



CHAIRMAN OF IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE INTERVIEW

Below follows a short interview with Mr. Kofi Mbiah, the newly appointed Chairman of the IMO Legal Committee.

Mr. Mbiah congratulations on your achievement. The Italian delegation which nominated you for the position of the Chairman of the IMO Legal Committee made specific reference to the fact that you have undertaken postgraduate studies at IMLI. To what extent, in your opinion, has indeed training at IMLI helped in achieving your career goals and in particular in your prestigious appointment?

Thank you. Even though I have had some training in maritime law, my training at IMLI prepared me for the practical application of my knowledge in maritime law. It provided me with the tools to appreciate the rule of international maritime law in its widest perspective comprising both public and private law. The specialized course in legislative drafting has helped my work tremendously, not only as an advisor to my Government in maritime issues but also served me well in my work at the Legal Committee of the IMO.

You have acted as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for a number of years. It is impressive to note that at the ninety-seventh session 23 IMLI graduates formed part of their national delegations. What, in your opinion, is the contribution of IMLI graduates to the development of international maritime law?

I have had opportunity in the light of my position as Chief Executive of the Ghana Shippers' Authority and as a representative of my country to the Legal Committee of IMO to interact with a number of IMLI graduates. Without doubt, as I indicated in my Valedictory Speech at IMLI in 1991, its graduates would become a force to reckon with in international maritime affairs.

A good number of IMLI graduates are playing instrumental roles in shaping policies in international maritime law, while many others have been at the forefront of the development, implementation and enforcement of international maritime law rules. Within the Legal Committee of IMO they have diligently represented their countries and contributed enormously

to the development of the rules of international maritime law. They are indeed a force in the international maritime arena.

You attended IMLI's LL.M. programme in 1991. What do you think has contributed to IMLI's growth throughout the years?

That IMLI is today a world class institution of high caliber specialization is not in doubt. Its laurels have been achieved through the expert leadership it has had over the years compiled with effective and efficient structures and systems for ensuring that quality remains the hallmark of the things it holds dear. Its ability to instill in its students "THE IMLI SPIRIT" is an innate characteristic worth preserving.

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