



## **IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL WELCOMES THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA TO IMLI**

Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) officially welcomed His Excellency George Vella (President of the Republic of Malta to IMLI) to IMLI on the occasion of his visit to the Institute to deliver a lecture to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021. In his welcome address, Mr. Lim stated that the visit of President Vella is a demonstration of the high esteem which Malta holds for IMLI and its mission in capacity building, especially in developing nations, in all aspects of international maritime law.



*Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General, and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board)  
delivering the welcoming address*

The welcoming address of the Secretary-General is restated in full below.

Your Excellency Dr George Vella,

Professor David Attard

Dear students,

I am delighted to address you today and to welcome H.E. Dr George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta to IMLI. His visit today, is an affirmation of the high esteem Malta holds for IMLI and its mission. The Maltese Government has been an ardent supporter of the Institute even before the beautiful premises, where IMLI is located, was built. Upholding the idea of the Institute's founders, the Maltese Government believed in its important role in enhancing capacity-building worldwide, especially in developing countries in all aspects of international maritime law. The IMO and the international community shall remain forever indebted to the Government of Malta and its people for their warm welcome and hospitality to 32 generations of international officers who have found a home away from home in this beautiful island in the heart of the Mediterranean for the duration of their studies.



*His Excellency Dr. George Vella (President of the Republic of Malta) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) during the welcoming address of the Secretary-General*

I am particularly honoured to welcome back to IMLI, His Excellency the President of Malta, whose relationship with IMLI goes back decades. I, myself, had the pleasure of welcoming His Excellency to the Graduation Ceremony of 2019. An avid advocate of friendly relations among nations and of the protection of the environment, we are particularly pleased that your Excellency supports IMLI's commitment to imparting knowledge in maritime law and to serving the rule of international maritime law. It is an honour to receive you today at IMLI. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for sharing your vast knowledge and expertise with the future generation of maritime experts. I look forward to meeting Your Excellency again in person, in the near future.

Thank you.

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