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# IMLI e-News

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## **DIRECTOR OF IMLI DELIVERS THE WELCOMING ADDRESS DURING THE 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI) delivered the welcoming address during IMLI's 21<sup>st</sup> Graduation Ceremony held on 1 May 2010 at Malta Maritime Museum, in Vittoriosa.



*Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI), delivering the welcoming address*

In his address, Professor Attard pointed out that:

“The cornerstone of any academic institution is its reputation. At IMLI we are conscious of the need to ensure that our training and teaching conforms to the highest standards which need to be maintained if we are to preserve our reputation as a centre of excellence. Today I feel it is reasonable to assert that the Institute’s world-wide recognition and respect is reflected in the confidence demonstrated by the 119 Governments which have sent their finest legal officials to receive training in IMLI’s different programmes and courses.”

Professor Attard recalled two other important relationships. He said:

“I also wish to refer to the Institute’s institutional linkage with IMO which provides us with access to the most competent expertise in shipping available throughout the world. With IMO’s assistance, IMLI continuously seeks to fine-tune its syllabus to reflect the latest developments in international maritime law.

A separate mention must be made of the Nippon Foundation, which is represented today by Mr. Kiyoharu Sugiura. In recognition of IMLI’s success, in addition to providing scholarships, the Nippon Foundation will establish starting next academic year, two new teaching positions at IMLI as a second component to the project entitled “Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Order of the Oceans”. The two appointed internationally recognized academics will hold the Nippon Foundation Chair on Marine Environmental Law and the Nippon Foundation Lectureship on International Maritime Security Law.”

Professor Attard congratulated the graduates of the Class of 2010 by saying:

“Please remember that your participation in the IMLI programme is an opportunity granted to a few well-chosen lawyers. This privilege carries with it a responsibility which I am confident you will bear with great pride. You have now been endowed with the knowledge and skills required to assist your Governments in adopting and implementing international maritime rules, measures and standards. Your future achievements will continue to consolidate the Institute’s academic reputation. Remember you are the Institute’s best Ambassadors, dedicated to serving the rule of international maritime law. I wish you well in your endeavours. We are proud of you!”

Hereunder follows the welcoming address of Professor David Attard, Director of IMLI.

Welcome Address by Professor David Attard, Director, IMLI

At the 2010 IMLI Graduation Ceremony

1 May 2010

Your Excellency Secretary-General,

Honourable Ministers,

Members of Parliament,

Excellencies,

Honourable Justices,

Graduands,

Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you to our 21st Graduation Ceremony, which celebrates the academic success of our graduands.

I am particularly pleased, this morning, to welcome the Secretary-General, Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, who notwithstanding having presided over the monumental diplomatic conference to revise the HNS Convention which concluded only yesterday afternoon has agreed to preside over today's Graduation Ceremony.

I wish to recognize the presence of Mr. Kiyoharu Sugiura, who is the Project Coordinator of the Maritime Affairs Department of the Nippon Foundation of Tokyo, with whom IMLI has a long and fruitful academic cooperation.

I also wish to welcome friends and family of the graduands who have traveled from all over the world to attend this momentous event.

Distinguished Guests,

Today's Ceremony marks the end of the 21st academic year and the entry of our graduands (from 24 States) into the fraternity of 499 IMLI LL.M. graduates from 116 States and territories. This year we are particularly pleased to have, for the first time, lawyers hailing from Chile, Dominican Republic, Eritrea and Niue.

This Graduation Ceremony also marks an important landmark in our Institute's history as there are two graduands who will be awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in International Maritime Law.

Indeed, we are honoured to confer this degree on Dr. Simone Borg, Lecturer at the Department of International Law of the University of Malta who wrote a thesis entitled "Harmonizing International Regimes to Secure the Conservation of High Seas Living Resources through Sustainable Use". I believe it is noteworthy that the IMLI appointed supervisor was Professor

William Burke, who is a Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Washington, School of Law. The examiners were Professor Giuseppe Cataldi and Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha.

The Doctor of Philosophy Degree will also be conferred on Mr. Norman Martinez, Lecturer at IMLI who wrote a thesis entitled “Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims: The Relationship between Global Limitation Conventions and Particular Liability Regimes”. In his case, the IMLI appointed supervisor was Mr. Patrick J.S. Griggs CBE, former President of the Comité Maritime International. The examiners were Professor Richard Williams and Professor Ignacio Arroyo.

Distinguished Guests,

It gives me great satisfaction to look at our graduands, newly-crowned with academic success, and to congratulate them for having succeeded despite the magnitude of their task.

