



BIMCO CHIEF DOCUMENTARY AFFAIRS OFFICER LECTURES AT IMLI

IMLI had the honour to host a lecture by Mr. Grant Hunter, BIMCO Chief Documentary Affairs Officer on 1st December 2009. During his lecture Mr. Hunter conducted dynamic and encouraging discussions with the students of IMLI class 2009/2010 on “BIMCO’s Documentary Work”.

Mr. Hunter explained that “BIMCO is the world’s principal organization responsible for the development of maritime contracts and other related forms. It has been estimated that over three quarters of transactions within the shipping industry take place using BIMCO approved forms. The organization views its documentary work as a cornerstone of its trade facilitation activities. One of the primary aims of BIMCO’s documentary work is to produce charter parties, other shipping documents and clauses that strike a fair and equitable balance between the parties in legally sound language readily understood by both. It is BIMCO’s belief that such a consistent approach to the development of shipping documentation should serve to minimize the likelihood of charter party and other contractual disputes arising in the first instance.”

He recalled that “BIMCO produces a wide variety of standard forms, which are published in the Forms of Approved Documents (FAD) – this annually updated portfolio of documents contains over a hundred separate charter parties, bills of lading and other forms and an extensive range of general purpose and specialized clauses issued, supported or recommended by BIMCO.”



Mr. Grant Hunter meeting IMLI students (Mrs. Suzana Tembe (Mozambique), Mr. Jorge Ucucho (Mozambique), Ms. Ernesta Rachlevičiūtė (Lithuania), Mr. Eurico Ndando (Angola))

When asked about his experience at the Institute Mr. Hunter stated “I was very impressed by the staff and students at the Institute. The students clearly have each a wealth of legal knowledge and were very interested to hear about some of the more practical and commercial aspects of the shipping industry. I have no doubt that the professional staff of the Institute combined with the wide range of external speakers contribute greatly to providing each student with a thorough grounding in maritime law and other aspects of the shipping industry. Certainly it was my impression that the students were well-rounded and well-informed.

I sincerely hope that BIMCO will have the opportunity to make further presentations to IMLI in the future as we consider it to be a key educational institute providing high calibre personnel for national maritime administrations and other key positions in the shipping world.”

Mr. Grant Hunter is Chief Documentary Affairs Officer at BIMCO, responsible for the development, revision and promotion of BIMCO’s standard contracts and clauses. Recent projects include the development of BIMCO’s Standard Shipbuilding Contract, NEWBUILDCON, the revision of the widely used SHIPMAN Standard Shipmanagement Agreement, and the development of two new voyage charter parties – one for the heavy lift sector and one for the chemical tanker parcel trades. He has worked for BIMCO since 1997. Previous careers include five years at sea with the Ben Line and eight years working ashore in the commercial and operations department of P&O Bulk Shipping in London. Mr. Hunter has a Masters degree in maritime policy and law from the London School of Economics.

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