



PROFESSOR OF LOGISTICS AT KÜHNE LOGISTICS UNIVERSITY LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Alan C. McKinnon (Logistics Professor at the Kühne Logistics University (KLU) in Hamburg, Germany), visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and delivered a series of lectures from 31 October to 3 November 2016 to the IMLI Class of 2016 – 2017. Professor McKinnon's presence at the Institute is part of the collaboration, between IMLI and KLU, which marked the commencement of the Master's Degree Programme in International Maritime Law and Logistics (IMLLog) in October 2016. His course, entitled "*Business Logistics and Supply Chain Management*" is part of his University's academic contribution towards the teaching in the joint Programme.



Professor Allan C. McKinnon and the IMLI Class of 2016 – 2017

At the start of his lecture, Professor McKinnon expressed his satisfaction about the collaboration between IMLI and his University. He noted that logistics is a practical and policy-oriented subject, and that in academic circles its links to maritime law have been quite tenuous. The joint effort of the two institutions in introducing the programme is to contextualise maritime law in the logistics management chain. In his introductory remarks, Professor McKinnon recounted the evolution of logistics, from its very basics of truck and shed handling of materials to the highly automated and capital intensive operations with highly computerised systems. In challenging the public perception that logistics is the same as transportation, the definition of logistics was discussed as ‘a process of strategically managing the movement and storage of materials, parts and finished inventory from suppliers through the firm and onto the customer.’

To support his argument that business complexity is more of a logistical challenge than manufacturing, Professor McKinnon identified the key elements of logistical system to include, among others, inventory; warehousing; material handling; freight transport; information (collection, processing and transmission), and packaging, customisation and recycling.

The course provided a general introduction to logistics and supply chain management, emphasizing their economic and environmental importance. The first part laid the conceptual and theoretical foundations of the subjects and gave students a sense of the scale and diversity of logistics as both a business function and an industry. It examined the impact on logistics of a series of global trends, such as globalisation, centralisation and trade facilitation. Professor McKinnon led to a discussion of the strategic options available to logistics managers and the use of logistics to gain competitive advantage.

The second part of the course focused on the four key elements in a logistics system: freight transport, inventory management, warehousing / materials handling and IT. The transport section focused on the role of governments in the freight sector and included an overview of maritime logistics. The sections on the other three activities considered management methods, trends, challenges and the impact of new technologies, including 3D printing, automation and the ‘internet of things’.

The concluding part of the course addressed the ‘greening of the maritime supply chain’. This included a review of shipping-related externalities and the efforts of shipping lines, ports and public bodies to reduce them. Particular attention was given to the efforts of the IMO to decarbonise maritime transport. At the end the course, the students took part in a mock parliamentary debate on the case for and against legislation to impose a national green freight policy.

Professor Allan C. McKinnon began his career as a lecturer and researcher in economic, geography and transport at the University of Leicester. In 1995, he was appointed full professor at the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, where he established a specialised research center in logistics, and a master’s degree programme in logistics and supply chain management. He was appointed Emeritus

Professor of the Heriot-Watt University in 2014. Professor McKinnon's PhD, obtained from the University of London, was one of the first doctoral project on logistics conducted in the UK. He is an accomplished publisher in the area of logistics as an academic discipline. In 2003, he received the Sir Robert Lawrence Award (the highest distinction of the UK Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport) for his admired track record in logistics research and education. He is a visiting Professor at Universities in Australia, China, Italy, Malaysia and Sweden, and has lectured in over 35 countries.

Professor McKinnon has a Master of Arts Degree in Geography from the University of Aberdeen and a Master of Science Degree in transportation studies from the University of British Columbia.

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