

# IMLI *e*-News

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## THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC VISITS IMLI

The Honourable Dr. Panagiotis Kouroumplis (Minister for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of the Hellenic Republic) paid a courtesy visit to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 3 March 2017.



*The Honourable Dr. Panagiotis Kouroumplis (Minister for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of the Hellenic Republic) and Professor Attard (Director of IMLI)*

The Honourable Minister, who was accompanied by several Greek Officials, was welcomed by Professor Attard, who expressed his delight in having such a great personality visit IMLI. Professor Attard briefed the Minister about the activities of the Institute and the diversity of the student body

that encompasses officials from different legal cultures, who, after a year of studies at IMLI, return to their home countries equipped with knowledge and skills and assume the role of advisers to their respective governments on international maritime law. Currently, IMLI has over 800 graduates, some of whom are Attorneys General, Ministers, Ambassadors and other highly placed maritime and international law practitioners.

Professor Attard further stated that the heritage of Greece in the maritime world is unique and that discussions are underway to look into a possible collaboration between IMLI and the Aegean Institute of the Law of the Sea and Maritime Law.



*The Honourable Dr. Panagiotis Kouroumplis (Minister for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of the Hellenic Republic) and the IMLI Class of 2016-2017*

In his address to the students, the Honourable Minister said that he was personally proud to have had the opportunity to come to IMLI and to meet people from all over the world. He advised the students to take advantage of their stay at IMLI to greatly benefit from the guidance of Professor Attard and to always remember that ‘human power consists not of money but of knowledge.’

He informed the students that Greece, as a leader in shipping, will continue to support the IMO in its crucial role of setting rules because according to him, ‘global business needs global rules’ and that shipping and maritime transport is a field that connects people.

The Honourable Minister described his visit as a useful and enriching experience for him and his delegation. He pointed out that it is important that IMLI develops closer cooperation and

partnership not only with the Aegean Institute of Maritime Law but also with the other Greek universities undertaking maritime law studies.

When asked by the editor of the IMLI e-News what he would advise the students, considering the fact that he has strived and indeed achieved his highest potential despite his challenging circumstances, The Honourable Minister said: 'I am writing a book about it, but in short, I refuse to give up because I am a lover of life.'

The visit of the Honourable Minister to the Institute was very inspirational to the students who expressed their admiration for a person who, although visually impaired after an unfortunate incident when he was just nine years old, has successfully overcome the challenges that confronted him.

Present during the visit of the Greek delegation were Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Senior Legal Counsel, Japan Association of Marine Safety and Member of the IMLI Governing Board), Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to the IMO and Member of the IMLI Governing Board), and Dr. Mitja Grbec (President of the Maritime Law Association of Slovenia and Senior Lecturer at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation and IMLI Visiting Fellow).

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