

IMLI *e*-News

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HEAD OF THE SWISS MARITIME NAVIGATION OFFICE AND GOVERNOR OF IMLI LECTURES AT IMLI

Dr. Reto Dürler (Head, Swiss Maritime Navigation Office and Governor, IMLI Governing Board) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 8 March 2019 and delivered a lecture on ‘The New SUA Protocols: Developments, Contents and Scope’ to the IMLI Class of 2018-2019.



Dr. Reto Dürler (Head, Swiss Maritime Navigation Office and Governor, IMLI Governing Board) with the IMLI Class of 2018-2019

In his lecture, Dr. Dürler discussed piracy and examined the International Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation of 1988, and the Protocol on Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (SUA 1988) before turning to discuss the development, content and scope of the new SUA Protocols which were adopted in 2005. He laid special emphasis on the new offences and the boarding provisions set out in the said Protocol.



Dr. Reto Dürler, guided by Ms. Barbara Ujlaki (student from Luxembourg), pins the IMLI lapel badge on the map to represent the attendance of Luxembourg at IMLI for the first time

He also examined the relationship between piracy and terrorism with a view to determining whether the legal rules against piracy can be applied to terrorism. He stated that piracy is one of the crimes where the application of universal jurisdiction is recognised under customary international law because pirates are considered *hostes humani generis*, that is, enemies of all humanity. He stated that while piracy and terrorism at sea have many similarities in that both are forms of violent interference with shipping, there is a marked difference between their respective goals. That pirates seek financial gain while terrorists seek political or ideological objective. Notwithstanding these differences, Dr. Dürler concluded that a similar approach should be undertaken to combat both.

Dr. Reto Dürler was asked to describe the progressive development of IMLI since he became a Governor of the Institute's Governing Board.

When I assumed my function as Governor of the IMLI Governing Board in 2006, I was immediately struck by the high quality of the academic education at IMLI. And this has not changed. I feel it is important to stress that the quality of tuition has been kept along all these years from 2006. However, IMLI has become more diverse: initially devised for students from countries in economic development, IMLI has opened its doors for students from all over the world. Even my country, Switzerland, has had the privilege to send two students to IMLI in the course of the

years, and two female students at that. This year Luxemburg marks the arrival yet from another European and in addition from a landlocked country which runs a maritime fleet. And the Luxemburg student is a woman, too. This clearly shows that the maritime profession has become more feminine and definitely not to the detriment of the industry. Having been a male sector for decades, shipping has become more “gender-even”: this marks an important development. And IMLI has grown considerably: the on-site campus has become too small to accommodate all students. The worldwide interest to follow an IMLI graduate course has grown and is still growing. IMLI is no static body, its constant development is a permanent challenge for the entire staff and the Governing Board. Yet I think it is important to define a threshold for growth: growth must not be an aim per se, it must be embedded in a rationale. This means that growth must go along with the conservation of quality and sustainability. Sheer growth in numbers alone cannot be welcome.

Dr. Dürler studied Law, Contemporary History and Languages at the Universities of Basel and Geneva. In 1988 he passed the federal examination to the diplomatic service of his country and served in South Africa, Germany and various functions at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bern. Between 2000 and 2002, Dr. Dürler served as Head of the Division of International Affairs in the Federal Ministry of Health of Switzerland. He has been the Head of the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office since 2005. In 2009 the Swiss Government appointed him Ambassador and Head of Delegation to the Central Commission of the Navigation on the Rhine which is the oldest international organisation in Europe based on the so-called Mannheim Convention which came into force in 1868. (Switzerland, Germany, France, Netherlands and Belgium).

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