

IMLI *e*-NEWS

THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

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IMLI LAUNCHES ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO

IMLI is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this academic year!

Thus, we are proud to launch our 35th Anniversary Logo which will accompany us throughout this milestone year.



35 Years of Serving the Rule of International Maritime Law

IMLI COMMENCES ITS 35TH ACADEMIC YEAR

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) welcomed the 35th generation of students for the Academic year 2023-2024. The students were warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff.



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)
with members of the Class of 2023-2024*

Prior to the IMLI Director delivering his Welcoming Address to the Class of 2023-2024, Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration) guided them through the Oath of Allegiance to the Institute.



*Class of 2023-2024 taking the Oath of Allegiance to the
IMO International Maritime Law Institute*

When addressing the 2023-2024 Class, Professor Martínez Gutiérrez stated that it was an honour and a privilege to welcome such a diverse class, full of talented individuals, to IMLI's 35th Academic Year.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering the Welcoming Address

The Director informed the students that IMLI was set up to train maritime experts on the whole spectrum of international maritime law and on the incorporation and effective implementation of IMO treaties and rules into their domestic legislation. He highlighted the Institute's commitment to contribute to the realization of IMO's objectives and the international community for a sustainable and vibrant maritime sector.



Professor Martínez Gutiérrez stated that he was confident that the students' efforts coupled with the Institute's commitment to deliver the highest standards of training will make this Academic Year a very successful and rewarding one.

At the conclusion of the Director's Address, Ms. Kazara-Belja invited the students to introduce themselves to the Director, Staff of the Institute and their Colleagues. For the academic year 2023-2024, IMLI welcomes in-situ, 72 Students from 40 countries in all of its programmes.



Members of the IMLI Class of 2023-2024 introducing themselves

INAUGURATION OF IMLI'S NEWLY REFURBISHED LECTURE HALL

On Wednesday 11 October, a ceremony was held, in which Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) together with Hon. Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta) inaugurated IMLI's new state-of-the-art lecture hall and student common room. The ceremony was attended by eminent personalities including Dr. Ivan Sammut, (Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen at Malta Ship Registry, Permanent Representative of Malta to IMO and Member of the IMLI Governing Board), Judge Dr. Giovanni Griscti (Member of the Maltese Judiciary and Graduate of the IMLI Class of 1990).

Upon their arrival, Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) and Hon. Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta) were introduced to the staff and students of the IMLI Class of 2023-2024 by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI). This was followed by the ceremonial ribbon cutting, which was jointly done by the Secretary-General and Minister Zrinzo Azzopardi.



Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), Hon. Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta), and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)

Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board) and Hon. Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta) cutting the ceremonial ribbon inaugurating the newly refurbished lecture hall



In the ceremony that ensued, Professor Martínez Gutiérrez delivered the Welcoming Address, which he opened by stating that this year marks his 24th year of dedicated service to the Institute and admitted that this inauguration day is his most emotional. He also stated that his message for the day was one of gratitude and pride. Gratitude for all who were present. Gratitude to the Government of Malta, among which he mentioned, for the warm reception of IMLI students and the facilities they have provided over the last 35 years. He also welcomed and expressed his gratitude to the Secretary-General for his visit to inaugurate the refurbished students' accommodation and formally open the 35th Academic Year. The Director fondly noted that Secretary-General Lim, is the IMO Secretary-General who has visited the Institute the most during his tenure as Secretary-General. He thanked him for his commitment to IMLI. More importantly, the Director noted the crucial role the Secretary-General played in securing the necessary funding for the refurbishment of the student accommodation.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering the Welcoming Remarks



Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman of the IMLI Governing Board), Hon. Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Judge Dr. Giovanni Griscti (Member of the Maltese Judiciary and IMLI Graduate of Class of 1990), and Architect Mr. Alexander Cutajar (architect in charge of the lecture hall refurbishment) together with the IMLI Class of 2023-2024

Professor Martínez Gutiérrez stated that he was proud of what the Institute has achieved over the last 35 years, recording further that indeed IMLI has distinguished itself for training the maritime leaders of tomorrow.

This was followed by an Inauguration Address by Minister Zrinzo Azzopardi in which he thanked all those who contributed to the realization of these projects, particularly the Government of Korea for the new student accommodation, which he noted will undoubtedly enhance the overall experience of the students at IMLI as well as in Malta in general. Minister Zrinzo Azzopardi also stated that the celebration was not only of the new lecture hall and student accommodation, but also the principles and values that underpin IMLI's mission as a global educational institution. The Hon. Minister registered the pride of the Government of Malta, through the Ministry of Public Works and Planning of Malta, to have supported the full refurbishment of the IMLI lecture hall and student common room. He expressed Malta's belief that education and research are the cornerstone of progress, prosperity and peace and hence its commitment to IMLI. Minister Zrinzo Azzopardi commended the Institute for continuously pushing the boundaries of knowledge further every year.



Hon. Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi (Minister for Public Works and Planning, Malta) delivering his address



Hon. Minister Zrinzo Azzopardi signing the IMLI guest book



Hon. Minister Zrinzo Azzopardi meeting the students of the Class of 2023-2024



The Secretary-General was then invited to deliver his address and to formally open the academic year 2023-2024. He opened his address by welcoming the new IMLI students, wishing them all the best as they embark in their academic journey.

In respect of the lecture hall, Mr. Lim stated “I express my thanks and gratitude to the Government of Malta for their generous funding and for their continued and ongoing support to IMLI.”

The Secretary-General noted that the new IMLI facilities will allow it to be even more accessible to the global maritime community through the use of hybrid learning technologies - thereby

realizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ‘Quality Education’, and ensuring that IMLI continues to deliver quality education, accessible for all.

In respect of the refurbished student accommodation, Mr. Lim thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for financing these improvements through the IMO Voyage Together Trust Fund. To this he said “I am sure that a better study environment, along with enhanced living premises, will greatly improve the students’ quality of life during their studies at IMLI.”



At the conclusion of his Address, the Secretary-General rang the ceremonial bell to symbolize the official opening of the new academic year.

IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL UNVEILS A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE FUNDING IMLI RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND INAUGURATES THE NEWLY REFURBISHED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Immediately after the lecture hall's inauguration ceremony was concluded, Mr. Kitack Lim proceeded to unveil a plaque in recognition of the Government of the Republic of Korea which, on his personal initiative, has funded the renovations of the Institute's student accommodation. The unveiling took place, in the presence of the IMLI Director, Hon. Minister Dr. Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, Dr. Ivan Sammut, Judge Dr. Giovanni Griscti, and the IMLI Class of 2023-2024. This event marked the official inauguration of the newly refurbished student accommodation by the IMO Secretary-General.



The Secretary-General was then given a tour of the newly refurbished flats by the Director, wherein he got to view first hand the extensive changes done to the flats.

This refurbishments saw the stripping down of all flats almost to the core, to then be rebuilt in a manner so as to include the necessary and up to date amenities required, as well as to add a touch of style and homely comfort. A badminton court was also added in the first courtyard for recreational purposes.

Mr. Lim was very much impressed with the new and updated accommodation. He also specifically commended the Director's initiative in regard to the outdoor recreational facilities provided for in the courtyards.

The events of the day were concluded with a Reception held in the IMLI Foyer.



