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IMO university in funds appeal

AS THE worldwide shipping industry faces up to skill shortages, the World Maritime University this month launches a major appeal for financial help.

The appeal is being officially launched on World Maritime Day (21 September) by International Maritime Organisation secretary general C.P. Srivastava.

Set up in 1983 as a result of an IMO initiative, the WMU provides maritime education at the highest level for students drawn primarily from developing countries.

Mr Srivastava said the university was looking to the maritime industry 'to play a wider role in reinforcing its financial stability. Industry

support for this unique global training venture will have a direct impact on the future efficiency and safety of international shipping services.'

The WMU's main aim is to train senior personnel for maritime administrations, training institutions, port authorities and shipping companies in developing countries, who would be responsible for the implementation of IMO conventions on sea safety and pollution prevention.

Based in Sweden, the university has a budget of US\$7 million and is appealing for help ranging from direct donations to the funding of student fellowships.