

## PROFESSOR DAVID ATTARD ADDRESSES THE 70TH SESSION OF THE IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE

Professor David Attard addressed today the 70th Session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee (TC 70), which commenced on 7 December 2020 and will end on 11 December 2020.



*Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) delivering his address*

Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) commenced his address by thanking the Chairman for his report on the activities of the Institute and also expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kitack Lim, for his continuous support to the Institute and the time he has dedicated to the current IMLI Class. Professor Attard then said that it was important for him to share some reflections on the impact that the pandemic has had on IMLI's work and its future plans. He noted that the pandemic has generated unprecedented challenges, including the need for stricter compliance with IMO prescriptions to protect the dignity of the human person at sea, particularly that of the seafarer.

He acknowledged that this situation has strongly demonstrated the vital responsibility that IMLI has in the training of future maritime leaders. He noted that despite the challenges faced

by the Institute, IMLI continues with its work from its premises and strives to safeguard the health of students and staff while maintaining the highest academic standards.

Professor Attard informed the delegates that to ensure that IMLI students are abreast with the latest developments taking place at IMO, the Institute has launched an intensive programme on IMO Operational Aspects which draws from the expertise of IMO officials and provides valuable insights in the Organisation's important work. He reported also how proud the Institute is to record that, for the first time since its establishment, all Directors of IMO Divisions have kindly agreed to address the Class of 2021.

Professor Attard recorded his satisfaction for the successful collaboration between WMU and IMLI as is reflected in the establishment of the Master of Philosophy in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy and thanked Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President, WMU) for her constructive support.

Professor Attard restated IMLI's commitment, through teaching and research, towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. He also informed the delegates of the Institute's efforts to provide greater services to Member States by organising a number of professional online programmes for diplomats and government officials, such as the Programmes on the Law on Treaties, Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes, Law of Ports, and Flag State Jurisdiction.

The Director took the opportunity to express his sincere appreciation to all the Institute's donors for supporting its activities and who, through the sponsoring of deserving government officials, especially women, continue to believe in the Institute's mission of providing quality education.

Professor Attard concluded his address by expressing gratitude for the continuous support the Institute receives from the IMO Technical Cooperation Division, its Director – Mr. Xiaojie Zhang – and his colleagues, particularly Mr. Chris Trelawny and Mr. Jonathan Pace.

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