



FRENCH DEFENCE ATTACHÉ VISITS IMLI

Cdr. Bertrand Gori (French Defence Attaché, Marine Nationale) visited the Institute to hold a meeting with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI). Cdr. Gori was accompanied by SLT Jerome Desmarcheliers who has been in contact with the Director in relation to his research on Indo-Pacific maritime issues. Present in the meeting were also Professor Norman Martinez (Professor, IMLI) and Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer, IMLI).

Cdr. Gori and SLT Desmarcheliers were welcomed by Professor Attard who introduced the guests to the work of the Institute in capacity-building in international maritime law, especially in developing countries. Professor Attard informed the guests of the growth of the Institute since its inception and on the important role IMLI graduates play in the shaping national policies and drafting national legislation in line with the principles of international maritime law.



(from L-R) SLT Jerome Desmarcheliers, Professor David Attard and Cdr. Bertrand Gori

Professor Attard also noted with satisfaction the graduation from IMLI of the Head of the French Navy's Law of the Sea and Admiralty Law Office in 2008. He acknowledged the important role of France in maritime affairs which are a result of its longstanding maritime tradition and vast areas of waters under its jurisdiction. He would therefore appreciate to receive, in the future, new officers from France who work in the navy or in the maritime domain.

Cdr. Gori thanked Professor Attard for his warm welcome, for the assistance extended to STL Desmarcheliers, and for the brief introduction on the work of IMLI. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet him again and noted with interest the programmes offered by IMLI. Cdr. Gori informed Professor Attard that international maritime law and law of the sea are very important subjects and would welcome the training at the Institute of French officers. To this request, Professor Attard responded that IMLI offers tailor-made courses on both areas. Indeed, such short courses were attended in the past by the Italian Navy Officers and Indonesian Diplomats and could be organized during summer for the French officers as well. Both parties agreed to work on this proposal.

During the meeting current maritime issues and developments, especially in the region, were also discussed.

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