



## **IMLI'S 23<sup>RD</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT MALTA MARITIME MUSEUM ON 5 MAY 2012**

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held its 23<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Ceremony on 5 May 2012 at the Malta Maritime Museum, in Vittoriosa. Thirty-seven lawyers from twenty-eight countries received their Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Maritime Law. Two students were awarded an Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law.

The Ceremony, which was presided by Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), was attended by many distinguished guests, including, Mr. Koji Sekimizu (Secretary-General of IMO), The Hon. Dr. Chris Said (Minister for Justice, Dialogue and the Family), The Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo (Speaker of the House of Representatives), H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus), Ambassador Lino Vassallo (Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO), Mr. Karl Gombrii (President of the Comité Maritime International), Mr. Frederic Hebert (Director of REMPEC), Ms. Yukiko Kuwata (Project Coordinator, Maritime Affairs Department of The Nippon Foundation), Professor Francis M.B. Reynolds Q.C. (Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford), Professor Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, University of Ljubljana), Mr. Ivan Sammut (Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen and Chief Officer of the Merchant Shipping Directorate within Transport Malta), Dr. Donald Markwell (Warden, Rhodes House, Oxford), honourable justices and diplomatic representatives.



*Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Professor Francis Reynolds (Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford), IMLI Faculty Members and the Graduands of the Class of 2012*

IMLI's Director, Professor David Attard, delivered the welcoming address wherein he 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 Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board was invited to deliver the graduation address. In his graduation address, Mr. Mitropoulos stated that:

“IMO founded the International Maritime Law Institute, almost a quarter of a century ago, to ensure that Governments would have well-trained maritime legal experts available to

incorporate the often complex international maritime legal framework of rules, codes and standards that the Organization develops into national legislation.

The importance of maritime law specialists, such as those graduating from IMLI today, in taking on this task and many others of a relevant nature facing maritime administrations, cannot be over-emphasized. The responsibility for managing the legal framework of established and aspiring maritime countries, to ensure that quality shipping prospers, depends, in large measure, on the knowledge and professional skills of well-qualified lawyers – and IMLI has shouldered a heavy responsibility in preparing such professionals, initially for developing countries and eventually from all over the world.”

Mr. Nicolás Joaquín Vásquez Schaer (Graduant from Bolivia) delivered the valedictory address on behalf of the IMLI Class of 2012.

During the Graduation Ceremony, the IMLI Award for Meritorious Contribution towards the Progressive Development and Codification of International Maritime Law was conferred on the Comité Maritime International. Mr. Karl Gombrii (President of the Comité Maritime International) received the Award on behalf of the Organization. Professor Francis M.B. Reynolds Q.C. (Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford) delivered the oration.

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