



## **IMLI DIRECTOR ADDRESSES THE HUTCHISON PORTS/IMO/IMLI SEMINAR ‘DO PORTS NEED INTERNATIONAL REGULATION?’**

Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) addressed the Hutchison Ports/IMO/IMLI Seminar on ‘Do ports need international regulation’ held at the IMO Headquarters in London on 9 September 2019. The discussion revolved around the need for increased international port regulations. Ports fall within the sovereignty of States and there are already IMO regulations which extend to port operations. The crux of the matter is the effective enforcement.



*Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) addressing the Seminar*

In his address, Professor Attard highlighted the role of ports in international maritime law and the importance of implementation of international regulations into domestic law. He also emphasized the need for capacity-building and training of maritime professionals, especially from the developing States, to ensure harmonization and unified implementation of international rules. In this respect, he noted the role of IMLI which for the last three decades has been spearheading the dissemination of knowledge and expertise in international maritime law, with particular focus on the instruments adopted by IMO and their incorporation and effective implementation into domestic legislation.



*(From L-R) Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General), Mr. Frederick Kenney (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO), Mr. Clemence Cheng (Executive Director of Hutchison Ports), and Ms. Nusrat Ghani MP (the UK Maritime Minister)*

The IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim informed the audience that the IMO Convention gives the Organization a mandate to regulate in ports. He recalled that some current IMO regulations cater for port operations - for example those surrounding security, reception facilities and the Facilitation (FAL) Convention. “However, there are many opportunities to further explore and enhance the cooperation between shipping, ports and the logistics industries,” Mr. Lim said, adding that a port sector that can streamline procedures and remove barriers to trade, embrace new technologies, and treat safety, security and reputation as both desirable and marketable, will be a major driver towards stability and sustainable development – and support the achievement of the UN sustainable development goals (SDGS).

The United Kingdom Maritime Minister, Ms. Nusrat Ghani MP, also highlighted the advances being made in the integrated supply chain. "What new standards will be needed is a question we need to answer," she said, adding that regulation needs to be responsive to new challenges and be fit for purpose.

The event was part of the London International Shipping Week (LISW) and was moderated by Mr. Frederick Kenney (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO). Mr. Clemence Cheng (Executive Director of Hutchison Ports) also addressed the distinguished participants.

Panellists included Mr. Patrick Verhoeven (International Association of Ports and Harbours), Mr. Guy Platten (International Chamber of Shipping), Ms. Lamia Kerdjoudj-Belkaid (The Federation of European Private Port Companies and Terminals), Mr. Andrew Higgs (Setfords Solicitors), Ms. Sakura Kuma (Yokohama and Kawasaki International Port), and Ms. Diana Whitney (Hutchison Ports).

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