

## FORMER DIRECTOR OF IMO TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION LECTURES AT IMLI

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Monica Mbanefo (Former Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) who recently visited the Institute. Mrs. Mbanefo was met on her arrival by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), who introduced her to the IMLI Class of 2015-2016. During her visit Mrs. Mbanefo delivered a lecture titled “*Economic Development - the Role of IMLI*”.



*Mrs. Monica Mbanefo Mbanefo (Former Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO) meeting the students of the IMLI Class of 2015-2016*

At the beginning of her lecture, Mrs. Mbanefo briefly explained why she chose “*Economic Development - the Role of IMLI*” as the topic of her lecture. She said that instruments adopted by international bodies and ratified by governments can only be effective if universally and uniformly implemented through the incorporation of the instruments into their national legislation. IMLI, she further stated, is one of the few institutions that train experts to render this service, a unique service to the maritime industry which impacts on economic and sustainable development.

Mrs. Mbanefo further discussed the effective implementation of IMO instruments as a catalyst to sustainable development. Maritime legislation, she said, is the cornerstone for effective implementation and that this is where the training being received at IMLI becomes important. She continued by detailing to the students their role in effective implementation of IMO conventions.

She further addressed the needs of developing countries for not only a good maritime law regime but also qualified legal personnel; a reasonable cadre of national legal personnel who are available to oversee the implementation of existing law, to review and evaluate the provisions and arrangements for their implementation, to advise on the need for new or revised laws and regulations and, as necessary, to prepare suitable texts for consideration and adoption by the relevant legislative bodies. It is this aspect, she concluded, that underlines the importance of IMLI and its graduates, who will be required to assist their respective Government to sustain and expand its role in the development of a maritime infrastructure that keeps pace with the demands of world trade, whilst always maintaining the highest levels of safety, security and environmental protection.

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo is currently a Partner in the law firm of Louis Mbanefo and Co., in Lagos, Nigeria, after having served for 20 years at the directorate level in the IMO.

During her tenure at the IMO, she was Director, Technical Cooperation Division from 2007 to 2010. Prior to that, she was Senior Deputy Director and Head of the Legal Office from 1991 to 1999 and was Director Conference Division from 1999 to 2007.

Mrs. Mbanefo served in the Federal Ministry of Justice in Nigeria, where she worked in various capacities including Legal and Legislative Drafting, Civil Litigation, Industrial and Mercantile Law and as a Legal Adviser to various ministries.

Apart from her key role at the Ministry of justice, she also served as Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Labour on Industrial Relations, Trade Unions, Factories Law and Workmen’s Compensation Laws from 1978-1981. Head of Legal Department of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, and Legal Adviser on the law relating to Water Resources, Agriculture, Maritime Law and Administrative Law between the years 1982-1983. She was also Head of Legal Department of the Federal Ministry of Transport and Aviation, and was Legal Adviser on Aviation Law, Maritime Law, Land Transport Law and Administrative Law from 1984-1990.

While in the Nigerian Civil Service, she was assigned SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS including establishing and heading the contract vetting Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice between the years 1985-1986. Mrs Mbanefo worked as Project Co-ordinator for the Review of the

Nigerian Maritime Legislations between 1987-1988, serving as a Board Member of the National Maritime Authority as well as Membership of the Contract Review Committee.

Mrs. Mbanefo worked as Legal Counsel to the National Maritime Authority's delegation to the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Brazil and the United States of America as the Expert on the Nigerian Shipping Policy (1988-1990); and was the Nigerian Delegate to all the Legal Committee and Council meetings of IMO as well as the delegate to all the UNCTAD Committee of Shipping meetings for the period 1984-1989.

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo graduated from the University of Ife, Nigeria, with an Honours Degree in Law (LL.B. Hons) and 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 specialised in International Contract Negotiation and Arbitration Clauses in Contracts. She also trained in Policy and Management.

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