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WMU in the News

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The international maritime university

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SEAWAYS



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Focus on

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME UNIVERSITY

AT A TIME when there is so much discussion about declining standards at sea, it is most encouraging to see that the International Maritime Organisation is establishing an International Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden (see page 18).

Much credit for this idea must go to Mr C. P. Srivastava, Secretary General of IMO. The President of The Nautical Institute, Captain J.W. Murray, has written to Mr Srivastava and has sent his full support for this scheme which can do so much to raise standards. In recognition of the value of the University, the Institute has donated a complete set of publications to help build up its library.

The Nautical Institute in the UAE

A meeting was held on 4 October at the Arab Maritime Transport Academy, Sharjah. The meeting was attended by 37 master mariners drawn from the port services, offshore industry, consultancy firms and the lecturing staff of the Academy. A further ten master mariners sent apologies and messages of support. About half of those attending were from the Arab nations with the remainder coming from the United Kingdom.

It was felt that there was sufficient support to justify forming a working group of the Institute and a committee was appointed, with Captain Abdulwahab M. Al Diwani, director of operations, Sharjah Port, as chairman, Captain Masen Shareef, general manager of National Marine Services, as vice-chairman and Captain Christopher Spencer as secretary/treasurer, with Captain Alan Lester of the IMO to assist the committee in the initial period. The remainder of the committee consisted of eight members drawn from the industry and the academic staff of the academy.

It is hoped that the formation of the NI group will form a valuable forum within which the many shipping interests in the UAE can meet and discuss the progress of the industry in this area. The group will also form a link between the experienced maritime industry of the United Kingdom and the expanding industry of the Arab world, especially in the Gulf area. There will also be co-operation with the recently-formed UAE branch of the Institute of Marine Engineers.

Sir Hugh Ferguson Jones memorial lecture

Captain Peter F. Mason, Fellow, and an Elder Brother of Trinity House, gave an exceptionally wide-ranging 1982 Sir Hugh Ferguson Jones memorial lecture in Cardiff last month, under the title of 'The Uses and Abuses of the Waters around the United Kingdom,' dealing with all facets of his subject. Unfortunately we do not have space to reproduce the lecture here, but we have a copy of his text in the office and we understand that it is to be reprinted in the *Journal of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners*.

BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

COVER PICTURE The offshore safety and support vessel *Seagair*, 5,800 grt, has been delivered to BP Petroleum Development by Richards (Shipbuilders) Ltd, of Lowestoft, for operation in the North Sea Magnus field.

(Photograph courtesy of Berger Torpedo Marine Paints, whose coatings were used on the ship.)

IMO NOTES—a review of the Organization's current work



World Maritime University project

THE PROJECT to establish a World Maritime University was officially launched last month at Malmö, Sweden. An agreement under which the city of Malmö will provide facilities for the university was signed by Mr Nils Yngvesson, of the municipality of Malmö, and Mr C.P. Srivastava, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization. Professor Solve Arvedson, head of the Malmö Merchant Marine Academy, was sworn in as the university's first rector.

The aim of the university is to provide specialised training for maritime administrators, surveyors and inspectors, accident investigators, maritime lecturers and others holding key positions in the administrations of developing countries.

Although there are now many training schools at national and regional levels for cadets and seagoing officers in various developing countries, there are no facilities at present providing training in these advanced levels of expertise. Yet the success of current efforts to improve shipping safety and prevent marine pollution from ships depends to a considerable extent on the efficiency of maritime administrations all over the world.

It is expected that the university will receive its first students on 1 July next year and initially at least will have about 100 students. Most degree courses will last for two years, but others will only last for one year and it is expected that the WMU will also be able to offer specialised courses lasting for only a few weeks.

The university will be based at the Malmö Merchant Marine Academy, whose activities are gradually being phased out. The local authorities are also providing accommodation and social facilities for students. Although the bulk of the training will take place at Malmö, students will also visit centres elsewhere in Sweden and in other European countries for special courses.

The WMU has received the backing of the IMO Assembly and the UNDP governing body and the recent ceremony was the cause of especial satisfaction to Mr Srivastava, who regards this project as a marvellous example of effective, concrete and beneficial co-operation between developed and developing nations.

He said: 'The World Maritime University will certainly make a major contribution to IMO's twin objectives of safer shipping and cleaner oceans. Over the years I have visited very many of IMO's 122 member States and although all of them are anxious to raise standards, many are handicapped by the lack of suitably trained personnel, especially at senior levels in their administrations. The WMU will help them to overcome this problem.'

He paid tribute to the generosity of the Swedish government, which has given the WMU whole-hearted support and to the City of Malmö, which has also been outstandingly generous.

He continued: 'Sweden has set a wonderful example and I am sure that others will follow.'

During the next few months further preparatory work will be carried out by Professor Arvedson and his team. This will consist initially of only five people, but by next July the University will be fully staffed. Professor Arvedson himself has wide seagoing experience as well as in academic work and has frequently been a member of the Swedish delegation to IMO meetings.

IMO moves to new HQ

The International Maritime Organization moved into its new headquarters on the Albert Embankment, London, on 1 November.

The Organization has operated in several headquarters premises in London since it commenced operations in January 1959. Since 1970 it has been based at 101-104 Piccadilly, where the premises have for a number of years been recognised as inadequate.

This was largely because of the growth in membership and the increase in and diversification of its work. IMO now has 122 members. Meetings of committees are held routinely throughout the year and large conferences, including the biennial sessions of the Assembly, which are attended by several hundred delegates, need to be accommodated. The Piccadilly building is too small to handle meetings of this size and even regular committee and sub-committee meetings have created severe space problems.

To relieve the situation IMO, with the co-operation of the United Kingdom Government, began in the mid-1970s to explore the possibility of moving to larger premises. It was eventually decided that the only practicable solution was to construct a building specifically designed for the Organization. This would include extensive conference facilities to meet its requirements.

The new headquarters building is situated at the southern end of Lambeth Bridge, near Lambeth Palace and the headquarters of The Nautical Institute.

The new building has been built for the UK Department of Trade under the supervision of the Property Services Agency at an overall cost of some £46 million and is being leased to IMO.

The building, which has been constructed and finished to a high standard, includes a large conference hall for 650 delegates, together with four large committee rooms, all equipped with simultaneous interpretation facilities for up to 12 languages and with facilities for Press, radio and television. When not in use by the Organization, the conference facilities will be available for hire. The building will be enhanced by gifts from many nations.

IMO is the only United Nations specialised agency with headquarters in London. It has a permanent secretariat of 270.□

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