

# IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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## **IMLI BESTOWS THE TITLE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW *HONORIS CAUSA* ON PROFESSOR DR. DR. H.C. MARKO PAVLIHA**

The Title of Professor of International Maritime Law *Honoris Causa*, was bestowed on IMLI Governor, Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member, IMLI Governing Board), during IMLI's 34th Graduation Ceremony.



*Professor Dr. Dr. h.c.  
Marko Pavliha  
(Head of Law  
Department, University  
of Ljubljana, Faculty of  
Maritime Studies and  
Transportation,  
Slovenia; Member, IMLI  
Governing Board)  
delivering his Honoris  
Causa Address during  
the 34th Graduation  
Ceremony*



Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member, IMLI Governing Board) has given a life-long service to the harmonization, dissemination, progressive development and codification of international maritime law. He has written numerous maritime law books and countless contributions to highly regarded journals in English and Slovenian languages. Through his work at the Comité Maritime International, the Slovenian Maritime Law Association and other international fora, he has greatly contributed to the harmonization, progressive development and codification of international maritime law.

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Pavliha has inspired legal thinking by virtue of his decades of teaching of commercial, transport and insurance law at numerous universities, particularly the University of Ljubljana, where he has held the position of Vice Dean for Research and Development in the Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation.

He has been instrumental to the work of the Institute through his active contribution to the IMLI Governing Board and the IMLI Academic Committee, where he has been a Member for many years. Also, since 1998 he has dedicated time and effort to the Institute by annually delivering lectures on various topics relating to the Law of Marine Insurance, thus contributing to the continued development of IMLI as a centre of academic excellence for the teaching of international maritime law.

In view of all of the above, IMLI has acclaimed Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha as a most meritorious candidate for the Title of Doctor of Laws in International Maritime Law *Honoris Causa*.



(R-L): Mr. Kitack Lim  
(IMO Secretary-General and Chairman  
of the IMLI Governing Board),  
Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha  
(Head of Law Department, University of  
Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies  
and Transportation, Slovenia; Member,  
IMLI Governing Board) and  
Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez  
Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)



**Reproduced below is the Honoris Causa Address  
as delivered by  
Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha:**



H.E. the President of Malta, Dr. George Vella,  
Honourable Ministers  
Your Excellency Secretary-General Kitack Lim,  
Governors,  
Director Professor Norman Martínez,  
Judge and Former Director Professor David Attard,  
IMLI staff,  
Visiting Fellows,  
Graduates,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Friends and Colleagues,

A wise man once said that a good speech must have three qualities: Short introduction, even shorter conclusion and not much in between. I will try to take into account that, especially in order to keep my promise to my dear wife Ester who happens to be a judge, so you can imagine that I am under constant judicial control.

My story with IMLI goes back more than thirty years. Sometime in 1991, during my doctoral studies at McGill Faculty of Law in Montreal, my mentor, the legendary Professor William Tetley had advised me to contact the new rising academic institution in Malta which, according to his words, could probably use some fresh blood.

I wrote a nice letter to another Canadian William O'Neil, then Secretary-General of the IMO who replied politely that while there were no current vacancies which matched my particular specialization, my dossier would be retained on their roster for future reference in case suitable openings arose.



*Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia; Member, IMLI Governing Board) meeting students of the IMLI Class of 2017-2018 prior to delivering his lectures*

After returning to my homeland Slovenia which in the meantime became an independent country, I sent a letter to Professor David Attard, then Director of the Institute whose response was a bit Hollywoodian, something like “please do not call us, we will call you.”

I almost forgot about this when I received another letter from him, this time inviting me kindly to deliver my first set of lectures on marine insurance law in the forthcoming academic year. The die was cast and I was ready to embark on a fantastic journey aboard the ship named IMLI.

I arrived to the beautiful Mediterranean jewel called Malta on a sunny Sunday in early January 1999 and was greeted by Dr. Ivan Vella who was my first IMLI colleague, impeccable tourist guide and host.

