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WMU reaches a full student complement and embarks upon new campus facilities

WMU rector Erik Nordström updates his September comments

World Maritime Day in September this year saw the launch of an appeal, by IMO secretary general and WMU chancellor C P Srivastava, to ensure the WMU's longer term financial security. "Since our original appeal in 1984", he said, "the economic fortunes of the shipping industry have shown a welcome recovery. WMU Graduates will play a role — out of all proportion to their numbers — in securing that prosperity in the future. I hope many will join us in an endeavour which is helping to ensure a safer, more efficient and commercially rewarding shipping industry in the 1990s and beyond."

On the third of this month, 99 students from 53 countries graduated from the WMU, and since its inception in 1983, nearly 500 men and women have left the university to take up key

maritime appointments worldwide.

The new appeal, described in last month's issue of *LSM/SNI*, is addressed to shipping interests worldwide. Contributions are being sought for the WMU capital fund, fellowships, donations of equipment and other financial aid, but as yet it is too early to assess the impact of the appeal.

The world's maritime community is becoming increasingly aware of the university's true significance. It has reached its full complement of students and staff, and work is progressing well on the construction of new facilities on the campus. They include a fully-equipped lecture hall which should open in February.

Improvements to the students' accommodation are also under consideration. ✓