

IMLI^e-News

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MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY WORKSHOP HELD AT IMLI

Dr. George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, World Maritime University) and Mr. Jonathan Pace (Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute between 7 – 9 February 2017 and conducted a three-day workshop on maritime transport policy for the IMLI Class of 2016 – 2017.



(L-R) Mr Jonathan Pace (Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO), Professor Norman Martinez Gutierrez (Associate Professor, IMLI) and Professor George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, World Maritime University) with the IMLI Class of 2016 - 2017.

On the first day of the workshop, the duo introduced the students to the basic concepts defining maritime policy strategies and objectives, and the justification for developing and adopting a maritime policy.

The students were taken through the process of maritime policy development on the second day. During this session, they learned that international maritime law treaties are an important component in the process, and thus the need to integrate the same in the policy making.

On the final day of the seminar, the presenters engaged the students in analyzing the relevance of Safety, security, environmental and human factors as key components in the process of maritime transport policy development.

The highlight of the seminar was the presentation of a group exercise. The class was divided into 5 groups and their task was to ‘formulate the outline for a National Maritime Transport Policy of your country taking into account your national obligations under International Maritime Conventions and the economic/social development strategy of your country.’ As a guide, the groups were asked to reflect on national priorities and the rationale for strategies being different (inland waterway/small island state/arctic or remote territory, among other differentiations). Each group constituted at least one student from each region (Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and South America) so as to reflect the different perspectives on how maritime policy is developed.

The exercise was undertaken by the students with enthusiasm and appreciation. It as a rare opportunity meant to prepare them for the challenges they may encounter in their professional career.

Professor George Theocharidis obtained his Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the University of Cambridge (UK) and a Ph.D. from Aristotle University (Greece). He was a member of the Hellenic Maritime Law Association in 2000 and in 2004 he was accepted as supporting member in the London Maritime Association of Arbitrators (LMAA). He is a Member of the Piraeus Law Bar and a qualified advocate before Areios Pagos (Supreme Court), practising extensively in the special field of maritime law.

Prior to joining the World Maritime University (WMU), Professor Theocharidis was responsible for the legal support of the Shipping & International Division of a large Greek bank in the areas of Shipping Litigation, Ship Finance, and Corporate & International Disputes. Between 2006 and 2014, he was a teaching Fellow (non-permanent contract) at the Economic University of Athens. His research interests concentrate on Carriage of Goods by Sea, Marine Insurance and Conflict of Laws. He is the author of “Tort Liability of the Sea Carrier under Hague-Visby Rules” (2000); “The Co-ownership on Vessel as a Legal Form for the Exercise of Maritime Commercial Activity” (2008), and co-author of “Maritime Law” (2015). He has also published several articles. His published research work in international referred periodicals (J.Mar.L&C., R.H.D.I.) has received numerous citations from jurisprudence and theory (Heidelberg Report).

Mr. Jonathan Pace is the Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy, Technical Cooperation Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He obtained his Bachelors of Arts (B.A. Hons) degree in Public Administration from the University of Malta and a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in General Maritime Administration from the World Maritime University (WMU) in Sweden.

Between 1992 and 2002, Mr Pace was the Deputy Executive Director and Registrar of Ships at the Malta Maritime Authority (now known as Transport Malta). He also served as an Administrative Officer at the Parliamentary Secretariat for Offshore Activities and Maritime Affairs in Malta.

Mr. Pace joined the IMO in 2002 and initially served as Programme Officer (Prevention) and later as Senior Programme Officer at the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). In 2015, Mr Pace was transferred to the Technical Cooperation Division (TCD) at the IMO Headquarters in London and tasked with coordinating assistance to the IMO Member States in the development of national maritime transport policies. On the 1 July 2016, Mr Pace was appointed Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy and tasked with programme management responsibilities. Currently, he is also acting as TCD's Head of the Arab/Mediterranean region and is moreover responsible for IMO's partnerships arrangements.

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