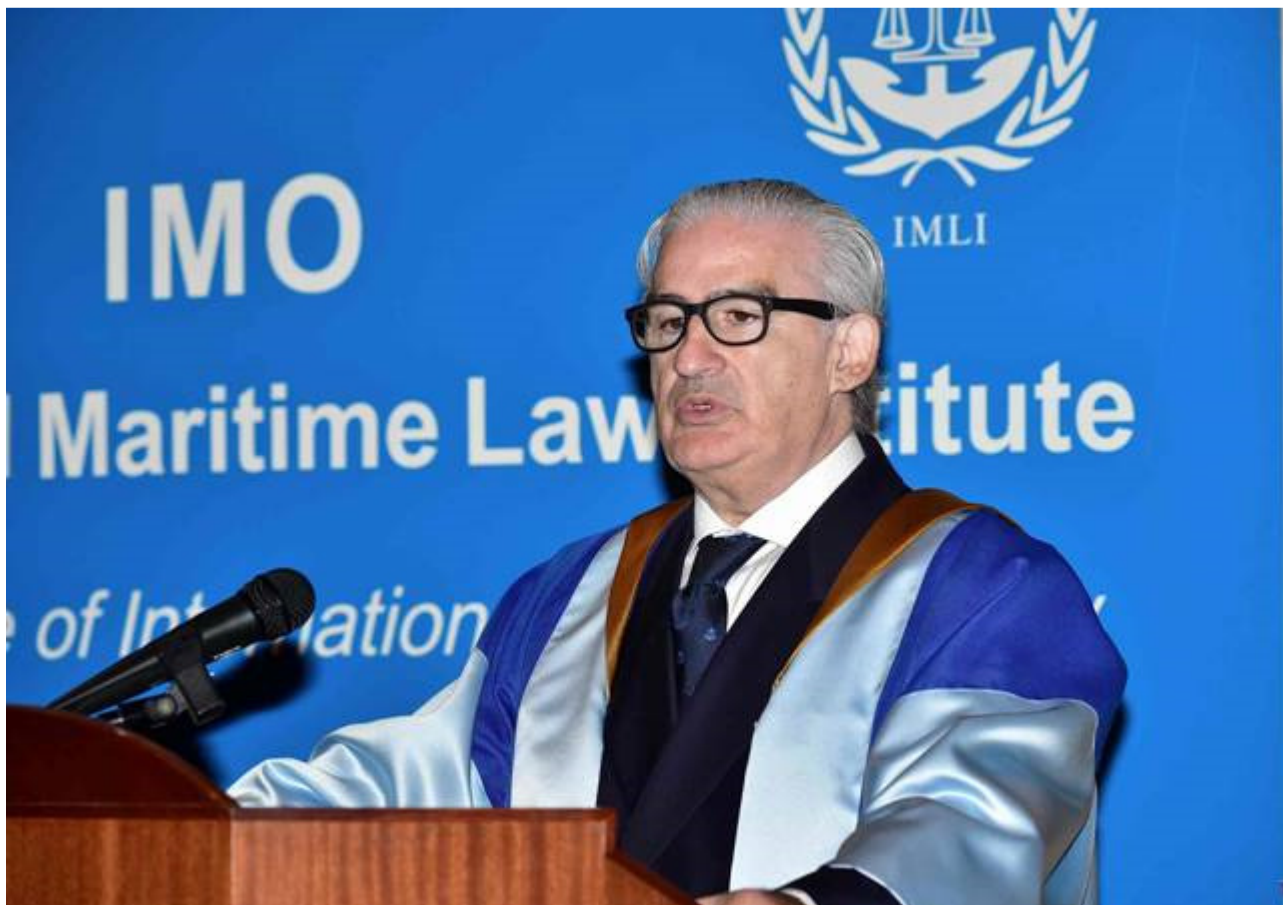


IMLI *e*-News

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IMLI DIRECTOR DELIVERS WELCOME ADDRESS AT THE 28TH ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE INSTITUTE

Professor David Joseph Attard (Director, IMLI) delivered the Welcome Address to the distinguished guests and graduands at the Institute's 28th Annual Graduation Ceremony held at the Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa, Malta on 27 May 2017.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) delivering the Welcome Address

In his Address, Professor Attard welcomed His Excellency Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO) and expressed his deepest appreciation and gratitude to him for the unprecedented interest he has taken in the work and welfare of the Institute and his staunch support to the work of IMLI in promoting the goals of the IMO. He noted that Mr. Kitack Lim has visited IMLI on four consecutive occasions since assumption of office.

