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Minister gives assurance to Maritime University

THE GOVERNMENT of Trinidad and Tobago and its maritime community have assured the International Maritime Organisation (I.M.O.) that within the context of financial resources available they would make some contribution to the continued existence of the World Maritime University.

This assurance was given by Senator John Eckstein, Minister of Public Utilities and National Transportation, at the celebration of World Maritime Day at the Caribbean Fisheries Training Development Institute, Chaguaramas. The Institute held a career guidance seminar in the maritime field on Tuesday last.

The University was set up in Malmö, Sweden, last year, to alleviate the chronic shortage of qualified maritime, administrators, surveyors and examiners in most developing countries.

Trinidad and Tobago's assessment of its contribution will be in consideration of the fact that one Trinidadian was able to enroll in the first group of students at the University said the Minister. Even at this time, national authorities are looking into the possibility of more students being accepted in 1985 at the Maritime University.

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In keeping with the International Maritime Organisation sub-theme of "Global Co-operation in the Training of Maritime Personnel," the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is taking steps to strengthen and establish where necessary, maritime training locally.

The Caribbean Fisheries Training Development Institute, where World Maritime Day was celebrated, has been revived as a national institute. Its training programme, said Senator Eckstein, will be expanded to include general maritime training as well as the fishing aspect of maritime activities.

He said, the Ministry of Education was also developing a national capability for the training of seafarers. These efforts were being headed by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Division of the Ministry of Education.

Cabinet has already approved 14 scholarships for persons to be qualified as deck officers, marine engineers, ship architects and ship radio operators.