



**ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION
ADDRESS THE 31ST GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE INSTITUTE**

Mr. Chris Trelawny (Acting Director, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) addressed the graduands and distinguished attendees at the Institute's 31st Annual Graduation Ceremony held online on 3 September 2020.



Mr. Chris Trelawny (Acting Director, IMO Technical Cooperation Division) addressing the graduands

Mr. Trelawny commenced his address by wishing all present a happy Merchant Navy Day, which pleasantly coincided with the Graduation Ceremony. The said day is celebrated in the United Kingdom not only to honour the veterans who had protected the country in both the first and second world wars, but also, to celebrate the country's dependence on modern day merchant seafarers who are responsible for over 90% of its imports.

Mr. Trelawny continued his address by noting the current trying times that the industry is facing. He also stressed the importance of international shipping, stating that it is central to global trade. For this reason, Mr. Trelawny highlighted the need to develop legal frameworks for the international maritime community; not just ones dealing with economic advantages but also those seeking to protect the rights of seafarers and persons working on land within the shipping industry.

Mr. Trelawny reiterated the responsibilities of the students by reminding them that one of their major roles is to support IMO programmes. He also enjoined them, as experts, to lend their support to their respective States during this time and in the post COVID-19 phase.

He concluded his address by wishing the students great success in their future.

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