

MARKO PAVLIHA RECEIVES BEST ESSAY PRIZE

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute would like to congratulate Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha (Vice Dean for Research and Development, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, University of Ljubljana, longstanding Visiting Fellow and Member of the IMLI Governing Board) for the award of the '*KUD Sodobnost International Best Essay Prize*'.

Every year KUD Sodobnost International holds its best Slovenian essay contest. For this year, in which 28 authors submitted anonymously their works, the Jury unanimously selected the essay submitted by Professor Pavliha as the winning essay.



Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha addressing the audience upon the award of the KUD Sodobnost International Best Essay Prize

In awarding the Prize to Professor Pavliha, the Jury noted that, ‘The essay “*To be creative/-ed*” (orig. “*Biti ustvar(jal)en*”) by Marko Pavliha calls out from disheartened electronic apathy to the liberating possibility of creating which is, quite differently from other forms of symbolic convalescence of human separateness from the world, available to every man here and now. The author, with his exceptionally good language, playful earnestness and freshly sharpened imagination, takes a stroll through the fields of word art where he continuously finds new and irreplaceable shoots, which every historical period should nourish for its own cultural and spiritual pureness. Words are a mnemotechnical device par excellence and only with their help one can avoid the eternal lightness of forgetting and oblivion which the current culture, or what is left of it, has on offer and for sale in many different forms.

The author benevolently warns of necrotic existence in stuffy dens of spiritual hibernation, which we can witness nowadays all too often, and urges us to merrily spring with nimble feet, to sparkle, in short, to live life to the fullest. This lucidly written essay is distinguished by its exceptional broadness and clear outlook, with which it stood out among a wide selection of its fine competitors and convinced the jury to reach a unanimous decision.’

Sodobnost, the oldest Slovenian magazine for literature and culture (and one of the oldest literary magazines in Europe), follows closely cultural movements in Slovenia and abroad and publishes the latest work by renowned Slovenian poets, writers and playwrights. It has been instrumental in discovering and bringing to public attention new literary names, novelties in the book market. The magazine highlights the lesser known aspects of the philosophical and alternative thinking and actively comments on the cultural and social events in Slovenia and abroad. The Editor-in-Chief of Sodobnost is Evald Flisar, a Slovenian and worldwide known and recognized writer, poet, playwright, editor and translator.

Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha is an esteemed international lawyer, very popular teacher and former politician. He is the author and co-author of 32 books, including seven books of essays and one of aphorisms, as well as of hundreds of articles on maritime law, transport law, insurance law, law of the sea, ethics, etc.

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