

## CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO MALTA VISITS IMLI

H.E. Mr. Zhang Keyuan, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta, paid an official visit to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 27 September. During his visit Ambassador Zhang had the opportunity to meet the students attending IMLI's 23<sup>rd</sup> LL.M programme and to be introduced to the Institute and its work.



*H.E. Mr. Zhang Keyuan (Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malta) meeting students of the Class of 2011/2012*

The Ambassador was welcomed by the IMLI Director, Professor David Attard who expressed his great pleasure at his visit. Professor Attard stated that IMLI is proud of its links with China which have been further strengthened by the training at the Institute of several Chinese lawyers since its inception. Professor Attard said that China, a nation with a longstanding tradition in

maritime affairs, has taken a leading role in the maritime domain as reflected by its intervention off the coast of Somalia.

Ambassador Zhang thanked Professor Attard for welcoming him to IMLI and giving him the opportunity to meet such a diverse body of students. When addressing the students, Ambassador Zhang stated that they should seize this moment to develop a strong connection with each other as IMLI offers a unique opportunity by bringing so many different backgrounds under the same roof. He then wished them all the best in their academic endeavours.



*Ambassador Zhang Keyuan with Ms. Li Zhen, IMLI student representing the People's Republic of China*

Ambassador Zhang is a University graduate who started his diplomatic career back in 1976 holding the position of Staff Member at the General Office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was then posted, initially, as Deputy Consul and then as Consul at the Chinese Consulate General in New York. From 2001 to 2003 Ambassador Zhang was appointed as Minister-Counselor at the Chinese Embassy in the United States of America. He was then Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to the Republic of Ghana. From 2006 to 2009 Ambassador Zhang was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to the Republic of Iceland. He has been the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to the Republic of Malta since 2009.

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