

IMLI *e*-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 14, Issue No. 45) 09 June 2017

IMLI CLASS OF 2016-2017 VISITS THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALTA

The IMLI Class of 2016-2017, accompanied by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and the Academic Staff visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta on 25 May 2017. The Class was welcomed by the Hon. Dr. George Vella (Minister, Foreign Affairs of Malta).



Hon. Dr. George Vella (Minister, Foreign Affairs of Malta) receiving a gift from Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2016-2017

In his address to the students, Hon. Dr. Vella recognized that the strength of IMLI lies in the contribution of its graduates to the development and implementation of the rule of international maritime law. He stated that Malta is indeed very proud to have hosted such a prestigious institution of international repute.



Hon. Dr. George Vella (Minister, Foreign Affairs of Malta) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) with the IMLI Class of 2016-2017

Hon. Dr. Vella gave a detailed analysis of the current affairs and international relations which he described as a glimpse of the type of world in which the students will be living and practising. He said that there are challenges such as migration, humanitarian crises, unprecedented population increase overstressing economic growth, climate change and pollution of the marine environment which require an urgent international response but continue to exist without any practicable solution. He also gave a detailed analysis of the current state of international peace and security and mentioned countries like Syria, Libya, Iraq and Venezuela as hotspots that require urgent solutions. He described Africa as a continent of hope and opportunities, albeit its challenges in terms of security, migration and population growth among others. He mentioned China as a country which has for the past years registered a steady increase in economic growth.

At the end of his address, the Hon. Minister kindly entertained questions from the students. For his part, Professor Attard thanked the Hon. Minister for the warm reception he gave to the students and described him as a person with encyclopaedic knowledge of international relations.

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