For the past months they have undertaken an exceptionally intensive and comprehensive programme covering the full spectrum of international maritime law. Their task should not be underestimated. The subject matter covered is vast. Our academic standards are very demanding, as confirmed by the external examiners. It is therefore a great pleasure to be able, on this important day, to honour their academic success.

The cornerstone of any academic institution is its reputation. At IMLI we are conscious of the need to ensure that our training and teaching conforms to the highest standards which need to be maintained if we are to preserve our reputation as a centre of excellence. Today I feel it is reasonable to assert that the Institute’s world-wide recognition and respect is reflected in the confidence demonstrated by the 119 Governments which have sent their finest legal officials to receive training in IMLI’s different programmes and courses.

This academic success is the result of various practices that have been put in place, such as the appointment of independent external examiners, and our cooperation with leading institutions such as Yale University, Sorbonne University, University of Oxford, Queen Mary – University of London, and the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”.

I also wish to refer to the Institute’s institutional linkage with IMO which provides us with access to the most competent expertise in shipping available throughout the world. With IMO’s assistance, IMLI continuously seeks to fine-tune its syllabus to reflect the latest developments in international maritime law.

We are indeed fortunate that the IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Mitropoulos, has shown a great interest in the Institute’s work from the very first days of his appointment. He is a prime supporter of the Institute and of its role in the training of international maritime lawyers. We were pleased to read his statement in the current Graduation Brochure where he stated that:

“...The increasing number of IMLI graduates, who now form a formidable network of lawyers worldwide, confirms the Institute’s success in the pursuit of its objectives and its effective capacity-building role within the maritime community and the shipping industry at large. Each graduating class adds its knowledge and expertise to an already impressive network of alumni and provides significant benefits to the global maritime community...”

A separate mention must be made of the Nippon Foundation, which is represented today by Mr. Kiyoharu Sugiura. In recognition of IMLI’s success, in addition to providing scholarships, the Nippon Foundation will establish starting next academic year, two new teaching positions at IMLI as a second component to the project entitled “Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Order of the Oceans”. The two appointed internationally recognized academics will hold the Nippon Foundation Chair on Marine Environmental Law and the Nippon Foundation Lectureship on International Maritime Security Law.

It is also a matter of great pride to announce that the United Nations General Assembly for two consecutive years now has recognized our Institute as a centre of education and training for Government legal advisers. The latest Resolution (A/Res/64/71) adopted last December entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea” states *inter alia*, that the General Assembly:

“Recognizes the importance of the work of the International Maritime Law Institute of the International Maritime Organization as a centre of education and training of Government legal advisers, mainly from developing States, notes that the number of its graduates in more than 115 States, confirms its effective capacity-building role in the field of international law, congratulates the Institute on the celebration of its twentieth anniversary and urges States, intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions to make voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Institute.”

In furtherance of our efforts to strengthen our academic reputation we invite to IMLI the most eminent academics, experts and practitioners in international maritime law. This practice also serves to enable our students to establish important professional contacts, which could prove to be extremely useful in their future careers.

Whilst the resident faculty is responsible for the teaching of the programme, visiting fellows are invited to lecture on the latest developments in the field of their expertise. In this academic year we had the privilege and pleasure of welcoming 41 distinguish academics and eminent practitioners from all over the world.

The success that the Institute enjoys is also largely due to the support received from many sectors of the international maritime community.

I am particularly grateful to IMO, to The Nippon Foundation, to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), to the Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust (LRET) and to a number of Governments for

their generous contributions in providing scholarships. The Governments of Malta and Switzerland deserve special tribute for their unwavering, constant support to the Institute's funding, as does the CMI who has always been very willing to financially assist the Institute. Special thanks should also go to the EU funded SAFEMED project, the scholarships of which have been kindly administered by REMPEC.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the sterling work of the Institute's resident faculty in the person of Mr. Norman Martinez, Mr. Ruben Maceda and Ms. Elda Belja, as well as to the Administrative staff for their dedicated service.

Graduands,

Please remember that your participation in the IMLI programme is an opportunity granted to a few well-chosen lawyers. This privilege carries with it a responsibility which I am confident you will bear with great pride. You have now been endowed with the knowledge and skills required to assist your Governments in adopting and implementing international maritime rules, measures and standards. Your future achievements will continue to consolidate the Institute's academic reputation. Remember you are the Institute's best Ambassadors, dedicated to serving the rule of international maritime law. I wish you well in your endeavours. We are proud of you!

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