



## **MERCHANT SHIPPING DIRECTORATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LECTURES AT IMLI**

The Executive Director of the Merchant Shipping Directorate, Malta Maritime Authority and Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO, Ambassador Lino Vassallo, lectured on “Flag State Regime – The Basic Principles” to IMLI Class 2006-2007.



*Ambassador Lino Vassallo lectures to IMLI Class 2006-2007*

During his lecture, he discussed certain basic principles on the flag State regime and cited the need for a dynamic and robust legal and administrative infrastructure that could transpose international standards to national legislation. Once transposed, the national legislation would serve as basis for imposing international standards and for taking legal action. These imposed standards could be either goal-based or prescriptive-based. In

creating the legislation to implement the standards, it is necessary that this should be clear, implementable, easily enforceable, and dynamic. Legislation created would represent the policy identified by the legislature. The maritime administration, as the executive, must be able to properly and intelligently implement and enforce the policies identified by the legislature. This will result in an effective administrative agency.

He pointed out that the maritime industry is a very dynamic industry. The maritime administration should not be afraid of change. Instead it must be a catalyst for change. It is important for maritime professionals to be well-trained, dynamic, forward-looking, serious professionals who are familiar with the different facets of the industry.

The maritime administration must encourage dialogue, cooperation, and participation in the national, regional and international levels. He stated that the maritime administration has the obligation to disseminate information. It must not only inform affected parties but must consult with them while the policy is still being discussed. As such, dialogue with the industry is important.

With respect to regional cooperation, he stated that this is necessary because there is a bigger chance for a particular practice to grow into international practice if it is started at the regional level. Technical cooperation among regional players should be more than just giving money; it should also cover the pooling and sharing of resources.

On the international level, he emphasized that it is not sufficient for States to attend IMO and ILO fora. It is important that they should actively participate by giving their views and sharing their knowledge.

The maritime administration should be there to serve the shipping industry because the shipping industry is there to serve the public. The maritime administration should not so much question what others are doing but they should ask whether they are doing enough to achieve the standards of quality shipping. Ambassador Vassallo stressed that quality shipping can be achieved only through belief, commitment, education and training.

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