standards of training are maintained at all times are indeed greatly appreciated. Likewise, I am pleased to welcome again to IMLI, Mr. Frederick Kenney, the Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, who takes an active and keen interest in our academic welfare, both as a visiting professor as well as a member of the IMLI Academic Committee.

I wish to recognize the presence of Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Senior Legal Counsel, The Japan Association of Maritime Safety), a new Member of IMLI's Governing Board and a long standing friend of IMLI. In fact, Mr. Hasebe was instrumental in obtaining The Nippon Foundation's support for our work. I am happy to report that this year marks the 12th anniversary since our two Institutions launched a Programme of co-operation entitled Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Legal Order for the Oceans. [The fruitful cooperation between IMLI and The Nippon Foundation has created a formidable cluster of 116 international maritime lawyers from 54 countries all over the world. Today's graduands will bring these numbers to an impressive of 126 graduates from 58 States who will now join the growing and influential network of Nippon Scholars which is contributing to the implementation of UN and IMO international maritime conventions on a global basis particularly in developing States.]

I would like to also seize this opportunity and express my gratitude to Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, and Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation, for agreeing to expand our cooperation and now offer full scholarships to 15 deserving lawyers from developing States.

I wish to welcome other Members of the Governing Board who are here with us today. Mr. Jim Harrison (Group Legal Director, Lloyd's Register), who is also the Chairman of our Financial and

Human Resources Committee; Dr. Kofi Mbiah (Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Shipper's Authority), who is the first IMLI graduate to sit as a Member of the Board; and Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO), who has shown a great commitment to the Institute since its inception.

A warm welcome to the distinguished Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps some of whom have travelled to Malta to be with us today: HE Mr. Kenneth E K Tachie, High Commissioner of Ghana to Malta; HE Ms. Chryssoula (Krisula) Karykopoulou (Karikopulu), Ambassador of Greece to Malta; and Mr. Harry Conway from the Permanent Representation of Liberia. I am also very pleased to record the presence of Mr. Tom Birch Reynardson (Trustee of the CMI Charitable Trust), Cavalliere Gaetano Allota from the Lega Navale, and Professor Francis Reynolds (Professor Emeritus of University of Oxford).

I also wish to welcome friends and family of the graduands who have travelled from all over the world to attend this momentous event.

Distinguished Guests,

IMLI is a small institution with a global mission. It has for the past 27 years contributed to the building of a sustainable infrastructure of the maritime sector in States all over the world by training of lawyers – mainly government officials - in the field of international maritime law, particularly from developing countries. Today 34 lawyers from 26 States will be graduating from the Institute's Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law programme and 3 students will be graduating from the Advanced Diploma programme. This morning's graduands will be joining the global network of over 790 maritime professionals from 135 States and territories worldwide who have successfully undertaken studies in the Institute's programmes and courses. This year we are particularly pleased to have, for the first time, a lawyer hailing from Turkmenistan, graduating from the Institute's LL.M. programme. I am also pleased to announce that Mr. Emeka Akabogu, from Nigeria, will be awarded today the Degree of Magister Juris in International Maritime Law, allowing him to pursue his Ph.D. studies.

Distinguished Guests,

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.

At IMLI we are conscious of the need to ensure that our training and teaching conform to the highest standards required by the international maritime community. These need to be maintained if we are to preserve our reputation as a centre of excellence. I must emphasize that the Institute's academic success is the result of various practices that have been put in place, such as its close co-operation with senior IMO officials, the appointment of independent external examiners and our collaboration with leading academics from such Universities as: London, Malta, Oxford, Queen Mary, and Rome "Tor Vergata". I would also like to refer to our very successful co-operation agreements concluded with reputable Institutions in the field of international maritime law including the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea based in Hamburg, the Institute for the Law of the Sea and International Marine Environmental Law based in Bremen, the Centre for Commercial Law Studies based in London, and the Croatian Academy of Legal Sciences based in Zagreb.

I am also pleased with our active co-operation with the CMI and its national maritime law associations such as the French Maritime Law Association, the Malta Maritime Law Association, the Nigerian Maritime Law Association, the Slovenian Maritime Law Association, and the Spanish Maritime Law Association.

I would like to highlight two unique academic initiatives the Institute is undertaking with leading educational centers in the world. IMLI will launch a Master of Science in International Maritime Law and Logistics (IMLLog) degree in October 2016 in cooperation with Kühne Logistics University (KLU) in Hamburg. The programme will last for two academic years and its participants will spend the first year of their studies in Malta and the second year in Hamburg. This unique programme, which is being offered at the post-graduate level for the first time, is targeted to maritime professionals who, in addition to a thorough understanding of logistics and maritime operations will be trained international maritime law.

The second academic initiative brings together the two institutions established by IMO for the purpose of training professionals in the maritime industry, namely IMLI and the World Maritime University (WMU). I am happy to inform you of the two-year joint degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy which will commence in 2017. During the first year of their studies participants will be attending relevant courses at WMU, including Specialization Studies in Ocean Sustainability, Governance and Management, and during the second year they will be following the international maritime law programme offered at IMLI.

