

IMLI DIRECTOR ADDRESSES IMO ASSEMBLY

Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) addressed the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Assembly at its 30th Session at the IMO Headquarters, London on 4 December 2017, where he presented Document A 30/17(b) concerning the Report on the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI).

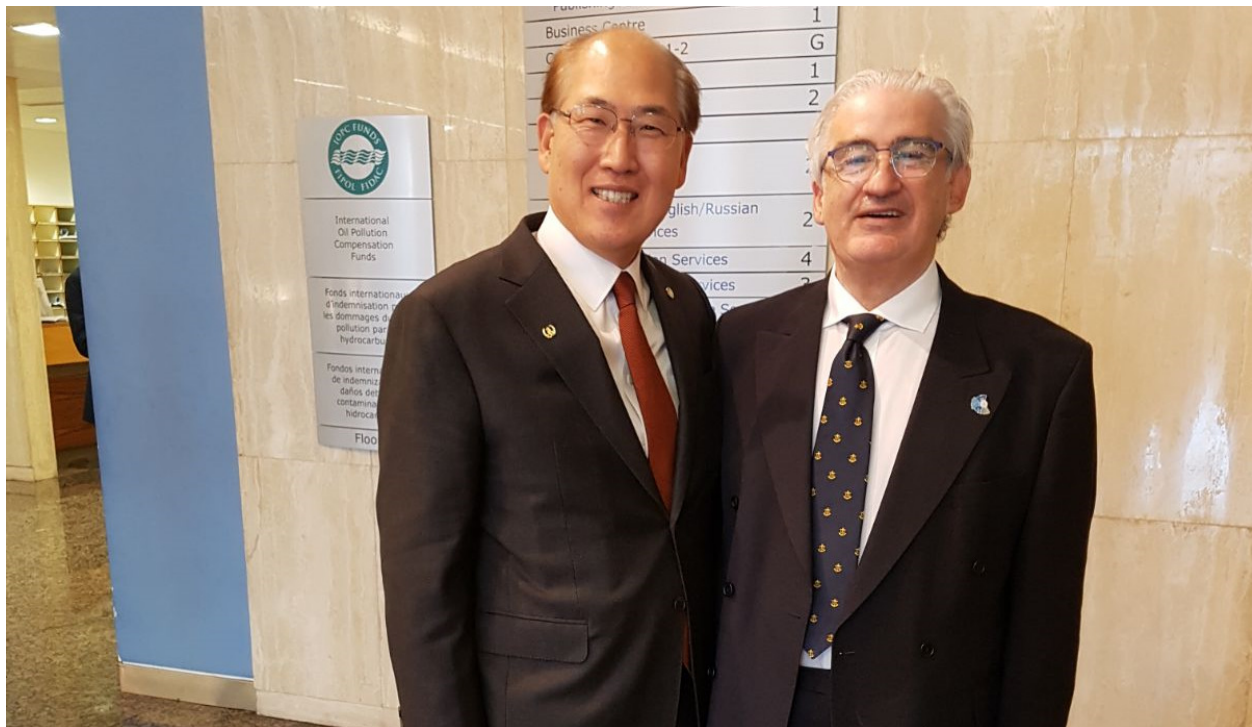


Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) making his presentation at the 30th Session of the IMO Assembly

In introducing the Report, Professor Attard stated that IMLI is an important facet of the technical cooperation programme of the IMO. He informed that Assembly that 881 students from 139 countries have graduated from the Institute's programmes and courses since its inception in 1988 to the 2016-2017 academic year.

The Assembly learned that the UN General Assembly, through Resolution A/Res/71/257 on 'Oceans and the law of the sea', recognised the crucial contribution of IMLI to the effective capacity building in the field of international maritime law, shipping law and marine environmental law.

Professor Attard further informed the Assembly that in the 2016-2017 academic year, IMLI introduced two new specialised postgraduate programmes in International Maritime Legislation and International Maritime Law and Logistics respectively; and in September 2017, another new two-year joint programme with the World Maritime University (WMU) in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO)

On the fruitful cooperation between IMLI and the Nippon Foundation, the Assembly was updated on the progress of an exceptionally productive collaboration which recently witnessed the launch of a global research project entitled 'Ocean Governance: Security, Stability, Safety and Sustainability'.

