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TRAINING

WMU students tackle major national shipping projects



STUDENTS at the Malmö-based World Maritime University are engaged in projects which could have a major influence on development of the maritime industries in their countries. Here we look at the work of three students, from Africa and India.

ONE of the main features of WMU courses is a heavy emphasis on field trips and on-the-job training. Most students visit 12-15 countries during their studies.

During a recent field trip to the Soviet Union, a party of students visited the Higher Marine Engineering College and a shipping company's simulator centre in Leningrad. Suresh Kundargi, a master mariner and lecturer at Bombay Maritime Training Institute and studying for an MSc in maritime education and training, found the trip useful. He plans to devise new model courses in radar and automatic radar plotting aids (ARPA). The courses will be introduced at Bombay on his return from the WMU.

He says, "The technical content of this particular field trip was directly relevant to my main objective — developing new training regimes for personnel using radar and navigation systems. At the Leningrad simulator centre we had the opportunity to participate in an exercise simulating the collision between the passenger vessel *Admiral Nakhimov* and a bulk carrier in the Black Sea. Sadly, we too, could not avoid the collision — and the consequences were very realistic."

Kundargi says, "The Bombay courses will provide realistic instruction in navigation and collision avoidance in areas of high traffic flow, using the advanced simulation systems which the Bombay Institute plans to buy."

Fellow course member Lawrence Bereiweriso, a lecturer at Nigeria's Institute of Science and Technology, is devising an integrated national marine management programme as part of his final semester's work. His project forms part of a national response to the increasing threat of marine pollution in Nigerian waters. He says, "The region becomes more vulnerable year by year, due to the growing volume of coastal tanker traffic and the continuing expansion of offshore oil and gas activities."

Bereiweriso's studies at the WMU will make a direct contribution to Nigerian efforts to ratify and implement the Marpol 1973/78 convention, which requires the provision of shore reception facilities for tanker wastes.

"There is a heightened awareness worldwide of the environmental consequences of serious marine pollution. In Nigeria, the introduction of an integrated marine management programme would be a very positive step forward," says Bereiweriso. "At the conclusion of my WMU studies, I

Tackling major shipping projects — WMU students George Darkey, Lawrence Bereiweriso and Suresh Kundargi.

will make recommendations on the preparation of guidelines for combating marine pollution. The recommendations will also deal with emergency procedures to be followed in the event of a major spill. The programme will use computer modelling to predict the rate and direction of slick movements, taking into account prevailing wind and current patterns along our coastline. It will also examine containment and recovery techniques, the use of dispersants and contingency arrangements for shorelines clean-up operations. Finally, my report will lay down guidelines for developing comprehensive marine education programmes in these areas."

George Darkey, also a member of the maritime education and training course, is devising educational programmes to meet changing maritime needs within Ghana. A master mariner and lecturer at the Ghana Nautical College, Accra, he comments: "The governments of West Africa have large capital expenditure programmes aimed at upgrading shipping fleets and ports facilities. However, more attention is now being paid to the training of marine personnel."

The development of river transportation in Ghana is a major national priority. Over one million people are regular users of the country's complex network of river ferry services. Mr Darkey says, "We need to expand training programmes for coastguards, pilots, tug and ferry masters — indeed everyone regularly navigating our inland and coastal waterways."

Ghana Nautical College also trains marine personnel from Cameroon, the Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Short courses are a particular feature of its study programmes. "I have suggested, in a preliminary report, how these courses might be updated to serve present training needs," says George Darkey. "I have outlined new courses to cover basic seamanship and navigation, communications, search and rescue, fire fighting and first aid. These courses will improve the safety and efficiency of West African maritime personnel."