I would also like to share with you another project, closely related to the initiative with WMU. At the request of The Nippon Foundation, IMLI is launching a global project on "Ocean Governance: Security, Stability, Safety and Sustainability". The proposed Project will be established as a follow up to the address of Dr Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman of The Nippon Foundation) to the IMO and will be based on the current fruitful collaboration between The Nippon Foundation and the

Institute. To this end, authoritative studies will be carried out by 60 leading experts in the field which will focus on ocean governance's challenges and fragmentation providing a blueprint for a more effective global governance in the interest of present and future generations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The importance of IMLI's contribution to the study and knowledge of international maritime law is also reflected in the Institute's academic publications. To celebrate our 25th anniversary, together with Oxford University Press, IMLI produced a monumental three-volume work entitled "The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law". The Manual adopts for the first time in the English language an all-encompassing approach to the subject of international maritime law. It presents a systematic analysis by 77 leading experts and constitutes an authoritative statement covering the whole spectrum of International Maritime Law. The Manual will be valuable to both practitioners and students alike. Volume I of the Manual is dedicated to the Law of the Sea, whereas Volume II to Shipping Law and Volume III to Marine Environmental and Maritime Security Law.

Volume I of the Manual was published in 2014, while Volume II and Volume III have been published this year. I would like to express my gratitude to all the academics and practitioners, who are leading specialists in their respective areas, for their excellent contributions to the Manual.

Moreover, the monographs' series "IMLI Studies in International Maritime Law" published by Routledge simultaneously in London and New York continues to attract attention in the international maritime legal community. The latest volume of the series, is entitled 'European Sustainable Carriage of Goods' by Dr. Ellen Eftestøl-Wilhelmsson (Professor of Civil and Commercial Law at the University of Helsinki) which was published last year.

Distinguished Guests,

It is a matter of great pride to announce that our reputation has spread from the numerous Governments which have trusted IMLI for the training of their finest officials and has reached the halls of the United Nations General Assembly which has now for eight consecutive years recognized the importance of our Institute's work. The latest Resolution (A/RES/70/235) adopted during its seventieth session, on 23 December 2015, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" declares *inter alia*, that the General Assembly:

"Recognizes the importance of the work of the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, as a centre of education and training of government legal advisers, mainly from developing States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute;"

Distinguished Guests,

The Institute's success is a direct result of its establishment within the framework of IMO. IMLI's institutional linkage with IMO provides us with access to the most competent expertise in the maritime field. With IMO's assistance, IMLI continuously seeks to fine-tune its syllabus to reflect the latest developments in international maritime law.

Our institutional linkage with IMO is best reflected by the fact that since the very first years of IMLI's establishment, the Chairmanship of its Governing Board has been held by the Secretary-General of IMO.

In this respect we are particularly honoured to read the Secretary-General's view on IMLI's role within the IMO family:

Whether in commercial industry, international organizations, institutions or at IMO, an IMLI graduate's path to success is a well-worn one. We owe our gratitude to an Institute – complete with all of its staff and many supporters and donors – that, for nearly three decades, has been one of the cornerstones of IMO's mission to enhance and build global capacity within the maritime sector.

As the Secretary-General notes, IMLI's contribution towards the objectives of the IMO is best reflected in the work of its graduates as they in turn contribute towards the implementation of international maritime standards in their respective countries.

Today graduates of the Institute occupy senior positions in their countries' highest institutions. IMLI graduates have gone on to become Heads of State, Ministers, Chief Justices and senior Members of the Judiciary (both national and international), Attorneys-General, Ambassadors and high-ranking officials in Maritime Administrations.

Distinguished Guests,

The success that the Institute enjoys is also largely due to the financial support received from many sectors of the international maritime community. I am particularly grateful to the IMO, The Nippon Foundation, the Lloyd's Register Foundation, and to a number of Governments for their generous contributions in providing scholarships. The Governments of Malta and Switzerland deserve special tribute for their unwavering, constant support to the Institute's funding, as does the CMI Charitable Trust.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the sterling work of the Institute's academic faculty: Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Professor Norman Martinez, Ms. Elda Belja, Ms. Ramat Jalloh and Ms. Tetty Lubis, as well as to the Administrative staff for their unwavering support.

Dear Graduands,

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 that are vital to an ocean governance that promotes security, stability, safety and sustainability. Indeed, through your training, IMLI contributes - in its small way - to the IMO process of encouraging and facilitating the global adoption and implementation of legal instruments designed to promote safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) conferring the Degree of Master of Laws in International Maritime Law during the Institute's 27th Graduation Ceremony

In concluding I wish to augur further success to our graduands in their respective professional careers. Graduands, your 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 your endeavours.

We are proud of you!

** If you do not want to receive IMLI e-News in future, please return this message to the above address with request to DELETE in the subject field.*

*** For further information please contact Ms. Tetty Lubis at publications@imli.org*