

HIGH COURT JUDGE APPOINTMENT FOR IMLI LECTURER

Mr. Riyaz Hamza, The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law, has been appointed as a Puisne Judge in the High Court of Fiji. The appointment is for a term of three years. Mr. Hamza joined the Institute on 1 November 2010 and is the first holder of the The Nippon Foundation Lecturership on International Maritime Security Law.



Mr. Riyaz Hamza (The Nippon Foundation Lecturer on International Maritime Security Law)

During his time at the Institute Mr. Hamza was instrumental in fully updating and developing the Institute's Course on International Maritime Security Law. He has conducted lectures, *inter alia*, in Public International Law, Law of the Sea, Law of Maritime Safety and International Maritime Security and Maritime Legislation Drafting.

The High Court of Fiji has been established by the High Court Act of Fiji. The High Court has the power and jurisdiction vested in it from time to time by the Constitution, the High Court Act and

any other law for the time being in force. It has the unlimited original jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil or criminal proceeding under any law, and the power to interpret the Constitution.

On being interviewed regarding his departure from IMLI, Mr. Hamza said that at the moment he had mixed feelings and emotions. On the one hand he is very sad to be leaving Malta and the Institute, which has been home to him for the past five years. However, he always had the desire to get back to the legal practice, which he had been involved in for almost 18 years prior to coming to Malta. Therefore, he is extremely happy about this new appointment and the opportunities it would provide.

He added further that “IMLI is described as a small institution with a global mission. Working at IMLI, I came to realize first-hand how very true and accurate that statement is. I am particularly happy that during my tenure at the Institute, I too was able to contribute towards the accomplishment of this global mission.”

Mr. Hamza continued that during his time in Malta he had made many new contacts and many new friendships. But he says what he would value and cherish the most is the bonds of friendship he had established with his students. “I have taken a count and find that, in the past five years, I have had the pleasure and privilege of teaching and supervising over 170 students from nearly 80 countries from all continents in the world. This in my view was a unique and invaluable experience, which only an institution like IMLI could provide”.

He said that he was very grateful to the Institute’s Director, Professor David Attard, and all members of the staff for the continuous and unconditional support and co-operation extended to him throughout his period of employment at IMLI. He was also profoundly thankful to the Nippon Foundation for establishing and funding the Nippon Foundation Lecturership on International Maritime Security Law. He concluded by stating “I will greatly miss being a part of the IMLI family.”

Mr. Hamza was called to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, on 19 November 1992. He joined the Attorney General’s Department as a State Counsel on 1 January 1993 and was promoted as a Senior State Counsel with effect from 3 October 2005.

In September 2001 he was awarded the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Legal Policy Degree by the Open University of Sri Lanka and in November 2008, he was awarded a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) Degree from the same University.

Mr. Hamza obtained a Master of Laws Degree in International Maritime Law from IMLI, in May 2006. His studies at IMLI was made possible through a scholarship awarded to him by the Nippon Foundation.

He was also awarded a Master’s Degree in Law by the University of Colombo in July 2009. His research was on the topic “*The Continental Shelf Regime and Sri Lanka’s claim to an extended Continental Shelf*”.

In July 2008, he was appointed by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka as a Member of the Presidential Committee on Maritime Matters (PCMM) mandated with the task of reviewing and

identifying the problems and concerns pertaining to the Shipping and Port sector in Sri Lanka and to make appropriate proposals and recommendations to overcome such problems and to enhance the country's image as a major maritime nation. The Chairman of this Committee was His Lordship Justice P.A. Ratnayake, President's Counsel, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, and an alumnus of IMLI (Class of 1992).

Prior to joining the Institute, Mr. Hamza had conducted lectures at numerous Seminars and Training Programmes in Sri Lanka with special focus on Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence Law, Constitutional Law and Human Rights Law.

Mr. Hamza is a Visiting Lecturer and a Member of the Board of Examiners at the University of Malta, Faculty of Laws. Further, he also acts as Supervisor and Examiner for the University's LL.D. Thesis. Mr. Hamza is also a Visiting Lecturer for the Master of Arts in Ocean Governance Programme conducted by the University of Malta in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute (IOI). He has also been a Speaker at several International Conferences and Workshops.

Mr. Hamza is a co-editor of the forthcoming IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law: Volume III: Marine Environmental Law and Maritime Security Law.



The Director and Staff of IMLI

Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), when asked to comment on Mr. Riyaz Hamza's departure stated that "Mr. Hamza will be greatly missed. His dedication to IMLI was commendable, as was his very generous commitment to our students' welfare. I wish him well in his new judicial appointment."

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