

RENOWNED MARITIME SAFETY CONSULTANT LECTURES AT IMLI

Captain Joseph Zerafa, former Technical Manager in-charge of the technical aspects of the vessels registered under the Malta Flag in the Malta Maritime Authority, visited the Institute on the 4 and 5 November and delivered comprehensive lectures on the Technical Aspects of Shipping to the IMLI class of 2014/2015.



Captain Zerafa with the students of the IMLI Class of 2014/2015

Captain Zerafa's lectures extensively covered the technical areas of ship construction, ship stability, standard load line marks (the Plimsoll mark) and fixed and inert gas systems among others.

Under ship construction, Captain Zerafa discussed many important definitions commonly used in these capacities such as after perpendicular (A.P), forward perpendicular (F.P), length between perpendiculars (L.B.P.), length overall (L.O.A), freeboard, extreme depth and extreme draft. In

the area of ship stability, he defined and discussed inter alia, centre of gravity, centre of buoyancy, reserve buoyancy, metacentric height (GM), righting lever (GZ), metacentric stability and angle of loll.

In discussing the standard load line mark, Captain Zeraf gave the background to the name 'Plimsoll Mark' by which this line is also known as. He stated that the original line was a circle with a horizontal line through it to show the maximum draft that a ship may load to and added that over the years, additional marks have been added to this to allow for different densities of water and expected sea conditions.

His discussions on fixed and inert gas systems focused on the operation this system in vessels in order to maintain a safe tank atmosphere. This area also covered what precautions are to be taken to prevent hazards to health and stressed that for this reason, reference should be made to the ship's operation manual and the manufacturer's instructions and installation drawings as appropriate for details on the operation of the system.

Captain Joseph Zerafa started his career at sea in 1975 when he joined Shell Tankers (UK) Ltd as a Deck Cadet. He studied in the UK and obtained his Class 1 Master's Certificate in 1987. During his time with Shell he sailed on the largest oil tankers, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carriers and Oil Bulk Ore (OBO) vessels.

When his years of sea work came to an end, back ashore Captain Zerafa continued working in the marine sector by first working for 6 years in the marine insurance surveys. He worked for 13 years in the Malta Maritime Authority as the Technical Manager in-charge of the technical aspects of the vessels registered under the Malta Flag. Thereafter, he worked with the IMO as a SAFEMED Project Officer in Maritime Safety, a position which he maintained for 7 years.

For the past two years Captain Zerafa has been working as a Freelance Consultant in Maritime Safety, including consultancy work for IMO in West Africa, and as a Government Ship Surveyor.

Captain Zerafa has been assisting IMLI, as a visiting lecturer since the very early years of the Institute and the students benefit immensely from his lectures.

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