I arrived to the beautiful Mediterranean jewel called Malta on a sunny Sunday in early January 1999 and was greeted by Dr. Ivan Vella who was my first IMLI colleague, impeccable tourist guide and host.

Next day, just before my introductory lecture, I was saddened to learn that Mrs. Attard's mother passed just a few days ago and the funeral would take place that afternoon.

I attended the services in order to show respect and to express my deepest condolences to David and Charmaine whom I met for the first time in those sorrowful circumstances. We have become good friends and ever since everything turned out as it was meant to happen.

About the same time, I also met Norman Martínez who did not only graduate from the Institute but also fell in love with another student Marika. They've got married and brought up two smart and beautiful children, Daniel and Mikaela. It is amazing how IMLI functions perfectly also beyond maritime law, for instance in the field of potential "marital law" ...

Throughout the years my young friend Norman has become a doctor and eminent professor of law and a year ago a new Director of the Institute which was indeed a very logical choice given his vast knowledge and experience.

When I started lecturing at IMLI, there were around 20 students who were cramped in a tiny classroom and had at their disposal only one joint computer room with internet. In the following years, the accommodation and teaching facilities have been completely renovated and the number of students has tripled.

The commendable progression and success of the Institute has been regularly confirmed by the best universities and also by the General Assembly of the United Nations which acknowledges consistently its reputation as a centre of excellence for the education and training in international maritime law.

My teaching at IMLI for almost 25 years and participating at its governance and academic growth has been an extremely fulfilling experience. I have met hundreds of students and excellent experts from around the globe and it is probably the only place on Earth bringing together so many cultures, religions, languages, moral values, ethics and legal experience in order to achieve a better and more harmonized unification of maritime law and the law of the sea.

As Professor Tetley used to say, maritime law constitutes a third legal system, an enriched compound of Common Law and Civil Law based predominantly on international agreements, the purpose of which he described by three principles: Uniformity of law, certainty of law and justice.

I would humbly add that whilst maritime law is primarily the instrument to regulate shipping, it has to be implemented by women and men, so it has to be applied in an ethical manner. These principles are indeed the moving spirit of IMLI and until politicians only speak about the importance of ethics and intercultural dialogue, the Institute is just doing it.

I am continuously impressed by the broad knowledge, worldwide respectability and hospitality of the members of the faculty. Professor Attard, a learned scholar, longstanding Director of the Institute, Judge and the man of many other important jobs, has been succeeded by Professor Martínez who is not only a very talented lawyer, teacher, writer and manager, but also one of the fittest international maritime ironmen in the world. He is assisted by several mostly capable right hands belonging to Mrs. Elda Belja, the Nippon Foundation Professors, assistant lecturers and the dedicated supporting staff.

Your Excellency Secretary-General, Director Professor Martínez, Governors and Members of the Academic Committee, thank you heartily for your unanimous approval of the conferment upon me of the Degree of Doctor of International Maritime Law *Honoris Causa*.

This prestigious award means a lot and even more to me because it comes from my international academic family. I feel privileged, honored and happy, and shall continue serving IMLI and the rule of international maritime law with even greater enthusiasm.

Here, at our IMLI, we do not educate only minds, but also hearts. We are perhaps unconsciously inspired by the UNESCO five pillars of education for the 21st century, which are the following: Learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, learning to be, and learning to become. We are Training the Maritime Leaders of Tomorrow.

We are neither from the East or the West, no boundaries exist in our chests; we are not from the South or the North, but rather wisdom and kindness move us forth; we all learn and smile in the same language.

So, long live IMLI, may it grow and flourish for many years to come.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Malta, 30th June 2023

Marko Pavliha

*Dr. h.c 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. Dr. h.c.  
Marko Pavliha (Head of Law  
Department, University of  
Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime  
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*H.E. the President of Malta, Dr. George Vella,  
Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board),  
Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI),  
IMLI Faculty Members, Distinguished Guests  
and the IMLI Class of 2022-2023*



*Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department,  
University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and  
Transportation, Slovenia; Member, IMLI Governing Board)  
and his wife Judge Ester Debernardi-Pavliha*