



IMO COUNCIL HOLD ITS 30TH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

The IMO Council held its 30th extraordinary session between 21 and 22 November 2019 at the IMO Headquarters in London. During the meeting, Professor David Attard, (Director, IMLI) introduced Documents C/ES 30/7 on the Annual Report of the IMLI Governing Board, on behalf of Mr. Kitack Lim, the Secretary-General of the IMO.



Professor David Attard (centre) with IMLI Graduates during Council's 30th extraordinary session

(L-R) Mr. Watchara Chiemanukulkit, Mr. Alberto Jose Martinez Salinas, Mr. George Joseph Tshatumbu and Mr. Ronald Sipho Jama Mbatha

During his introduction of the Document, Professor Attard announced with pride that the Institute has now reached a global network of over a 1000 trained officials hailing from 146 States. He announced further that in 2018-2019 there were 48 graduates from 35 States out of which 26 were female participants. Professor Attard reported that this year the Institute celebrated its 30th anniversary with a Commemorative Seminar under the patronage of the Secretary-General that took place at the IMO Headquarters on the 25th June 2019 in the margins of the 69th Session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee. He stated that the Seminar was attended by some 350 participants, including Members of the IMLI Governing Board, Representatives of IMO Member States, members of diplomatic corps, academic institutions, and various stakeholders from the maritime community and, importantly, IMLI alumni from all over the world.

In conclusion, Professor Attard went on to assure the Council that the Institute will continue to reinforce its contribution to assisting countries and the industry stakeholders through its post-graduate, research, and capacity-building programmes on maritime law issues, as well as continue to take an active role towards the achievement of the UN's SDGs.

Following the presentation by the Director, several representatives of IMO Member States at Council made interventions, including Japan, Republic of Korea, Kenya, Mexico, Thailand, Egypt, South Africa, Panama, Brazil and Malta. In the interventions, they congratulated IMLI on its 30th anniversary and thanked Professor Attard for his consistent hard work being at the helm of a valuable training institute such as IMLI. Further, these representatives thanked the staff of IMLI for their dedication and commitment in providing training and education for students across the globe.

The host country, Malta, and donors were also thanked for supporting IMLI and ensuring that the Institute continues to provide solid training and education to government officials in the field of international maritime law, especially the drafting of maritime legislation.

Member States' noted that the creation of IMLI and its evolution into a truly global institute to serve the rule of the international maritime law is well documented, including the testimonies of those who have in one capacity or another, passed through it. They noted further that the success story that is IMLI is universally evident through the sterling contribution of its graduates to serve the maritime industry within both public and private sector in countries big and small, developed and developing, alike.

In conclusion, Council Members urged IMO Member States to nominate more of their officials to be trained at IMLI.

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