

# Nautical Institute's Annual Conference Focused on Ship-handling



Opened by Agnes Wong Tin-yu, Director of Marine for Hong Kong SAR, last weeks Nautical Institute International Conference 2019 gave rise to a lively and stimulating debate on the subject of Shiphandling. Held at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, sessions included presentations on the legal consequences of ship-handling incidents, special considerations for handling large tankers, handling ships in heavy weather and how digital technologies support command decisions in ship-handling.

## Simulator and Computer Based Training

More than 100 delegates were joined by officer cadets from local maritime training establishments. Delegates were invited to consider the role of simulator and computer based training in ship-handling and also heard from senior pilots working at the ports of Shanghai and Shenzhen. The closing presentation from Capt Stephen Wong of the Hong Kong Pilots Association focused on changes in ship-handling techniques in Hong Kong harbour.

## Training is Key

Addressing delegates, Capt Nick Nash FNI president of The Nautical Institute, said: "Shiphandling is obviously one of the core skills for any shipmaster. This conference has given us all further insights into this skill and the repercussions if we get it wrong. Training is the key, along with proper mentoring while at sea. The collaboration and integration of bridge teams, pilots and VTS, while making full use of new technologies will ensure that ship-handling lies at the heart of safety and best practice in the maritime industry."

## About The Nautical Institute

The Nautical Institute is an international professional body for qualified seafarers and others with an interest in nautical matters. It provides a wide range of services to enhance the professional standing and knowledge of members who are drawn from all sectors of the maritime world. Founded in 1972, it has over 40 branches worldwide and some 7,000 members in over 120 countries.

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