



### **ASIAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES DIPLOMATS ATTEND IMLI'S BRIEFING**

On 2 March, 2010, H.E. Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (IMO Secretary-General) held a briefing at the IMO Headquarters in London for diplomats from selected countries in Asia and Pacific. The briefing was intended to introduce their Excellencies to IMLI's work and activities and to encourage candidates hailing from the Asian and Pacific region to enroll IMLI's academic programmes, especially the LL.M. programme leading to a degree in international maritime law.

The briefing was presided by the IMO Secretary-General, who stated in his welcoming address, *inter alia*, that "[...] I am pleased to acknowledge that, since it began operations, IMLI has more than fulfilled its early promise, having become an indispensable part of IMO's success. Indeed, its ever-growing network of graduates contributes daily to the attainment of the Organization's goals and endows the maritime sector of the countries whose students have benefited from IMLI's training with specialist legal expertise of a high standard.

*It is because of the Institute's undeniable success and the great benefits graduates derive from it that I consider it desirable that more students from the Asian region attend courses at IMLI – and this is the principal purpose of today's meeting. Our intention is to provide you with information on the postgraduate training provided by IMLI and the funding and capacity-building opportunities within the Institute's programme that may be of benefit to your country."*



*H.E. Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (IMO Secretary-General) and the distinguished guests who attended the briefing*

The Secretary-General then invited Professor David Attard (IMLI Director) to address the diplomats attending the briefing. In his address Professor Attard reflected on the *raison d'être* of the Institute. He recalled the Institute's inception and described how the dream of twenty years ago became the reality of today. He stressed that IMLI's contribution to the international community is best reflected in the work of its graduates who, upon completion of their studies, return to their countries to occupy senior positions which enable them to devote themselves to the service of the rule of international maritime law. He expressed his satisfaction on reporting that over the past twenty years 517 lawyers from 115 States, territories and land areas from both the developing and developed world have completed studies in the Institute's programmes and courses.

Professor Attard recognized the constant and most invaluable contributions offered by the Institute's Donors, some of which were represented at the briefing. He informed the audience that several organizations including the IMO, The Nippon Foundation and Lloyd's Register

Educational Trust have agreed to provide full scholarship funding for chosen candidates to participate in the forthcoming academic year 2010-2011.

Professor Attard emphasized that the Institute has always given utmost importance to the participation of Asian students in its programmes. In fact, there is no academic year in the history of IMLI where Asian students have not participated. Indeed, IMLI counts proudly 108 students from 24 Asian and Pacific countries that have successfully completed the LL.M. programme. In this respect, Professor Attard noted that The Nippon Foundation which is offering 10 scholarships every year is giving preference to candidates coming from the Asian and Pacific region in their selection process.

Professor Attard concluded by encouraging the distinguished guests, to take this opportunity and disseminate the information to their relevant authorities so that they can initiate their internal selection process before submitting their applications to the Institute.

The briefing was attended by representatives of Bangladesh, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The representatives of Samoa and Nauru could not attend the briefing but requested for all the information to be forwarded after the event.

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