IMO DIRECTOR OF THE MARITIME SAFETY DIVISION LECTURES AT IMLI

Dr. Heike Deggim (Director of the Maritime Safety Division, IMO) delivered a lecture today 7 December to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021 entitled ‘Current and Future Work of the IMO Maritime Safety Division.’ In introducing Dr. Deggim, Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI), stated that he was delighted and honoured to introduce and warmly welcome her to address the IMLI Class.

Dr. Deggim commenced her lecture by discussing the structure of the Maritime Safety Division. She then gave a brief history of the Division, proudly stating that it is the most senior division in the IMO. In discussing the functions of the Division, Dr. Deggim said these include considering all matters within the scope of the IMO concerned with aids to navigation, construction and equipment of vessels, manning from a safety standpoint, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of dangerous cargoes, and maritime safety procedures and requirements. The Division is also responsible for considering and submitting recommendations and guidelines on safety for possible adoption.

When discussing the current work of the Division, Dr. Deggim touched upon selected topics including Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), goal-based new ship construction
standards (GBS), polar guidelines, domestic ferry safety, COVID-19 and shipping, maritime security and piracy, and Facilitation Committee areas.

Dr. Heike Deggim delivering her lecture

At the conclusion of the lecture, many significant and thought-provoking questions were asked by the students, which were brilliantly responded to by Dr. Heggim. Professor Attard congratulated her for the enormous task being well performed by her Division and thanked her for agreeing to share her vast knowledge with the students.

Dr. Deggim is the Director of the Maritime Safety Division (MSD) of IMO. In this function she is also acting as the Secretary of the Maritime Safety Committee, IMO’s senior technical body for ship safety related matters.
Since joining IMO in 1993, Dr. Deggim has been in charge of IMO’s Sub-Committees on Flag State Implementation and on Ship Design and Equipment, before being appointed as Head of Marine Technology, with overall responsibility for the technical sub-committees dealing with ship design and equipment; stability, load lines and fishing vessels safety; fire protection; as well as taking a leading role in the development and implementation of the goal-based ship construction standards for bulk carriers and oil tankers and the associated verification scheme. Before being promoted to the Director of the Safety Division, she also worked for some years as Senior Deputy Director in IMO’s Marine Environment Division, dealing with matters related to MARPOL, air pollution and energy efficiency of ships, reduction of GHG emissions, ballast water management, ship recycling, anti-fouling and biofouling, evaluation of chemicals. She was as well as majorly involved with the running of the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response.

Prior to her career at IMO, Dr. Deggim worked as Senior Researcher at the Shipbuilding Faculty of Rostock University, resulting in a Ph.D. in Fishing Technology, followed by several years in the naval shipbuilding industry and later in various positions in the German Maritime Administration dealing with tonnage measurement of ships.

Dr. Deggim graduated in 1983 with a Master Degree in Marine Engineering from Rostock University. She is a member of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA).

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** For further information please contact Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Editor, IMLI e-News) at publications@imli.org