Professor Attard then paid tribute to Malta's continuous support, including financial support to the operation of the Institute.

The Assembly is the highest governing body of the IMO. It is responsible for approving the work programme and budget of the Organization, and determining financial arrangements and electing the IMO Council. It consists of all IMO Member States and meets once every two years.

The full speech of Professor Attard is reproduced below:

"Mr. President,

As is the case with WMU, the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) is an important element of IMO's technical cooperation programme.

As at the end of the 2016/2017 academic year, since the inception of IMLI, a total of 881 students from 139 States and territories around the world have participated in the Institute's programmes and courses. Demand for the Institute's academic programmes continues to rise and the 2016/2017 academic year saw the enrolment of 36 students from 27 States. In this regard, the Institute will continue to work in parallel with IMO to respond to emerging capacity-building needs in developing countries.

I am pleased to inform the Assembly that IMLI's contribution to the international maritime community was recognized for the ninth consecutive year by the UN General Assembly, through its resolution A/Res/71/257 on "Oceans and the law of the sea", which confirmed its effective capacity-building role in the field of international maritime law, shipping law and marine environmental law.

During the academic year 2016-2017, the Institute launched a specialized postgraduate programme leading to the Degree of Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) in International Maritime Legislation and a two-year joint programme leading to the Degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Maritime Law and Logistics in cooperation with Kühne Logistics University. Both programmes were well received but the M.Hum course drew a substantial number of applications from States which lack national expertise in the drafting of maritime legislation. On a related note, in September 2017, IMLI and WMU launched a new joint two-year programme – offered on a self-financed basis – entitled Master of Philosophy in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy.

Whilst the Government of Malta, through its official bodies, recognizes the degrees conferred by the Institute, discussions are ongoing for the recognition of its new programmes. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to urge Member States to take action so as to recognize, under their national laws, IMLI's degrees.

Following the successful completion of the interactive workshop on general principles of drafting national legislation to implement IMO conventions that took place at the IMO Headquarters in September 2017 within the framework of IMO's ITCP and in which two IMLI Faculty members participated, the Institute is currently discussing with IMO the organization of similar training

courses and is planning to schedule the first joint training course between IMLI and IMO in the summer of 2018.

During the period under review, the fruitful cooperation between IMLI and the Nippon Foundation continued to be strengthened with the launch of a global research project entitled "Ocean Governance: Security, Stability, Safety and Sustainability." To this end, fifty-eight leading experts were invited to write authoritative studies on ocean governance's challenges and fragmentation aimed at providing a blueprint for a more effective global and sustainable ocean governance. Under phase II of the joint IMLI - Nippon Foundation "Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Legal Order for the Oceans" established in 2003, three teaching posts namely, the Nippon Foundation Professorship on Marine Environmental Law, the Nippon Foundation Lectureship on International Maritime Security Law and the Nippon Foundation Lectureship on Ocean Governance were established. It is pertinent to note that since the launching of this project, 138 lawyers from 61 States have received training in the Institute's LL.M. programme.

On the subject of cooperation agreements, the Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tongmyong University (TU) and a Cooperation Agreement with the International Ocean Institute (IOI). A cooperation proposal for the establishment of a cooperative two-year Master's degree programme on Migration at Sea with Queen Mary University of London has also been approved.

Turning to financial matters, the Assembly may wish to note that the External Auditor issued an "unqualified opinion" on the Institute's Financial Statements for the years ending 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016. With reserves of €2,788,813 at the end of 2016, the Institute's current short-term financial situation reflects a stable platform, thanks to the generosity of a very small group of recurring donors and strenuous economies over a number of years.

Malta has continued to provide and maintain the academic premises of the Institute and the residence for the students at no cost to the Institute and to financially support the operation of the Institute for which we continue to express our appreciation.

Thank you, Mr. President."

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