Seminar with the Embassy of Spain on the theme of Energy Security and Efficiency

On March 20th 2013, MEDAC students attended a seminar on the theme "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies in Spain". The seminar, which was jointly organized by MEDAC and the Spanish Embassy in Malta was addressed by the Ambassador of Spain to Malta, Felipe de la Morena Casado and Dr. Gonzalo Escribano and sought to address one of the basic challenges governments face today and one which diplomats need to be especially versed in.

Amb. de la Morena gave a short overview of bilateral relations between Spain and Malta and went on to introduce the subject of energy efficiency and security. The Spanish Ambassador underlined the success of the Spanish renewable energy sector, now consisting of more than 4000 companies, and the country's dependence for a third of its electricity on renewable energy. Spain also ranks 4th globally for solar and wind energy use.

Dr. Gonzalo Escribano then elaborated on the theme which receives massive public support. He described Spanish energy policy as focusing mainly on climate change, energy security and competitiveness and explained how this fits in the European Union's objective for member states to derive a 20% share of energy from renewables by 2020. Spain is well on its way, having reached 13.8% in 2010.

Dr. Escribano related the sector with job creation, noting that renewable energy generates over 1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and accounts for over 120,000 jobs (1.4% of the workforce). Construction, transport, energy conservation and energy services also make up 3% of Spanish exports, over 1% of the GDP and 0.5% of the workforce. Dr. Escribano also made reference to Spain's Energy Efficiency Plan 2012 which, he said, demonstrated how the objectives of the business community and policymakers are converging.

Below Top: Prof Dr. Stephen C. Calleya, Amb. H. E. Mr. Felipe de la Morena Casado and Dr. Gonzalo Escribano.
Bottom: MEDAC students during the Seminar.