

## IMO TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION DIVISION FORMER DIRECTOR VISITS IMLI

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo (Former Director of the IMO Technical Co-operation Division) visited IMLI and delivered a lecture on “Effective Maritime Industry Crucial for Sustainable Development – The Role of IMLI”.

During her lecture Mrs. Mbanefo explained that the sea is the lifeblood of all nations, in that it facilitates international trade through trade routes. The crucial materials required for developments’ projects are carried by sea and thus, the shipping industry is a great contributor to the national, and effectively the global, economy. In particular, developing countries stand to benefit from the shipping industry as they lead the world in some of industry’s ancillary businesses including registration of ships, supply of seagoing manpower, and ship recycling.



*Mrs. Monica Mbanefo (Former Director of the IMO Technical Co-operation Division) and the Class of 2012/2013*

Mrs. Mbanefo continued her presentation by remarking that the opening of the seas and oceans to maritime transport has facilitated the access to emerging markets as well as economic activities, including employment, to many countries. Those with access to natural resources; those with the ability to convert those resources into useful products for the good of mankind; and those with a requirement and the wherewithal to utilize and consume those end products are all joined by the common thread of shipping. Shipping is truly the lynchpin of the global economy.

She noted that to ensure that each nation accesses the benefits of the resources of the sea and the sea itself, it was imperative to develop ocean governance institutions that would regulate maritime activities. IMO came into being to address the obvious need for a framework of international standards to regulate shipping, which has to be accepted and implemented by all. However, instruments and standards will only be effective if they are universally and uniformly implemented. Although IMO adopts international shipping regulations it is the responsibility of Governments to implement those regulations. Considering that shipping is a global industry that cannot afford to have a weak link, the importance of an efficient and effective national maritime administration cannot be over emphasized. It is this latter area where IMLI's role is undisputable.

IMLI has been recognized for its contribution to the training of lawyers in maritime legislation drafting techniques which assist them in the development of laws regulating the shipping industry. Through the incorporation into its syllabus of a comprehensive maritime legislative drafting course, IMLI plays a key role in developing expertise in maritime legislative drafting. Mrs. Mbanefo explained that IMO State Parties need, in addition to a good maritime legal regime, the presence of a cadre of experts who advise on maritime legislation, on the need for the adoption of such legislation and who are able to undertake the drafting of the latter. In her opinion, this aspect reflects the importance of IMLI to the international community.

Mrs. Mbanefo reminded the students of their mandate, upon graduation, to assist their governments in the effective implementation of their maritime policies; to lay the groundwork which would impact positively on their country's capacity to adopt and implement the required international regulations and standards for safe, secure and environmentally sound shipping.

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo graduated from the University of Ife, Nigeria, with an Honours Degree in Law (LL.B. Hons). She was called to the Bar in 1973 as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Additionally, she is a graduate of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria, where she specialized in International Contract Negotiation and Arbitration Clauses in Contracts. She also received training in Policy and Management.

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo is currently a partner in the law firm of Louis Mbanefo and Co. Before joining the Firm, she served for 20 years at the directorate level in the IMO. During her years in IMO she held many prestigious appointments, including Director of the Technical Co-operation Division from 2007 to 2010, Director of Conference Division from 1999 to 2007, and Senior Deputy Director and Head of the Legal Office from 1991 to 1999.

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