Further, Professor Attard expressed delight at the presence of Honourable Dr. Anglu Farrugia (Speaker, House of Representative of Malta), which he described as a reflection of the long-standing support the Institute has received from the Government and the people of Malta since its inception.



The graduation ceremony

The dignitaries whose presence were amply recognised by Professor Attard, among others, includes Honourable Dr. George Vella (Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta), Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus of Malta), Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President, World Maritime University), Members of the IMLI Governing Board present (Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Senior Legal Counsel, The Japan Association of Marine Safety), Mr. Jim Harrison (Chairman, Financial

and Human Resources Committee) and Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO)), the Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, the African Delegation led by Dr. Christian Eninam Trimua (Executive Director, Inter-regional Coordination Centre), Professor Francis Reynolds (Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford) and Dr. Ann Fenech (Managing Partner, Fenech and Fenech Advocates, Malta).

While wishing the graduands success in your respective professional careers, Professor Attard assured them that their praiseworthy accomplishments will indeed open up a world of opportunities for them and their countries.

Reproduced below is the Welcome Address delivered by the Director

Your Excellency Secretary-General,
Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Minister Dr. George Vella,
President Emeritus of Malta, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici,
Members of the Diplomatic Community,
Members of the Judiciary,
Members of the IMLI Governing Board,
President of the World Maritime University,
Director of the African Inter-regional Coordination Centre,
Malta's Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen,
Representative of the Lloyd's Register Foundation,
Representative of the CMI,
Head of REMPEC Office,
Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies,
IMLI Visiting Professors,
Graduands,
Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you to IMLI's 28th 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 accepted to preside over today's Graduation Ceremony.

Secretary-General, allow me to take this opportunity to extend to you our deepest appreciation for the unprecedented interest you have taken in our work and the welfare of the Institute. I am proud to note that, since your election as the IMO Secretary-General in June 2015, you have already visited the Institute on four occasions. We are grateful for your unwavering support for IMLI's efforts to promote IMO's goals of effective implementation of international conventions and regulations, and capacity-building in developing countries.

We are particularly pleased that the Honourable Speaker Dr. Anglu Farrugia, who has shown great commitment to IMLI, is with us this morning. His presence is a reflection of the long-standing support which the Institute has received, since its establishment, from the Maltese Government and the people of Malta.

Distinguished Guests,

I am pleased to welcome to IMLI Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President of the World Maritime University, who when she worked at ILO was a visiting professor at IMLI.

I wish to recognize the presence of Mr. Masamichi Hasebe (Senior Legal Counsel, The Japan Association of Marine Safety), a Member of IMLI's Governing Board and a long-standing friend of IMLI. In fact, Mr. Hasebe had a catalytic role in ensuring The Nippon Foundation's support for our work. I am happy to report that this year marks the 13th anniversary since our two Institutions launched a programme of co-operation which has created a formidable network of 138 IMLI trained senior legal officials from 61 States, particularly from Asia.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, and Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno its Executive Director, for agreeing to expand our cooperation. Through The Nippon Foundation funding, IMLI has launched a global project on "Ocean Governance: Security, Stability, Safety and Sustainability". To this end, authoritative studies by 58 leading experts commissioned by IMLI have provided a blueprint for a more effective global ocean governance. The three-Volume report will be presented to the United

Nations next month when the Organization holds a Conference in New York to discuss the future of the Oceans.

I wish to welcome other Members of the Governing Board who are here with us today. Mr. Jim Harrison who is also the Chairman of our Financial and Human Resources Committee; and Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO), both have shown a great commitment to the Institute.

A warm welcome to the Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps and the African delegation lead by Dr. Christian Eninam Trimua (Executive Director of the Inter-regional Coordination Centre).

I am also very pleased to record the presence of Professor Francis Reynolds (Professor Emeritus of University of Oxford), who for over 20 years has taught the carriage of goods by sea programme, and his wife.

Distinguished Guests,

IMLI is a small institution with a global mission. It has for the past 28 years contributed to the building of a sustainable infrastructure of the maritime sector in States all over the world through the training of specialists – mainly government officials - in the field of international maritime law, particularly from developing countries.

