



## **IMLI'S 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT MALTA MARITIME MUSEUM ON 7 MAY 2011**

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduation Ceremony on 7 May 2011 at the Malta Maritime Museum, in Vittoriosa.

The Ceremony which was presided by H.E. Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (IMO Secretary-General) was attended by many distinguished guests, including, Mr. Micheal Frendo (Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives), Dr. Peter Grech (Attorney General), H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus), Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO), Mr. Dwight Gardiner (Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to IMO), Captain Ian Finley (Permanent Representative of the Cook Islands to IMO), Captain Mario Proaño Silva (Permanent Representative of Ecuador to IMO), Professor Francis M.B. Reynolds Q.C. (Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford), Mr. Patrick J.S. Griggs (Former President of the CMI), Mr. Frederic Hebert (Director of REMPEC), Dr. Stanley Portelli (Chief Executive Officer of Transport Malta), Mr. Ivan Sammut (Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen and Chief Officer of the Merchant Shipping Directorate within Transport Malta), Mr. Kiyoharu Sugiura (Project Coordinator of Maritime Affairs Department of The Nippon Foundation), honourable justices and diplomatic representatives.



The Graduation Ceremony was opened by IMLI's Director, Professor David J. Attard, who delivered the welcoming address. In his address Professor Attard noted that:

“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.”

Then, the IMO Secretary-General was invited to deliver the graduation address.

In his graduation address, H.E. Mr. Mitropoulos stated that:

“IMLI was created principally to ensure that appropriate maritime legal expertise would be available in the developing world – its success has, however, attracted students from developed countries as well and now it operates as a fully-fledged international education and training centre of excellence. Its graduates have a long history in the establishment of appropriate legal infrastructures at national level, encompassing not only up-to-date legislative regimes but also suitable machinery for the review, revision and modification of legislation to keep such regimes in line with changes in international maritime law and the latest developments in marine technology and shipping practices.”

Mr. Buba Bojang (Graduant from the Gambia) delivered the valedictory address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2011.

During the Graduation Ceremony, the Degree of Doctor of International Maritime Law *Honoris Causa* was conferred upon Mr. Patrick J.S. Griggs CBE, who has been instrumental to the work of the Institute through his active contribution to the IMLI Governing Board and the IMLI Academic Committee. Professor Francis M.B. Reynolds Q.C. (Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford) delivered the oration.



H.E. Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos received the IMLI Award for Meritorious Contribution towards the Progressive Development and Codification of International Maritime Law. The Award was conferred upon Mr. Mitropoulos in recognition of his significant contribution to the international maritime community during his tenure as Secretary-General of the IMO and his endless efforts, in his capacity as the Chairman of IMLI Governing Board, to ensure that the Institute rises to the fore in the capacity-building process that complements the work of IMO.

In his acceptance speech, H.E. Mr. Mitropoulos noted that:

“It gives me great pleasure to accept this prestigious award, which I do with a mixture of pride and humility on behalf of all whose hard work and dedication have enabled me to do my job as both the IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, to the benefit of the objectives the Organization and Institute respectively strive to achieve.”

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