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# IMLI e-News

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## IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LECTURES AT IMLI

Dr. Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee) visited the International Maritime Law Institute during the 2016-2017 academic year and delivered a lecture on ‘*The Work of the IMO Legal Committee: Challenges and Prospects*’ to the IMLI Class.



*Dr. Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee) delivering his lecture.*

Dr. Mbiah started his lecture by looking at the general overview of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), from the Organization’s history and mandate to its structure. On the subject of his lecture (*the Work of the IMO Legal Committee: Challenges and Prospects*), Dr. Mbiah discussed the reasons for the establishment of the IMO Legal Committee. He informed the Class that the mandate of the Legal Committee is to, among others, deal with any legal matter arising

within the scope of work of the Organization such as the promulgation of IMO conventions, codes and guidelines on matters of marine safety, security and protection and preservation of the marine environment.

On the challenges and prospects facing the Legal Committee, Dr. Mbiah identified the effective implementation of IMO conventions in the territory of member States as one of such challenges. However, he was quick to acknowledge that the international conventions so far adopted have immensely contributed to the drastic reduction of maritime incidents posing threats to the safety of navigation and life and the pollution of the marine environment.

Dr. Kofi Mbiah graduated from the University of Ghana, Legon, in 1980 with a Bachelor of Laws degree, (LL.B) and in 1982 he graduated from the Ghana School of Law and became a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana.

He holds a Master's Degree in Marine Management, (M.M.M.) from Dalhousie University, Canada, a Master of Laws, (LL.M.), from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) Malta, where he graduated with distinction and was the recipient of the IMO Secretary General's Award for Best Overall Performance. Dr. Mbiah also obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, in 2005 and a PhD. in Maritime Administration from the World Maritime University, Sweden in 2011.

He started his working career at Ghana Shippers Authority in 1982 as an Assistant Legal Officer and rose through the ranks by dint of hard work to become the Chief Executive Officer in 1998 until his retirement in 2017.

Dr. Mbiah was vice chairman of the Legal Committee of the IMO for 11 years and as chairman in 2010 until his retirement in 2017. He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Protocol to the Athens Convention, 2002, Chairman of the Drafting Committee to the Protocol on the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea 2010, and one of the Vice presidents of the Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention, 2007. He was elected the Chairman of Committee One, dealing with Administrative, Financial, Legal, and Technical Cooperation matters at the 29th Session of the General Assembly of the IMO which took place at the IMO Headquarters from 23 November - 2 December 2015.

He represented Ghana at both UNCTAD and UNCITRAL Conferences. Dr. Mbiah was also the leader of Ghana's delegation to the UNCITRAL sessions for the development of the Rotterdam Rules.

From 2006, Dr. Mbiah has been at various times a visiting professor at the World Maritime and Lund Universities in Malmo, Sweden. He has also presented papers at the Maritime Law Seminars for Judges of the Superior He Courts of Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya. He also participated in meetings of the Comite Maritime Internationale (CMI) and delivered papers at some of its conferences.

He has also consulted variously for local and international bodies including the Regional Maritime University in Ghana and the World Bank and has contributed articles and papers to various publications.

Dr. Mbiah's steadfast contribution to the development of the maritime industry has been recognised through a number of awards including, The IMLI Graduate International Achievement Award (2013), the African Maritime and Energy Evergreen Award (2014), the IMANI Top Five Most Inspirational Public Service Leaders in Ghana, 2014 and the Africa Maritime Energy CEO of the year 2015 award.

Dr. Mbiah is a Member of the IMLI Governing Board.

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