IMLI *e*-News

MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY SEMINAR HELD AT IMLI

Dr. George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, WMU) and Mr. Jonathan Pace (Acting Chief, Programme Management and Coordination, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute between 19 and 21 November 2018 and conducted a three-day seminar on Maritime Transport Policy for the IMLI Class of 2018-2019.

Mr. Jonathan Pace (Acting Chief, Programme Management and Coordination, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) and Dr. George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, WMU) meeting the IMLI Class of 2018-2019

At the beginning of the seminar, the resource persons introduced the students to the basic concepts of policy and strategy. Then, they explained the justification for developing and adopting a maritime policy, as well as the significance of the policy development process, after ascertaining the national goals and objectives.

During the three-day session, the students learned, among others, that international maritime law treaties are an important element in the national maritime transport policy formulation process, and thus the need to reflect treaty obligations in the policy.

Dr. George Theocharidis (Associate Professor of Maritime Law & Policy, WMU) and Mr. Jonathan Pace (Acting Chief, Programme Management and Coordination, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) with the IMLI Class of 2018-2019

The highlight of the seminar was the presentation of the group exercise. The class was divided into six groups, and their task was to formulate and present an outline of a National Maritime Transport Policy of an imaginary country, taking into account the obligations under international maritime conventions and the socio-economic development strategy of the represented country.

Group presentation

The students undertook the exercise with enthusiasm and appreciation. It was a rare opportunity meant to prepare them for the challenges they may encounter when they return to their respective jurisdictions.

Commenting on the relevance of the Seminar, Mr. Pace stated that 'it was important for the IMLI students to be introduced to the concept of maritime transport policy and its importance to the development of maritime legislation as it is essential for them to understand the close relation between policy and legislation'.

Before joining WMU, Dr. Theocharidis was responsible for the legal support of the Shipping and International Division of a large Greek bank in the areas of Shipping Litigation, Ship Finance, Corporate and International Disputes. He is the author of the books "Tort Liability of the Sea Carrier under Hague-Visby Rules", "The Co-ownership on Vessel as legal form for the exercise of maritime commercial activity" and co-author of "Greek Maritime Law". He has also published several articles and has been an invited speaker in various international conferences.

Mr Jonathan 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 IMO Member States in the development of national maritime transport policies. On 1 July 2016, Mr Pace was appointed Head, Programme Management and Maritime Transport Policy and also tasked with programme management responsibilities. In August 2018, Mr Pace was designated as Acting Chief, Subdivision for Programme Management and Coordination, Technical Cooperation Division.

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