



STATE REPRESENTATIVES AT IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE PRAISE THE WORK OF IMLI

The Member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) rated the work of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) as laudable during the 105th Session of the Organization's Legal Committee meeting at its Headquarters, London on 24 April 2018. The Member States' positive reaction came after Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI) addressed the IMO Legal Committee concerning the Institute's activities in the calendar year 2017. The attendees were also presented with the dissertation of Lt. Liliana Diaz Medina (Mexico), entitled "The Effectiveness of Current International Ship-Boarding Provisions to Combat Crime at Sea", which was awarded the IMO Secretary General's Prize for Best Dissertation for the academic year 2016-2017.



The International Maritime Organization

Below follows a summary of these interventions.

Mexico: The Mexican Delegate thanked Professor Attard for the presentation of the activities of the Institute and the list of dissertations and maritime legislation drafting projects undertaken by students of IMLI. The latter, according to the delegate, was a result of the request made by IMO Member States so that they can share these works for the benefit of both the IMO and the maritime community at large. The Delegate acknowledged the work of the Institute in advancing the IMO strategy of the participation of women in its programmes to more than fifty percent of its intake. He expressed delight over the achievement of Lt. Liliana Diaz Medina (Mexico) for winning the prize for the best dissertation for the Academic Year 2016 and 2017 and that such research work (which looks into the current international shipboarding provisions) will be an essential contribution to combat crime at sea. The Delegate also thanked The Nippon Foundation for the generous scholarship award given to Lt. Liliana Diaz Medina.

Indonesia: The Indonesian delegate thanked Professor Attard for the presentation of the report on activities of IMLI for the Year 2017. The delegate acknowledged the relevance of the IMLI training recalling that many Indonesian maritime professionals are IMLI graduates. While thanking the Government of Malta and sponsors who provide financial support to the Institute, the delegate urged Member States to send more students to IMLI.

the Philippines: Adding his voice to those who spoke before him, the Philippine delegate thanked IMLI for the training afforded to the country's maritime legal experts, two of whom were part of the delegation. The Delegate further registered his country's appreciation to IMLI for its valuable contribution to the implementation of IMO Conventions. He thanked Professor Attard, the donor countries, NGOs and the government of Malta for their support to the Institute's programmes. The Delegate suggested that training opportunities at the Institute should be extended to legislators.

Malta: The Delegate of Malta thanked IMLI and Professor Attard for the very successful year. He recalled that the Institute started with a handful of students and has now evolved into a renowned academic institution of international repute. He congratulated Lt. Liliana Diaz Medina for her achievement and noted that she represented many other students who have submitted their work to their various countries. Assuring the Committee of the continuous support of the Government of Malta, the Delegate thanked the donors and the various NGOs who continue to support the Institute. He lent support to the suggestion of the delegate from the Philippines for training opportunities at IMLI to be extended to legislators.

Democratic Republic of Congo: The delegate from the Democratic Republic of the Congo thanked IMLI for its work and congratulated Lt. Liliana Diaz Medina for her achievement. The delegate noted that DRC, being a French-speaking country is slightly left out of the IMLI training opportunities since the language of instruction of the Institute is English. He urged the IMO Secretariat to give due consideration to his concern so that the French-speaking countries can also benefit from IMLI programmes.

Georgia: The Delegate of Georgia thanked the Government of Malta for its continued support to IMLI and commended IMLI and Professor Attard for the achievements registered in the year under review, and for contributing to ensuring legal clarity in use of our oceans for the betterment of international maritime law. The delegate highlighted the importance of the training of maritime

legal experts for the Member States and congratulated Lt. Liliana Diaz Medina for her achievement, and The Nippon Foundation for sponsoring her studies.

Cook Islands: The delegate of Cook Islands congratulated the IMLI graduates of the 2016-2017 academic year, notably, Lt. Liliana Diaz Medina. The delegate also expressed sincere gratitude to the valuable work undertaken by the prestigious IMLI and the Government of Malta and the contributing donors for their support. The delegate urged Member States, who are fortunate enough to have IMLI graduates, to make use of their knowledge and skills.

Brazil: The Brazilian delegate registered his appreciation for the work of IMLI as a centre of training of specialists in international maritime law and that such training is essential to both the IMO and the Member States.

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