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Student review about WMU

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Antonella is studying at the World Maritime University. 9 OKT. 1984

- I get more knowledge and also new contacts.

The World Maritime University has given me a lot of colleagues around the world who are all working with shipping. Also we have been introduced to various UN-conventions on safety at sea and on sea pollution.

Miss Antonella Gaviria de Lavallo from Colombia is very enthusiastic about the World Maritime University in Malmö.

The University is the only one of its kind in the world, and receives most of its financial support from the Swedish state and the UN. Today there are 150 students coming from 60 different countries.

Miss Antonella Gaviria de Lavallo has now studied at the World Maritime University for more than one year, which means that she has been at the University from the very start last summer.

The World Maritime University is run by the IMO, the International Maritime Organization, which is the maritime body of the UN. For several years, the insufficient education at a high level within shipping both in industrialized and in developing countries has been discussed in the organization.

For what is the use of all countries signing codes and agreements on safety at sea and limiting discharge of polluting matters into the sea if there are no administrators and officers who know how to observe the regulations.

This was what was being discussed, and these discussions were the background for the idea of an international education. A university where highly skilled teachers and administrators, primarily from the developing countries, could get more knowledge which they would

go back to their home countries and pass on to others. One of the most important advocates for having the university in Sweden was the present Rector of the university, Mr. Sölve Arvedson.

SWEDEN IS CENTRAL

- Here you can find modern ports, ships, maritime inspectorates, and a host of other things which you need for the training. Sweden is also a country to which all countries in the world can send their students without possible problems of conflicts between the South and the North or between the East and the West. Here everybody is welcome. Besides, we have a social system which enables us to receive all these students and offer them rather good terms while they are here.

In November 1981 Sölve Arvedson succeeded in convincing the IMO that they should accept the proposal of Sweden being the host country for the education, and as the college of navigation in Malmö was to be closed down, it was quite natural that the IMO-training programme was located in that city.

150 STUDENTS

In February 1983 all decisions had been made, and in June 1983 the first students arrived at the Kastrup Airport. Today there are 150 students from 60 countries. Four different 2-year courses are offered. There is a general maritime administration course for lawyers, economists and sociologists, but even maritime teachers, ship inspectors and technical managers of ports receive further education at the university.

I have been attending the course in general maritime administration, which has been very rewarding, says Antonella Gaviria de Lavallo. I am working for a major shipping company in Colombia and my company sent me here to give me further education.

Before I came to the University, the only thing I knew about the IMO was that it existed. I knew nothing about

the functions of the organization or about the conventions which also my country had signed and promised to observe. When I return to my country next summer, I can add more weight to the information I am going to give about safety at sea.

Someone who is already holding a high position in his home country is Mr. George Pimentel who is a professor at the Academy of the Philippine Merchant Marine. He sailed as an officer for many years before he went ashore in 1975 and started a career as a teacher.

- If we succeed in increasing the general safety on board all ships in the whole of the world, we will all have won something. Today insufficient safety plays an important part in the fierce competition, says Sölve Arvedson.