



IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN VISITS IMLI

Mr. Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee) visited IMLI on 26 January and delivered a lecture on “The work of the Legal Committee and its challenges”. Mr. Mbiah was welcomed by Professor David Attard (Director IMLI) who expressed his great pleasure at welcoming again at IMLI his former student who has gone high in the strata of international law. Professor Attard said that it is remarkable to note that an IMLI graduate is at the head of the Legal Committee which is an institutional mechanism and an extremely important element within the whole system of IMO. In Professor Attard’s words Mr. Mbiah is the best reflection of the quality of professionals that the Institute is producing as in him the international community recognizes not only a fine diplomat but as well a person with a solid maritime background. Professor Attard then invited Mr. Mbiah to deliver his lecture.



Mr. Kofi Mbiah (Chairman, IMO Legal Committee) meeting students of the Class of 2010/2011

In his lecture Mr. Mbiah provided a brief overview of the International Maritime Organization, within which the Legal Committee functions, its objectives, functions, mission and the manner it is structured. He then explained to the students the reasons for the establishment of the Legal Committee, especially in the light of the disaster of the *Torrey Canyon*, and what has been, since its set up, the contribution of the Committee to the work of the Organization. Mr. Mbiah recalled that since 1967 the Committee has been responsible for the drafting of major international maritime instruments in the field of liability and compensation for pollution damage, limitation of liability for maritime claims, carriage of passengers, suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of navigation, salvage etc. He concluded his lecture by stating that although maritime instruments have been adopted in almost all areas of shipping law, the Committee must remain relevant by providing guidelines for implementation of the numerous instruments it has developed.

Mr. Kofi 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). 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. He served for many years as Vice-Chairman of the IMO Legal Committee and was elected on 18 November, by acclamation, as the new Chairman of the said Committee.

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