

IMLI^e-News

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FIRST PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA PASSES AWAY

It is with great sadness that the Institute informs its readers that President Emeritus, Judge Thomas A. Mensah has passed away this week in London. His death is greatly mourned by IMLI and its graduates.

Professor David Attard (Vice-President, ITLOS and IMLI, Director) expressed his deep sorrow upon receiving the news. He recalled that Judge Thomas Mensah was one of the founding fathers of the Institute whose contribution to IMLI remains valid to this day.

Professor Attard noted that Judge Mensah, who in 1988 served as IMO Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, formed part of an international committee (the other members of the committee were Professor Francesco Berlingieri, Mr. Louis Mbanefo, and Professor Attard), established by the IMO Secretary-General to draft the first IMLI syllabus. Although amended several times to reflect the developments in international maritime law, the first syllabus remains the basis of IMLI's teaching.



The late President Emeritus Judge Thomas Mensah (First President, ITLOS) with Judge David Attard (Vice-President, ITLOS and Director, IMLI)

Judge Thomas A. Mensah was elected in 1996 as the first President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and continued to serve as an ITLOS Judge from 1999 to 2005.

Prior to his tenure at ITLOS, he had a truly international legal career holding very important posts including IMO Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO and Special Advisor on Environmental Law and Institutions, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi. Judge Mensah was Cleveringa Professor of Law, Leiden University from 1993 to 1994 and was Professor and Director of the Law of the Sea Institute, University of Hawaii, from 1993 to 1995. He was then appointed as the first High Commissioner of Ghana to the Republic of South Africa, from 1995 to 1996.

Judge Mensah was a Member of the Institut de Droit International since 1989, a Titular Member of the Comité Maritime International, a Member of the Advisory Council of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and a Member of the Standing Committee on Maritime Arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

Judge Mensah was a renowned publicist of numerous articles, monographs and papers in the field of public international law, law of the sea, maritime law and international environmental law.

The Institute and its over 1,000 maritime professionals from 148 States remain indebted to the work of Judge Mensah and convey their sincere condolences to the family. The Institute intends, when the pandemic is overcome, to hold a commemorative lecture in honour of Judge Thomas A. Mensah.

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