

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PAYS COURTESY CALL TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILE SATELLITE ORGANIZATION

On Thursday November 11th, 2021, the Hon. E.P. Chet Green, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade paid courtesy calls to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Mr. Kitack Lim and the Director General of the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) Capt. Moin Ahmed.

Minister Greene was in London as part of the Antigua and Barbuda @40 Business Forum which facilitated one-on-one business, trade, and investment engagements aimed at introducing new opportunities in key areas such as property development, financial services, hospitality, information technology, education, tourism, aviation, renewables and the blue economy.

The Minister was accompanied to the courtesy calls by Ambassador Dwight Gardiner Director/Registrar General of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS)/Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the IMO and Mr. Darwin Telemaque Manager of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority.

The IMO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. Its main role is to



From left: Mr. Darwin Telemaque, Mrs. Azara Prempeh Chief of Staff to the IMO Sec. Gen., Mr. Kitack Lim IMO Secretary General, Minister E.P. Chet Greene, Ambassador Dwight Gardiner

create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair, effective and universally adopted and implemented.

Discussions at the IMO entailed several key initiatives such as decarbonization in shipping, IMO Council reform and Climate Change.

At the forefront of the discussions was the seafarer humanitarian crisis which came about as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic which has placed extraordinary demands on seafarers leaving hundreds of thousands of men and women stranded on board ships for months beyond their original contracts, unable to be repatriated due to travel restrictions.

The reverse is also true as a similar number of seafarers are unable to join ships and earn a living. In order to combat this crisis, the IMO has appealed to Governments to formally designate seafarers and other marine personnel as “key workers” in order to facilitate shore leave and safe and unhindered movement across borders and recognize their relevant documentation for this purpose.

Minister Greene, understanding the urgency of this global situation, promised to make a submission to Cabinet to have seafarers designated as key workers.

The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) is the inter-governmental organization whose primary purpose is the oversight of certain services provided by mobile satellite communication systems, public satellite safety and security communication.



From left: Capt. Moin Ahmed IMSO Director General, Minister E.P. Chet Greene

The IMSO Director General Capt. Moin Ahmed welcomed the Minister to their Headquarters in London and thanked him for taking the time to visit. He provided an introduction discussing the goals, objectives and functionality of the organization.

He also took the opportunity to thank Antigua and Barbuda for all the support given to the organization over the years

noting that we actively participate in the meetings.

He further noted that Ambassador Gardiner, as the Antigua and Barbuda representative, was elected as Vice Chairman of the 24th Assembly in 2017 and also served as acting Chair of the 25th Assembly in October 2018. Antigua and Barbuda served as Chair of the Committee in 2019 and 2020 and served on the Advisory Committee consecutively until 2020.