During the first Malta Maritime Awards held on 3 October 2022 on the occasion of the Malta Maritime Summit Week, the IMO was presented with the Malta Maritime Award in Recognition of the Establishment of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI). The Award was received by Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO) who, on behalf of the IMO Secretariat and Member States, thanked the organizers for such a prestigious award. This event was attended by highly esteemed personalities in the international maritime community from around the world.

Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO) receiving the Award from Dr. Aaron Farrugia (Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Malta)
The Secretary-General, in his acceptance address, stated that the establishment of IMLI at that time was insightful, especially considering the developments that were taking place in the maritime sector. He noted that locating the Institute in Malta was also very significant and went on to express his deepest appreciation to the Government of Malta for its continuous devotion and support to the Institute since its establishment. Additionally, Mr. Lim commented on the extraordinary growth of the Institute over the last 33 years.

In concluding his address, Mr. Lim stated that “We at IMO are very proud of IMLI”. He stated that the IMO Secretariat has IMLI graduates occupying senior positions, specifically mentioning the Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Secretary-General of IMO and the Deputy Director / Head of Legal Affairs, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division of the IMO. The Secretary-General also noted that for the first time in the Organization's history, an appointment is made to the position of Director of Administration and the appointee to this position is also an IMLI graduate.
During the Awards Ceremony, Professor Martínez (Director, IMLI) had the singular honour of receiving the Award in Grateful Recognition of Dr. Arvid Pardo for his Lifetime Contribution to Maritime Law on behalf of his family members who were unavoidably absent. The Award was presented by the honourable Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Dr. Aaron Farrugia in the presence of Secretary-General Lim.

In his acceptance statement, Professor Martínez said that it was a true honour for him to receive the Award on behalf of such great a man. IMLI has always had the greatest esteem for Dr. Pardo and his contribution to law of the sea matters that earned him recognition as the 'Father of the New Law of the Sea'.

The Maritime Awards was described by the Hon. Dr. Farrugia in a press release by the Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, as a good platform to recognise the hard work and dedication of those individuals and companies that have contributed towards the establishment of Malta as a centre of maritime excellence. The Awards are also said to be an event that will celebrate not only the long successful history of the maritime industry but also one that will act as a platform to give more motivation to the young generations to come forward and embark on a maritime career.