



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Nigeria Hosts 16th International Maritime Seminar for Judges

Contemporary issues and developments in international maritime law and practice – particularly affecting port operations and maritime adjudication in Nigeria and greater Africa – were a focus of the 16th International Maritime Seminar for Judges.

The biennial Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC)-hosted event was held on July 5-7 at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Abuja.

Chaired by Justice Bode Rhodes Vivour JSC (Retired), the seminar's stated objective was to "examine current issues confronting judicial officers and all stakeholders in the maritime industry and to explore global best practices that would strengthen the industry".

Participants included Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and other African countries, president of the Court of Appeal of Nigeria Justice Monica Dongban Mensen PCA, Justices of the Court of Appeal of Nigeria and other African countries, Judges of the Federal High Court of Nigeria and other stakeholders in the maritime industry.

Different perspectives on the thematic areas of the seminar were presented in the 18 presentations delivered.

At the end of each of the presentations, commentaries and discussions, resolutions were then reached and adopted.

According to a communiqué issued by organisers after the event, 24 resolutions were passed "with a view to ensuring a rapid development of the maritime sector in Nigeria and Africa that will be sustainable and proactive and, also, enhance the capacity of the courts in both Nigeria and other African countries in admiralty jurisdiction".

Background

The International Maritime Seminar for Judges is held biennially and is organised by the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Transport (FMOT) in collaboration with the National Judicial Institute (NJI).

Held since 1995, the seminar is said to have had the continuous support of the Nigerian Maritime Law Association (NMLA) and has continuously received participants from other African countries and other stakeholder groups.

The general aim of the seminar is to reportedly sensitise and further enhance knowledge and skills of judicial officers on the adjudication of maritime and admiralty disputes through the proper application of admiralty law and to brainstorm on issues that may arise from its application and other related matters.

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