

# IMLI<sup>e</sup>-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 9, Issue No. 42) 25 April 2012

## IMO TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION DIVISION FORMER DIRECTOR VISITS IMLI

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo (Former Director of the IMO Technical Co-operation Division) visited IMLI and delivered a lecture on “The Importance of IMLI to Shipping and World Economy”.

During her lecture Mrs. Mbanefo explained that the sea is the lifeblood of all nations, in that it facilitates international trade through trade routes. The crucial materials required for developments’ projects are carried by sea and thus, the shipping industry is a great contributor to the national, and effectively the global, economy. In particular, developing countries stand to benefit from the shipping industry as they provide the larger percentage of seafarers serving on the world’s merchant fleet.



*Mrs. Monica Mbanefo (Former Director of the IMO Technical Co-operation Division) meeting students of the Class of 2011/2012*

The opening of the seas and oceans to maritime transport has facilitated the access to emerging markets as well as economic activities, including employment, to many countries. Those who exploit marine resources for the benefit of the international community are also able to contribute to the development of the global economy, while creating employment opportunities for people from all over the world.

To ensure that each nation accesses the benefits of the resources of the sea and the sea itself, it was imperative to develop ocean governance institutions that would regulate maritime activities. This led to the development of IMO which mandated to develop and adopt international shipping laws and regulations, aimed at meeting its mission of “safer and secure ships on clean oceans”. It is in the achievement of this aim that IMLI’s role is undisputable.

IMLI has been recognized for its contribution to the training of lawyers in maritime legislation drafting techniques which assist them in the development of laws regulating the shipping industry. Through the incorporation into its syllabus of a comprehensive maritime legislative drafting course, IMLI plays a key role in developing expertise in maritime legislative drafting. Mrs. Mbanefo explained that IMO State Parties need, in addition to a good maritime legal regime, the presence of a cadre of experts who advise on maritime legislation, on the need for the adoption of such legislation and who are able to undertake the drafting of the latter. In her opinion, this aspect reflects the importance of IMLI to the international community.

Mrs. Mbanefo reminded the students of their mandate, upon graduation, to assist their governments in the effective implementation of their maritime policies. She encouraged the students to take a proactive approach in the development of maritime programmes and in the implementation of IMO conventions in their respective countries.

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo graduated from the University of Ife, Nigeria, with an Honours Degree in Law (LL.B. Hons). She was called to the Bar in 1973 as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Additionally, she is a graduate of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria, where she specialized in International Contract Negotiation and Arbitration Clauses in Contracts. She also received training in Policy and Management.

Mrs. Monica Mbanefo is currently a partner in the law firm of Louis Mbanefo and Co. Before joining the Firm, she served for 20 years at the directorate level in the IMO. During her years in IMO she held many prestigious appointments, including Director of the Technical Co-operation Division from 2007 to 2010, Director of Conference Division from 1999 to 2007, and Senior Deputy Director and Head of the Legal Office from 1991 to 1999.

---

*\* If you do not want to receive IMLI e-News in future, please return this message to the above address with request to DELETE in the subject field.*

*\*\* For further information please contact Ms. Elda Belja (Editor, IMLI e-News) at [publications@imli.org](mailto:publications@imli.org)*