



IMO FACILITATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Charles Abela, Chairman of the IMO Facilitation Committee, delivered two lectures to the IMLI class of 2009/2010, on the 27th and 28th October 2009.

His first lecture which dealt with International Maritime Trade gave the students the opportunity to understand the environment in which international maritime law has to function. Mr. Abela explained that international trade cannot take place without transport and particularly maritime transport. Globalisation has brought a shift in production countries, an increase in global corporations and a rapid growth in the volume of world trade. This was made possible with developments in shipping, particularly faster and larger ships. He also emphasised that maritime transport cannot function on its own and so, modern and efficient ports are essential to a country's economic growth since they provide the gateway points for the majority of international trade.



Mr. Charles Abela during his lecture

In his second lecture Mr. Abela gave an overview of the importance of facilitation measures that each country should consider in order to facilitate maritime trade which is an integral part of the economic development of any country. In this regard Mr. Abela provided a brief overview of the developments in the shipping sector which led to the promulgation of the IMO Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965. He also described the various sections of the Convention and its Annex, together with the various guidelines and other measures developed by the Facilitation Committee to simplify and minimize formalities, documentary requirements and procedures that cause delays and costs to ships, persons and cargo on board ships.

When asked about the experience of teaching at IMLI, Mr. Abela stated that *'It was clear from the questions asked by the various students that they have extensive experience in the maritime industry of their country. It was a truly valuable experience to be given the opportunity to lecture to such professionals and above all to have the opportunity to be able to discuss maritime developments with such a wide spectrum of perspectives when one considers that such students work in varying cultures in different parts of the world.'*

Mr. Abela obtained his B.A. (Hons.) in Business Management, at the University of Malta and his M.Sc. in Ports and Shipping Administration at the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden.

Since 1996 he is the Ports Deputy Executive Director, Malta Maritime Authority.

He is the Chairman of IMO's Facilitation Committee, Chairman of Malta Shortsea Promotion Centre and Chairman of Port Workers Board.

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