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THE IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERS THE 31ST GRADUATION ADDRESS

Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivered the Graduation Address during the 31st Annual Graduation Ceremony of the Institute held on 3 September 2020.



Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivering the Graduation Address

In his address, Secretary-General Lim stated that he was delighted to deliver his message for the Institute's first ever virtual graduation ceremony to celebrate the success of the Class of 2020. Mr. Lim noted that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented effect on the shipping industry and on seafarers themselves. He observed that the Institute also faced challenges which prompted it to take unprecedented measures to ensure the health and safety of its students and successful completion of the academic year. He congratulated the graduands for their remarkable achievement and invited them to apply the newly acquired knowledge and skills for the benefit of their countries and international maritime community.

The Graduation Address of the Secretary-General is reproduced below:

Dear Graduands,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you on this very prestigious occasion. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic had an unprecedented impact on the shipping industry and on seafarers themselves. The Institute itself has also been faced with the challenges and needed to take unprecedented measures to ensure health and safety of its students and successful completion of another academic year.

Indeed, I am very delighted to deliver this message for the Institute's first ever virtual graduation ceremony to celebrate the success of the Class of 2020. You, the graduands, are therefore taking part in another milestone for the Institute.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to you for your remarkable achievements.

You, the Class of 2020 have been equipped with the necessary skills to contribute effectively to the realization of IMO's goals. You had the privilege of being trained at IMLI – a centre of excellence for the training of specialists in international maritime law and for the dissemination of knowledge and expertise in the field, and the cornerstone of the Organization's Technical Cooperation programme.

Today we celebrate the success of 62 maritime professionals. This year sees the addition of two new countries (São Tomé and Príncipe and Belarus) to the graduates in the Institute's Master's programmes and the graduation of the first two graduates of the Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) programme in International Maritime Law and Ocean Policy offered jointly by the two sister institutions - IMLI and the World Maritime University.

Notwithstanding the impressive number of the graduates of this Institute, it is no time to rest on our laurels.

I wish to remember the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Oceans and Law of the Sea which, for the 12th consecutive year, recognized IMLI's work and encouraged the maritime community at large to continue to support its mission. I express my heartfelt appreciation to all organizations and institutions which provide assistance to the Institute to achieve its global mission. I would also like to extend



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President, World Maritime University (WMU)) with a cross section of the Graduating Class

my sincere gratitude to the Government of Malta which has hosted IMLI since its inception and supported it throughout its existence.

To Professor David Attard and the dedicated IMLI academic and administrative staff, I wish to thank you for your hard work and relentless efforts to make the Institute rise to the highest standards.

Dear Graduands,

As you reap the fruits of your dedication being awarded an IMLI Degree, please always remember that you have pledged yourselves to serve the rule of international maritime law. Remember that wherever you are, you have friends and colleagues who speak the same language as you and who have a common goal: safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans. The Institute has equipped you with knowledge and skills you need to use for the benefit of all of us. Apply your newly acquired skills, when advising or representing your country and when negotiating with your international partners. Above all, do not forget that it will be our concerted efforts that will ensure that our beautiful oceans are passed on to our future generations.

I congratulate you on your achievements. And I hope to meet you in person at IMO on a future occasion.

IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL WELCOMES IMLI'S 32ND BATCH OF STUDENTS

On Monday, 12 October 2020, the Institute welcomed its 32nd generation of students for the academic year 2020-2021. The welcoming address was delivered by Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board).



Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General, IMO and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) delivering the Welcoming Address

Mr. Lim informed the students that by joining IMLI, a prestigious educational institution of whose role in maritime training the IMO and the entire international maritime community is very proud, they are already part of the greater IMO family. He referred to the students as "... valuable assets and real treasures to the maritime

world” and enjoined them to support each other in this journey and maintain a global outlook through thinking and communication. Mr. Lim concluded his message by wishing the students success in their studies.

Professor Attard (Director, IMLI), when addressing the students said that it was an honour and privilege to welcome such a diverse class from all over the world to IMLI’s 32nd academic year. Although due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Institute had to resort to online teaching in order to foster continuity in its dissemination of maritime education and training, Professor Attard assured the students that this was only a temporary measure and is looking forward to meeting them in January, when hopefully the situation would have improved.



Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) addressing the students

He reassured the students that the Institute is building on the success of the virtual learning of the last academic year, and anticipates that this year will be as successful, especially in the light of the Institute’s commitment to continue providing, with its usual excellence, the training it has always offered in capacitating expertise in international maritime law.

The academic year 2020-2021 witnessed 54 students from 37 countries attending its various programmes.

IMLI’S INAUGURAL LECTURE

Mr. Frederick J. Kenney Jr. (Director, IMO Legal and External Affairs) delivered the Institute’s Inaugural Lecture for the academic year 2020-2021 on “Development, Entry into Force and Amendment of IMO Conventions” on 19 October 2020.



Mr. Frederick J. Kenney Jr. (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) delivering the Inaugural Lecture to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021

Mr. Kenney informed the students that delivering IMLI’s Inaugural Lecture gave him great pleasure. He recognized the unique contribution of IMLI graduates to the work of the IMO and noted how proud he is to see so many IMLI graduates representing their countries as delegates at IMO. Mr. Kenney’s lecture introduced students to the work of IMO and how law is made at the IMO – from development to implementation.

Mr. Kenney’s lecture was very well received by the students who expressed their appreciation for the insightful delivery and who asked many pertinent and interesting questions.

IMLI’S FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

This academic year, IMLI held a two Flag Raising Ceremonies on 22 and 23 October 2020. The ceremonies were presided over by the Institute’s Director, Professor David Attard. The first batch of flags hoisted were of those countries East of Malta, followed by those countries West of Malta. The students of these countries were present in an online gathering.

During both Ceremonies, in the physical absence of the students, the honour of raising the flag has been bestowed on the respective moral tutors of the students.

The flags of 37 countries will adorn the Institute’s premises throughout the academic year. The Institute notes with pleasure that Congo (Democratic Republic of), Paraguay, Singapore, Sweden, and Republic of Korea are being represented for the first time in any of the Institute’s programmes.



National Flags of the Countries represented at IMLI for the academic year 2020-2021

IMO DIRECTORS LECTURE IN THE IMLI PROGRAMME ON IMO OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

IMLI notes with pride the historic achievement that for the first time, all Directors of the IMO Divisions, together with the Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Department for Member State Audit and Implementation Support, addressed the IMLI students on the work of their respective Divisions, including the latest developments taking place at IMO.

The Speakers shared their extensive wealth of knowledge and experience with the students who could one day be delegates at IMO.



Directors of the IMO Divisions L-R
Row 1- Mr. Lawrence Barchue, Dr. Heike Deggim, Mr. Arsenio Domínguez
Row 2- Mr. Frederick Kenney, Mr. Chris Trelawny, Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA VISITS IMLI

His Excellency Dr. George Vella (President of the Republic of Malta) visited the Institute on 24 November 2020, where he delivered a lecture to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021. The President was met by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and the staff.

The welcoming address was delivered by Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General, and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), who 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.

Professor Attard thanked President Vella for making time, despite his busy schedule, to come to the Institute and deliver a lecture to the students. He noted that prior to becoming President of the Republic, His Excellency had served for several years as Foreign Minister of Malta, which position had helped prepare him for his current mantle.

He affirmed how much he admires the President for his vast knowledge and experience in international affairs. Professor Attard congratulated President Vella for the excellent job he is doing, despite the difficult challenges his Presidency is facing due to the global health situation.

His Excellency the President delivered an enlightening lecture to the students, covering current global challenges and suggested pathways to their eradication and/or control. His lecture was very well received by the audience.



His Excellency Dr. George Vella (President of the Republic of Malta) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI)

IMLI LAUNCHES ITS NEW WEBSITE

The Director of IMLI, Professor David Attard, has launched the Institute's new website. The move for a new, more modern and efficient website came about with the awareness that the IMLI Website is an especially important tool of information on and promotion of the Institute.

The new Website is more user friendly and, the latest technology has been employed so as to allow much easier access to the website, while at the same time facilitating its maintenance and constant update. The latest technology will also make the website compatible with all devices, including mobile phones and with all major web browsers, thus ensuring more visibility and visits.

