



AMBASSADOR OF PERU TO MALTA VISITS IMLI

Her Excellency Ms. María Elvira Velásquez Rivas-Plata (Ambassador of Peru to the Holy See, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Malta and the Sovereign Order of Malta) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 23 November 2016, on the occasion of presenting to the President of Malta her Letters of Credence as the new Ambassador of her country to Malta.



Her Excellency Ms. María Elvira Velásquez Rivas-Plata (Ambassador of Peru to the Holy See, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Malta and the Sovereign Order of Malta) with Professor Attard (Director of IMLI)

During her meeting with the Director of the Institute, Professor David Attard, the Ambassador expressed her delight to visit such an internationally recognized institution for education and training in international maritime law. She highly appreciated the relationship between Peru and IMLI, whose excellent academic programmes have been attended by Peruvian students, and stated that she would like to contribute to the intensification of such a valuable cooperation. She acknowledged the relevance of Professor Attard's book – *The Exclusive Economic Zone in International Law* – the first comprehensive legal study regarding this institution of the new law of the sea regime. Her Excellency

and Professor Attard discussed the challenges of ocean governance and agreed that an integrated approach to ocean governance is the way forward.

At the conclusion of her visit, Her Excellency told the Editor of the IMLI e-News that she has high regard for IMLI and acknowledged its unique contribution to the rule of international maritime law.

Her Excellency, Ms. María Elvira Velásquez Rivas-Plata attained a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations (Peruvian Diplomatic Academy) and a Master's Degree in Science - Use of the Sea (London School of Economics). She has, as well, a Bachelor's Degree in Law (Universidad de San Martín de Porres) and a Certificate in Diplomatic Studies (Oxford University – Foreign Service Programme).

She entered the Peruvian Diplomatic Service in 1985 and was promoted to Ambassador in 2013. During her career she has held several positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as Director of Maritime Affairs, Director of Antarctic Affairs and General Director of the Treaties Division and has represented Peru in different fora regarding the Law of the Sea issues at the United Nations as well as at regional level, such as the South Pacific Commission (CPPS).

She has served abroad at the Embassies of Peru in the United Kingdom (Third Secretary: 1989-1992), the United States of America (Counsellor and Minister Counsellor: 1997-2002), Austria (Minister: 2006-2008), as well as Consul General in Loja (Ecuador: 2009-2011). Her most recent appointment is Ambassador to the Holy See and concurrent to the Republic of Malta and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

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