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**IMLI-ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST JOINT PROJECT FOR
"THE HUMAN DIMENSION IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW:
SEAFARERS' RIGHTS"**



*General Workers Union Secretary-General, Mr. Tony Zarb,
with IMLI Class 2006/2007*

The IMO-International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the International Transport Workers' Federation's Seafarers' Trust (ITF Seafarers' Trust) are working towards the establishment of their Joint Project relating to "The Human Dimension in International Maritime Law: Seafarers' Rights". On this occasion, a delegation of the Malta General Workers Union, who are the ITF representatives in Malta, led by Secretary-General Tony Zarb, Mr. Michael Parnis and Mr. Charles Briffa, visited IMLI on Tuesday, October 10th 2006.

The Project is intended to provide for the promotion, adoption and implementation of international maritime rules and standards relating to seafarers' rights. The Project will be undertaken in two phases. The first phase will focus on the consolidation of the Institute's ongoing programmes on international maritime labour law, and will involve the setting up of dedicated, specialized research facilities on seafarers' rights. The second phase of the project will then focus on the provision of two scholarships to

deserving senior legal government officials to pursue studies at IMLI's LL.M. Programme during the academic year 2007-2008.

The Project is the product of a long-standing collaboration between the two Institutions, during which the ITF and the ITF Seafarers' Trust have provided scholarship funding for deserving candidates to pursue LL. M. studies at IMLI. The beneficiaries of these scholarships have been: Ms. Krasimira Danailova (Bulgaria), Ms. Lia Paresahvili (Georgia), Ms. Josephine Nkrumah (Ghana), Mr. John Kouni (Solomon Islands), Mr. Michel Amafo (Suriname), Ms. Margarita Rodriguez Salaberry (Uruguay).

"The ITF-Seafarers' Trust is pleased to continue its support of IMLI by the provision of a grant for two further students and, as a new initiative, to provide funds for the development of a project on the human dimension in international maritime law" said Tom Holmer, secretary of the ITF Seafarers' Trust.

The ITF is an international trade union federation of transport workers' unions. Its membership includes 681 unions representing 4,500,000 transport workers in 148 countries, and has been helping seafarers since 1896. Today it represents the interests of seafarers worldwide, of whom over 600,000 are members of ITF-affiliated unions.

The ITF has a strong role in representing the interests of transport workers' unions in bodies which take decisions affecting jobs, employment conditions, or safety in the transport industry, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Its work focuses on the improvement of conditions for seafarers of all nationalities and to ensure adequate regulation of the shipping industry to protect the interests and rights of the workers.

"There are many murky corners of the shipping industry where seafarers face abuses and malpractices. Legal and political changes are needed for their greater protection and the project with IMLI has great potential to contribute to this objective," said Deidre Fitzpatrick, legal officer of the ITF.

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