

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good evening.

Welcome to the CILT Malta Symposium and AGM 2019. I am Miriam Camilleri, Chair of the Malta Branch of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, an international organization devoted to education and training to nurture true professionals in the transport industry.

Welcome is extended by our Committee to the CILT and Branch members here today. We hope that today's event will stimulate further your interest in our Institute that you may also spread the word and encourage others to join in membership and also to take up transport studies.

To the speakers and members of the panel forum I direct our appreciation not only for joining us but also to accept our invitation to impart their knowledge and share their experiences in the spirit of the theme of this event, *The critical importance of professionalism in the sector for an efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly logistics and transport system*. The theme encapsulates the spirit and vision of CILT International and of course CILT Malta. We augur that the speakers and members of the panel also would encourage their employees and hopefully also their board that they and their organization would join CILT Malta as members.

I am making such an emphasis on membership, ordinary, chartered or corporate because it is our firm belief that there is strength in numbers that translates in a wide sharing of experiences, in the belief of professionalism and that, CILT through education and training can be a vehicle, to use a transport term, for an efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly logistics and transport system, in short, a system that not only equates with quality but that it is in itself quality.

A further welcome goes to the IMLI students participating in this event and who hail from around the globe, this year from 35 different countries. I shall refrain from referring to them as guests because actually they are our hosts. We are the ones who have been invited to their home, the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, where practically for one whole year they are living and studying so that they can take back home the knowledge they are gaining and the experiences that they are sharing with each other. To them I also extend an invitation to join CILT Malta as members and, returning home, to continue their membership either with us or within their local CILT branch, where there is one, failing which they may even want to consider setting up one.

CILT international provides a Knowledge Base for its members world wide and this is one, even if not the only, advantage of membership -- the possibility of widening your vision and your horizon.

My final welcome goes to our three guests of honour –

Mr Joe Zammit Chairman Zammit Group, a pioneer in the transport industry in Malta, particularly, though not only, the ferry and cargo service between Malta and Gozo; the family of Mr Zammit has been in transport service for decades; green energy and transport today is his passion.

the Hon Perit Toni Bezzina, Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure; the specialization of Mr Bezzina as an architect and civil engineer, is road building; and

Mr Kofie Mbiah from Ghana, an IMLI graduate and for many years the Chairman of the Legal Committee at the International Maritime Organisation.

Admittedly during the period since our last AGM we have not been very visible, in fact hardly visible at all. But, like the night train, or submarine, or the aircraft thousands of

metres up in the sky, we have still been hard at our task. I shall not dwell on the details of our activities because these will be summed up in the Secretary's report that follows my introduction. Some of our activities are still work in progress such as persuading the education authorities of the value of the courses we run and that there is the need of a more practical approach to recognize what is already responsibly accepted internationally.

And here I must appeal to the local authorities for more and better collaboration and support. We gladly note the presence of Transport Malta officials led by their new Chairman and CEO, a Fellow of the Institute, with the contribution he will share with us, in a few minutes, during his presentation. From discussions we already had we have good reason to believe that we can breathe fresh air in anticipation of better things to come. We augur that this positive attitude can extend to other areas of government. The input on the aviation master plan by the CEO of the Malta Industrial Parks is yet a further encouragement.

Our appeal for closer collaboration goes also to the industry that must demonstrate their belief in professionalism and need for quality by supporting our initiatives not only through membership but through encouraging and incentivizing their employees to take up transport studies and training.

Once again, we augur that the input we shall have today by the Head of Logistics of a leading and long established group, that are renowned producers, distributors and importers and, by the CEO of a prominent tour operator with a very wide and large operation not only nationally but also internationally, both greater believers in the benefit of professionalism and well qualified and trained personnel, will serve as a beacon for other organisations that they may understand and accept the need and benefit for establishing strong ties with our Institute. To quote one of our catch but

very true and meaningful phrases, we aim to take you higher.

The fact that we are collaborating so closely with the IMO International Maritime Law Institute in organizing this event, that we are holding this symposium and meeting within the IMLI premises and the fact that none other than IMLI Associate Professor of long standing is presenting to us IMLI, is a very clear indication of the close ties we have established with this international institution of repute. We aim to go further, much further. We aim in the very future to resume discussions with both IMLI and CILT International with the possible aim of IMLI graduates qualifying automatically, or with a limited input, for chartered membership with our Institute. Thus, graduates, in addition to the masters degree in international maritime law they acquire from such a prestigious institution that is IMLI at the end of their arduous studies, they will also obtain a professional membership that has worldwide recognition. CILT will take you wider.

Our wish list is long but the time to talk about our vision is short. What we can achieve alone is small. But what we can achieve together is much larger and bigger. Together we are stronger. Together we achieve. Together we grow. Together we are one voice. Together we are a pressure group.

Our vision is to become one of the leading institutes in ensuring that education in this very important pillar of the economy is at the top of everyone's agenda.

Finally, I would like to thank our committee for their hard work and dedication and to our supporters the Malta International Shipowners Association, the Malta Dockers Union and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. This dedication and support stems from their firm belief in the importance of professionalism and, education and training as the means to attain this.

CILT can indeed take you higher and wider.

Thank you.