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## **IMO FACILITATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LECTURES AT IMLI**

Mr. Charles Abela (Chairman of the IMO Facilitation Committee) visited the Institute and delivered a set of lectures on international trade.

During his first lecture, which focused on the practical aspects of international maritime trade, Mr. Abela gave the students the opportunity to understand the environment in which international maritime law has to function and the particular role maritime transport plays in international trade. He explained that 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 with faster and larger ships. Mr. Abela however 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 addressed the importance of facilitation measures that each country should consider in order to facilitate maritime trade which is an integral part of the national economic development. In this regard he 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 and the several amendments to it. He also described the various sections of the Convention and its Annex, as amended, 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 such ships.

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. He is presently employed as a Senior Manager within the Ports and Yachting Directorate of Transport Malta. Mr. Abela is the Chairman of IMO's Facilitation Committee, Chairman of Malta Shortsea Promotion Centre and Chairman of Port Workers Board.

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