



PRESIDENT OF WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY LECTURES AT IMLI

On Thursday, 5 November 2015, the Institute had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President of the World Maritime University (WMU)). During her visit, Dr. Doumbia-Henry who met with the Director, staff and students of the IMLI Class of 2015-2016, delivered a lecture on *“Introduction to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006”*.



Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry (President, WMU) with the IMLI Class of 2015-2016

In her lecture, Dr. Doumbia-Henry discussed the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006), which entered into force on 20 August 2013 as an International Labour Organization (ILO) Technical Convention with significant innovations for accommodating the needs of maritime industry. She stated that the Convention is a milestone in the international efforts to protect seafarers' rights for proper working and living conditions.

In highlighting ILO's special interest in seafarers, Dr. Doumbia-Henry explained that ILO has been working with the maritime sector for almost a century. One of the first legal instruments that the ILO adopted, she said, was the National Seamen's Codes Recommendation No. 9, 1920, one year after the ILO was created. 40 Conventions and related Recommendations were later adopted to cover the seafarers' working and living conditions and maritime employment. Of particular note is MLC 2006 which establishes the measures to ensure the welfare of the world's seafarers and their families if the seafarers are deserted or death or disabled due to occupational injury, illness or hazard.

Dr. Doumbia-Henry also explained that MLC 2006 was designed to be applicable globally, easy to understand, readily updatable and uniformly enforced. By December 2014, a total of 65 countries which represent more than 80% of the world's global shipping tonnage have ratified the Convention. MLC 2006 has become the "fourth pillar" of the international regulatory regime for quality shipping, complementing the key Conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), namely SOLAS, STCW and MARPOL.

Underlining the primary purpose of the Convention to help improve the welfare for seafarers, the people who are very essential to the world's economy, Dr. Doumbia-Henry encouraged the students to take a part in the global implementation of the Convention by urging and helping their individual governments and maritime industries in the process of ratification and implementation of MLC 2006.

Prior to becoming the President of WMU, Dr. Doumbia-Henry was the Director of the International Labour Standards Department of the International Labour Office in Geneva, Switzerland, who was responsible for the development, adoption and entry into force of MLC 2006. She commenced her career as a lecturer in law at University of the West Indies, Barbados before working with the Iran-US Claims Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. Dr. Doumbia-Henry joined the International Labour Office in 1986 where she served as a senior lawyer and held several management positions.

Since the late 1990s, she had led the ILO participation in a number of IMO/ILO interagency collaborations on several issues of common interest to IMO and ILO. These include the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Groups on Fair Treatment of Seafarers and on Liability and Compensation regarding Claims for Death, Personal Injury and Abandonment of Seafarers.

Her qualifications include Barrister-at-Law and Solicitor, which entitle her to practice in all English-speaking Caribbean jurisdictions. She is also a Member of the Inner Temple, Inns of Court, United Kingdom.

Dr. Doumbia-Henry obtained her Master of Laws from University of the West Indies, and her Master in International Law and Ph.D. both from Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva.

She has published extensively on international law subjects, including International Labour Standards and Trade, MLC 2006, the Seafarers Identity Documents' Convention, 2003 and the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Sea.

Her lecture was very well received by the students who greatly appreciated her knowledge on the field and the very insightful recommendations for the proper implementation of MLC 2006.

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*** For further information please contact Ms. Tetty Lubis at publications@imli.org*