

MARITIME SAFETY CONSULTANT LECTURES AT IMLI

Captain Joseph Zerafa (Maritime Safety Consultant) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 22 and 23 November 2016 and delivered a set of lectures on ‘Technical Aspects of Shipping’ to the IMLI Class of 2016 – 2017.



Captain Joseph Zerafa (Maritime Safety Consultant) meeting the Class of 2016-2017

With the aim of giving the students a general overview of the technical terminology used in the construction and operation of ships, Captain Zerafa’s lectures focused on technical matters relating

to ship construction, ships' dimension, tonnage and deadweight, their stability, standard load lines (the Plimsoll mark), and the technical documents required for compliance with international regulations.

In discussing the ship stability, Captain Zerafa drew the attention of the students to the crucial aspects of the same, including the center of gravity, center of buoyancy, reserved buoyancy, metacentric height, metacentric stability and the angle of Loll. The discussion on ship construction proffered the students the understanding of certain defined safety concepts, such as the after and forward perpendiculars, the length between the two perpendiculars, the overall length of the ship, the freeboard, and the depth of the draft.

The relevance and application of the load line mark, the fixed and inert gas systems and their relevance in maintaining a safe tank atmosphere were other vital aspects of ship safety thoroughly discussed with the students.

In concluding his lectures, Captain Zerafa reiterated the importance of operational manual, manufacturer's instructions and the installation drawings, as documents very vital to the safe operation of a ship. His lectures also helped consolidate the students' understanding of the reason behind the adoption of certain safety conventions, such as the Convention on Load Lines.

Captain Joseph Zerafa started his maritime career in 1975 when he joined Shell Tankers (UK) Ltd as a Deck Cadet. In 1987, he obtained Class 1 Master's Certificate from UK. With Shell, he sailed far and wide on oil tankers, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) carriers and Oil Bulk Ore (OBO) vessels. At the end of his employment with Shell, Captain Zerafa worked as a marine surveyor for 6 years before joining the Malta Maritime Administration as the technical manager responsible for technical matters relating to ship registration. He worked with the IMO as SAFEMED Project Officer in maritime safety for 7 years. He is currently a maritime consultant in maritime safety.

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