

## IMLI DIRECTOR ADDRESSES OCEAN AMBASSADORS MEETING

On the invitation of The Honourable Mr. Carmelo Abela (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Malta), Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) addressed the Ocean Ambassadors Meeting held in Malta.



Ocean Ambassadors Meeting held in Malta

In his address, Professor Attard explained the reasons for the establishment of the Institute in Malta in 1988. He stressed that whilst commendable progress has been achieved in adopting maritime treaties, many States, particularly developing countries, lacked the national expertise which enables the transformation of the treaty rules into domestic law and their enforcement by national courts.

Professor Attard reported that over 1,000 maritime professionals from 146 States and territories have received training at IMLI. Professor Attard also informed the audience that this year it is expected that some 50 participants will attend the 31<sup>st</sup> academic year pursuing studies in international maritime law under the Institute's various Master's programmes.

The meeting was also addressed by The Honourable Mr. Carmelo Abela (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Malta), Mr. Peter Thomson (United Nations Special Envoy for the Oceans), Mr. Karmenu Vella (EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries), and Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC (Secretary-General of the Commonwealth).

The Meeting was attended by Ocean Ambassadors and representatives of the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Development Programme, the European Commission, the EU Presidency, and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

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