



NEW CHAIRMAN OF IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE IS AN IMLI GRADUATE

The ninety-seventh session of the Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organization was held from 15 November to 19 November 2010. This was the last session chaired by Professor Lee Sik Chai who served as Chairman of the Committee for the past five years. Professor Chai announced to the Committee that he did not wish to seek re-election and invited the Committee to put forward nominations for his substitute.

The election of officers of the Legal Committee for the calendar year 2011 took place on Thursday, 18 November. The Italian delegation nominated Mr. Kofi Mbiah from Ghana for the position of Chairman. Mr. Mbiah is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana and has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Shippers' Council since 1999. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Ghana, Legon, a Masters degree in Marine Management (M.M.M.) from Dalhousie University, Canada, and a Masters in Business Administration (M.B.A) from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). The Italian delegation highlighted the fact that in 1991 Mr. Mbiah was awarded the degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) *with distinction* by the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and received the IMO Secretary-General's Award for Best Overall Performance. Indeed, during his studies at IMLI, Mr. Mbiah carried out his research on the *“Implementation of the UN Convention on Multimodal Transport of Goods: Some Legal Issues from the Ghanaian Perspective”* and prepared a maritime legislation drafting project for the *“Carriage of Goods by Water Law”*.



Mr. Kofi Mbiah (Chairman of IMO Legal Committee) (fifth from the left) with IMLI graduates representing their countries at the ninety-seventh session of the IMO Legal Committee

The Italian delegation's nomination of Mr. Mbiah was supported by many delegations after which Mr. Mbiah was elected as Chairman by acclamation. Before being appointed as the Chairman of IMO Legal Committee Mr. Mbiah held for a number of years the position of the Vice-Chairman of the same Committee.

IMLI has always had good relationships with past Chairmen of the Committee but it is particularly honoured that for the first time one of its graduates is holding this distinguished position.

During the same election of officers Mr. Jan E. De Boer (The Netherlands) was elected as the new Vice-Chairman of the Committee. He will join Mr. Walter de Sà Leitão (Brazil) who expressed his desire to continue serving as one of the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee.

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