

## RENOWNED MARITIME SAFETY CONSULTANT LECTURES AT IMLI

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming 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, on the 26 and 28 October. During his visit, he delivered two comprehensive lectures on the Technical Aspects of Shipping.



*Captain Zerafa meeting the students of the IMLI Class of 2015-2016*

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.

In discussing ship construction, Captain Zerafa explained many important and commonly used terms 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 explaining the standard load line mark, Captain Zerafa gave a brief background to the name 'Plimsoll Mark' by which this line is also known. He also discussed the stages and current application of this line.

In his discussions covering fixed and inert gas systems Captain Zerafa laid emphasis on the operation of this system in vessels in order to maintain a safe tank atmosphere. This area also covers the precautions that are to be taken to prevent hazards to health. He explained that because of this, it is imperative that reference be made to the ship's operation manual and the manufacturer's instructions and installation drawings for detailed instructions on the operation of the system.

In 1975, Captain Joseph Zerafa 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 ended, 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 few 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.

The students of the IMLI class of 2015-2016 benefited immensely from his lectures.

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