

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Circulated in more than 150 States



IMLI BESTOWS THE TITLE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW *HONORIS CAUSA* ON DR. JAMES T. HARRISON

During IMLI's 34th Graduation Ceremony, the Title of Professor of International Maritime Law *Honoris Causa*, was bestowed on IMLI Governor, Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison (Former Group Legal Director of Lloyd's Register and Vice-Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board).

*Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison
(Former Group Legal
Director of Lloyd's Register
and Vice-Chairman of the
IMLI Governing Board)
delivering his Honoris Causa
Address during the 34th
Graduation Ceremony*



Dr. Harrison has given life-long service to the harmonization, dissemination, and implementation of international maritime law.

For over thirty years, he served as Group Legal Director of the Lloyd's Register Group, where he made immense contribution to the development and implementation of international maritime safety and environmental standards. In 2016, Dr. Harrison was also appointed as Ambassador of the Lloyd's Register Foundation.

As Vice-Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board, and also as Chairman of the IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee, Dr. Harrison has been instrumental in the good governance of the Institute and has relentlessly contributed to its sterling work.



IMLI Financial and Human Resources Committee

He generously contributed to IMLI's welfare through lecturing in the Institute's Master's Programmes and by enabling for many years, the Institute's Graduates to visit the main office of the Lloyd's Register Group. This visit gave the graduates a firsthand experience on the intricacies of the work of a classification society, thereby contributing in great measure to the growing repute of IMLI as a centre of academic excellence.

Throughout the years, Dr. Harrison has devoted time and effort to ensure that the Lloyd's Register Trust and Foundation provided numerous fellowships that enabled maritime professionals from all around the world to be trained at IMLI. He has also constantly offered unyielding support to the management of the Institute.

In view of all of the above, IMLI has acclaimed Dr. James T. Harrison as a most meritorious candidate for the Title of Doctor of Laws in International Maritime Law *Honoris Causa*.



**Reproduced below is the *Honoris Causa* Address
as delivered by Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison:**

Good afternoon everyone,

Firstly, I wish to congratulate all of today's graduates – very well done indeed.

Secondly, I wish to thank Secretary-General Lim, Professors Martínez and Attard, and IMLI itself, for bestowing on me this great academic honour which I am delighted to receive.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as a Governor of IMLI for over 30 years, and as Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors more recently, and as Chairman of its Finance and Personnel Committee for over 20 years.

I am very gratified to see that my fellow Governor, and long-serving member of the Academic Committee, Professor Marko Pavliha, has also been honoured today with a doctorate from IMLI. Marko, you richly deserve it.

My close involvement with IMLI dates back to my early days working as an in-house lawyer for the ship classification society, Lloyd's Register of Shipping. I could see for myself that IMLI was a relatively small academic institution at that time which deserved support internationally and I was pleased to see Lloyd's Register fund and equip IMLI's first Computer Room.

Also, it has given me great satisfaction over three decades to see the Lloyd's Register Foundation provide three scholarships per year for deserving IMLI students. There is a strong symbiotic relationship which exists between the IMO, flag states, ship classification societies and shipowners - and IMLI has been very influential in providing our ship regulators of the future with a better understanding of that vital working relationship.



Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), Dr. h.c. James T. Harrison (Former Group Legal Director of Lloyd's Register and Vice-Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

Most recently I have been very pleased to see my recommendation for a new bigger state-of-the art lecture theatre at IMLI becoming a reality in the very near future.

My fascination with ships and the shipping world dates back to my days as a young boy, playing with my friends on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal which joins the inland cities of Manchester and Salford to the sea port of Liverpool.

My interest in maritime law was further kindled when I wrote my law degree thesis forty three years ago on 'Public International Law Relating to Oil Pollution from Ships'.

In addition to my involvement with IMLI I have served on the Steering Committee of the London Shipping Law Centre and on Working Parties of the Comite Maritime International.

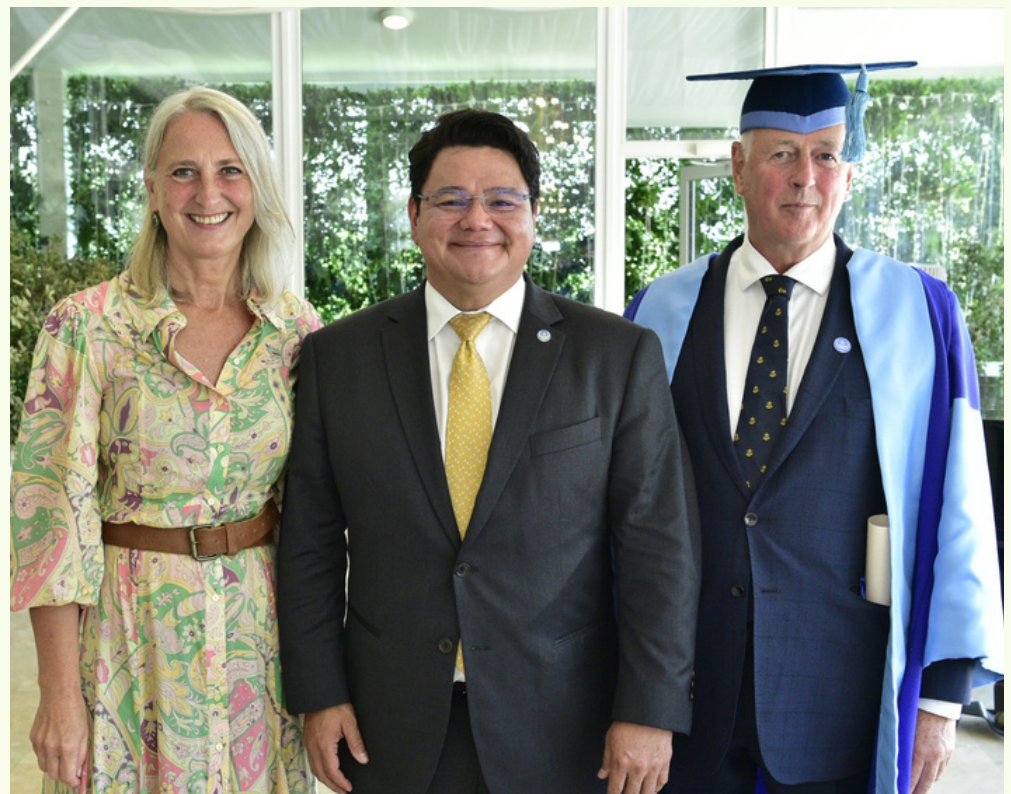
I realise that I have been extremely fortunate in my choice of career path because it has afforded me the opportunity to study and practise international maritime law around the world – and there is no better place on Earth to study this fascinating subject than here at IMLI in Malta.

Finally, I wish to thank my wife, Dr. Maria Flynn, Research Fellow in the Psychology Department at Westminster University. Maria has always supported and encouraged my close involvement with IMLI and although we will now have two doctors in our house in London Maria will remind me that she had to write a long dissertation and undergo a gruelling viva voce examination to earn hers !

Thank you very much.



Dr. James T. Harrison (Former Group Legal Director of Lloyd's Register and Vice-Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Professor Dr. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member of the IMLI Governing Board)



Dr. Maria Flynn (wife of Dr. Harrison and Research Fellow in the Psychology Department at Westminster University), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Dr. James T. Harrison (Former Group Legal Director of Lloyd's Register and Vice-Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board)