

IMLI^e-News

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IMO, IMLI AND WMU SEMINAR ON MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY CONCLUDES AT IMLI

The Two-Day Seminar on Maritime Transport Policy delivered by Mr. Jonathan Pace (Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) and Dr. George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, World Maritime University) to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018 was successfully concluded on 16 February 2016 at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Mr Jonathan Pace (Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) and Professor George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, World Maritime University) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

In the first session of Day 2, the Seminar presenters elucidated on the significance of international maritime instruments being reflected in the formulation of maritime transport policy. The Presenters also discussed the relevance of safety, security, environmental and human factor considerations, considered as key facets in the preparation and adoption of a maritime transport policy. Other relevant issues discussed included the role of flag, coastal and port States, and

maritime administration in the formulation of a maritime transport policy. The students were informed that when developed, maritime transport policy should be continuously reviewed and updated in order to ensure that it is in conformity with the relevant current developments in the field.



Presentation of Group Exercise

Presentation of Group Exercise from students was the highlight of the seminar. The Class was divided into six groups and tasked with formulating the outline for a National Maritime Transport Policy of a country taking into account national obligations under International Maritime Conventions and the economic/social development strategy of the country. As a guide, the groups were requested to reflect on national priorities and the rationale for strategies being different (inland waterway/small island state/arctic or remote territory, among other differentiations). Each group constituted at least one student from each region (Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and South America) so as to reflect the different perspectives on how maritime transport policy is developed.



Presentation of Group Exercise

The exercise was undertaken by the students with enthusiasm as it was considered as a rare opportunity meant to prepare them for the challenges they may encounter in their professional career. The students expressed their satisfaction for such an opportunity to be informed on the processes and techniques of formulating an effective maritime transport policy.

The Seminar, which is in its second consecutive year, is the result of the fruitful collaboration between IMO, IMLI and WMU.



Group exercise discussion

Asked to comment on the importance of the Seminar for the IMLI students, Mr. Pace stated that most legislation is the result of policies. Hence, the importance of maritime students being aware of the significance of formulating and adopting a proper maritime transport policy and its relevance to the development of effective maritime legislation.

Professor George Theocharidis obtained his Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the University of Cambridge (UK) and a Ph.D. from Aristotle University (Greece). He was a member of the Hellenic Maritime Law Association in 2000 and in 2004 he was accepted as supporting member in the London Maritime Association of Arbitrators (LMAA). He is a Member of the Piraeus Law Bar and a qualified advocate before Areios Pagos (Supreme Court), practising extensively in the special field of maritime law.

Prior to joining the World Maritime University (WMU), Professor Theocharidis was responsible for the legal support of the Shipping & International Division of a large Greek bank in the areas of Shipping Litigation, Ship Finance, and Corporate & International Disputes. Between 2006 and 2014, he was a teaching Fellow (non-permanent contract) at the Economic University of Athens. His research interests concentrate on Carriage of Goods by Sea, Marine Insurance and Conflict of Laws. He is the author of “Tort Liability of the Sea Carrier under Hague-Visby Rules” (2000); “The Co-ownership on Vessel as a Legal Form for the Exercise of Maritime Commercial Activity” (2008), and co-author of “Maritime Law” (2015). He has also published several articles. His published research work in international referred periodicals (J.Mar.L&C., R.H.D.I.) has received numerous citations from jurisprudence and theory (Heidelberg Report).

Mr. Jonathan Pace is the Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy, Technical Cooperation Division of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). He obtained his Bachelors of Arts (B.A. Hons) degree in Public Administration from the University of Malta and a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in General Maritime Administration from the World Maritime University (WMU) in Sweden.

Between 1992 and 2002, Mr Pace was the Deputy Executive Director and Registrar of Ships at the Malta Maritime Authority (now known as Transport Malta). He previously served as an Administrative Officer at the Parliamentary Secretariat for Offshore Activities and Maritime Affairs in Malta.

Mr. Pace joined the IMO in 2002 and initially served as Programme Officer (Prevention) and later as Senior Programme Officer at the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). In 2015, Mr Pace was transferred to the Technical Cooperation Division (TCD) at the IMO Headquarters in London and tasked with coordinating assistance to the IMO Member States in the development of national maritime transport policies. On the 1 July 2016, Mr Pace was appointed Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy and tasked with programme management responsibilities. Currently, he is also acting as TCD’s Head of the Arab/Mediterranean region and is moreover responsible for IMO’s partnerships arrangements.

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