Professor Attard expressed his satisfaction with the Institute's new website and commented that, "We are pleased to introduce the new website which takes into account the latest technology and reflects contemporary life at IMLI."



The new IMLI Website homepage

The Governing Board reviewed the academic and financial progress of the Institute for the period between 10 May 2019 and 21 May 2020. The Director presented the respective reports for the Board's comments and recommendations.

The Board commended the Institute for its financial stability and for completing its financial year, despite the prevailing difficult times, with a surplus.

The Board also noted with satisfaction the measures adopted by the Institute during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health and safety of its students and staff, while maintaining the Institute's high academic standards through its online teachings, supervision and examination. The Board further considered the proposals made by the Institute, to continue implementing the health and safety measures developed in response to the pandemic beyond the completion of the current academic year.

The Board Members expressed their appreciation for the Director's work during the pandemic, the Institute's continuous support to outgoing and incoming students and commended the Institute's adaptability to the new circumstances.



34th Session of the IMLI Governing Board

RECOGNITION OF IMLI'S MASTER OF LAWS DEGREE AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY BY THE MALTA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

The Institute wishes to announce that the Malta National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE) has recognized the Institute's Master of Laws Degree and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree.

IMLI appreciates the efforts of the Government of Malta, and in particular the NCFHE and its accreditation division, to implement the decision of the 2019 IMO Assembly urging governments to recognize the degrees conferred by the Institute.



Mr. Lawrence Azzopardi (Head, NCFHE) with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and the IMLI Class of 2019-2020

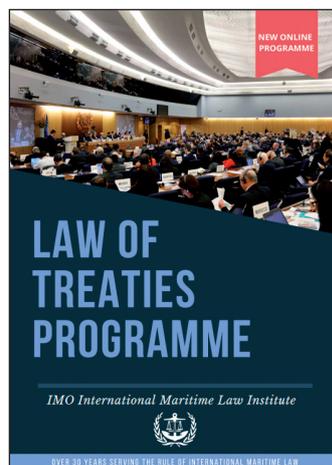
With reference to the Master's Degree, Mr. Lawrence Azzopardi (Head of Accreditation of the NCFHE) observed that, since IMLI is an international institution, it does not fall within the remit of the NCFHE. However, after an evaluation carried out by independent academic experts, "the NCFHE recognises that the Master's degree conferred by IMLI has reached the standards of a Master's Degree at MQF Level 7 pursuant to the Subsidiary Legislation 327.433 Further and Higher Education (Licensing, Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations."

IMLI GOVERNING BOARD HOLDS ITS 34TH SESSION

The 34th session of the IMLI Governing Board (the Board) was held virtually on 7 September 2020. The session was attended by Mr. Kitack Lim (Chairman), Mr. Chris Trelawny, Professor David Attard, Mr. Victor Camilleri, Dr. Philippe Boisson, Dr. Reto Dürler, Dr. Patrick Griggs, Mr. Jim Harrison, Professor Atsuko Kanehara, Ms. Nancy Karigithu, Mr. Louis N. Mbanefo, Dr. Kofi Mbiah and Prof. Dr. Marko Pavliha. Ms. Sivylla Ampatzoglou and Ms. Josephine Aquilina attended as observers.

NEW LAW OF TREATIES PROGRAMME OFFERED AT IMLI

To promote capacity-building in the Law of Treaties, IMLI, in cooperation with Queen Mary University of London, is offering an intensive programme on the subject. The first part of the Programme is a comprehensive course on Introduction to the Law of Treaties, covering the major aspects of the Law of Treaties. This part of the



Programme also prepares the ground for a better understanding of the second part of the Programme which consists of Specialist Seminars on the Law of Treaties, co-ordinated by academics from Queen Mary University of London.

This Programme is addressed to all who need to understand the intricacies of the Law of Treaties and the rights and obligations of States Parties under the same. For these reasons, the Programme would be most suitable to representative of States to international organizations, foreign relations experts, legal officers of maritime administrations, and maritime consultants. The Programme would also prove beneficial to law students who wish to pursue a career in the field.

FOR INFORMATION ON ADMISSIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

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The IMO International Maritime Law Institute was established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations.

IMLI STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021 LL.M. PROGRAMME



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ADVANCED DIPLOMA PROGRAMME