This morning's graduands will be joining the global network of over 830 maritime professionals from 136 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, graduands from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Distinguished Guests,

One of the major challenges facing many developing countries is the lack of expertise enabling them to implement and enforce the large body of international maritime conventions. Recognizing this need, the Institute has greatly increased its efforts in maritime legislation drafting training. A unique feature of the IMLI training is that students are required to submit as part of their studies a draft law which incorporates the provisions of an international maritime convention into their national law.

Furthermore, the Institute, at the request of IMO, launched in October 2016 the Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) programme in International Maritime Legislation. This programme stems from the need of States to have trained specialists who will effectively ensure that the country's national legislation complies with the international standards adopted by IMO and other international organizations.

The M.Hum. programme structure is organized in a manner which balances the knowledge of legal principles and the need to understand the various international instruments which have shaped the maritime legal framework, particularly IMO Conventions. As the programme is addressed to Government officials, great importance is given to the public aspects of the law, and in so far as the private law is concerned, the syllabus focuses exclusively on those areas which are regulated by IMO conventions, and the Maritime Labour Convention developed by the International Labour Organization.

Distinguished Guests,

It gives me great satisfaction to look at our graduands, today being crowned with academic success, and to congratulate them for having succeeded despite the magnitude of their task.

For the past months they have undertaken exceptionally intensive and comprehensive programmes 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 cooperation with senior IMO officials, the appointment of independent external examiners and our collaboration with leading academics from such Universities as: Barcelona, Ferrara, Ljubljana, Malta, London, Oxford, and Yale to mention just a few.

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 now like to highlight unique academic initiatives the Institute is undertaking with leading educational centers in the world.

I am pleased to inform you that, next October, IMLI will offer with the World Maritime University a two-year joint degree of Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy. 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 studies offered at IMLI.

It is also my pleasure to report that, in October 2016, IMLI launched with Kuhne Logistics University a two-year joint Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Maritime Law and Logistics. Programme participants, who will spend the first year of their studies in Malta and the second year in Hamburg, will be provided with a thorough understanding of logistics and maritime operations together with intensive training in international maritime law.

Moreover, on 16 August 2016, upon the initiative of the IMO Secretary-General, IMLI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tongmyong University (TU) based in Busan, the Republic of Korea. The purpose of the MoU is to promote and enhance educational opportunities for Korean students as well as the exchange of teaching and research personnel. I would also like to refer to our project with Queen Mary University of London for the establishment of a joint master's degree programme on Migration at Sea in 2018.

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 published 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 has found its way to the libraries of many governments, scholars, and practitioners.

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, entitled 'Shipbreaking in Developing Countries: A Requiem for Environmental Justice from the Perspective of Bangladesh' by Dr. Saiful Karim (Senior Lecturer, School of Law, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology) will be published next month.

Distinguished Guests,

It is a matter of great pride to record that our work continues, for the ninth consecutive year, to be recognized by the United Nations General Assembly which in Resolution (A/Res/71/257) adopted on 23 December 2016 declared that it:

“Recognizes the importance of the work of the Malta-based International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization, as a centre of education and training of specialists in maritime law, including government legal advisers and other high-level officials, mainly from developing States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international maritime law, shipping law and marine environmental law, and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute which runs annually;”

Ladies and gentlemen,

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 programmes' syllabi 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 IMO Secretary-General.

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

“The Institute continues, year upon year, to strengthen the national maritime legislation capacities of the 136 countries and territories that have benefited from IMLI to-date. It assists IMO, through the delivery of its objectives and international outreach, to promote the key precepts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, it contributes directly to the implementation of SDG4 "Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote life-long learning",

helping to reduce gender disparities in post-graduate education and encourage equal access to specialized maritime training.

[...] We therefore owe a debt of gratitude to an Institute – with all of its staff and many supporters and donors – that, for nearly three decades, has been one of the key contributors to the well-being of the maritime sector.”

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 Government of Malta deserves special tribute for its 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 Norman Martinez, Professor Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Ms. Elda Belja, Ms. Ramat Jalloh, Ms. Tetty Lubis, and Mr. Buba Bojang; 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 professionals. This privilege carries with it a responsibility which I am confident you will bear with great pride. 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.

Dear Graduands,

I wish you further success in your respective professional careers. 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 IMLI Ambassadors, dedicated to serving the rule of international maritime law. I wish you well in your endeavours.

We are proud of you!

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*** For further information please contact Mr. Buba Bojang (Editor, IMLI e-News) at publications@imli.org*