

UNCTAD'S CHIEF OF TRADE LOGISTICS BRANCH LECTURES AT IMLI

Dr. Jan Hoffmann (Chief of Trade Logistics Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) delivered a set of lectures to the IMLI Class of 2019-2020 within the Institute's specialized short course on "Law of Ports", addressing many important issues on ports' logistics and the role of ports in trade facilitation.

Dr. Hoffmann started his lectures by introducing the demand and supply relationship in the maritime supply chains and the crucial role ports play in it. He further discussed the developments in International Seaborne Trade with reference to the share each student's home country attending IMLI's programmes for this academic year has in the overall International Seaborne Trade volume.



Dr. Jan Hoffmann (Chief of Trade Logistics Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) meeting the students of the IMLI Class 2019-2020

Dr. Hoffmann also covered the subject of maritime transport costs and its long terms trends. He emphasized that trade facilitation, port privatization, better port efficiency and port infrastructure together with better port connectivity are the leading factors in reducing maritime transport costs. In this regard, he briefly outlined the notion of trade facilitation, its procedures, formalities and challenges in the international context. To provide students with a better understanding of the subject, Dr. Hoffmann conducted a practical exercise on cargo transshipment. He concluded his set of lectures by addressing the digitalization of the international seaborne trade and work of UNCTAD aimed to achieve solutions that will help facilitate trade and its transportation, transparency, e-commerce, customs automation, port reforms, national trade facilitation committees and transport corridors by providing analysis, technical assistance and capacity development.



Dr. Jan Hoffmann receiving a token of appreciation from Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI)

Dr. Hoffmann joined UNCTAD in 2003 and was appointed Chief of the Organization’s Trade Logistics Branch in 2016. He created and co-edits the quarterly UNCTAD “Transport and Trade Facilitation Newsletter”, is co-author and coordinator of the annual UNCTAD “Review of Maritime Transport”, initiated the UNCTAD “Maritime Country Profiles”, and created and produces the annual “Liner Shipping Connectivity Index”. Previously, Dr. Hoffmann spent six

years with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago de Chile, and two years with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London and Santiago. Prior to this, he held part-time positions as assistant professor, import-export agent, seafarer, translator and consultant. For eight years, he also worked part-time for the family tramp shipping business “Hoffmann Shipping”, based in Horneburg, Germany and registered in Antigua and Barbuda. Dr. Hoffmann has studied in Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain, and holds a Doctorate Degree in Economics from the University of Hamburg. His work has resulted in numerous UN and peer reviewed publications, lectures and technical missions, the ECLAC International Transport Data Base, and various electronic newsletters. In 2014, Dr. Hoffmann was elected President of the International Association of Maritime Economists (IAME) and served in this position until September 2018.

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