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"Last month's IMO Assembly marked the 30th anniversary of the organisation ..."

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**L**ast month's IMO Assembly marked the 39th anniversary of the organisation. Although most of its deliberations were in closed sessions, it is beyond doubt that the funding crisis was never far from the debates.

This journal has argued in the past (*LSM/SNI*, June 1989, p5) that the solutions must concentrate on funding, rather than expenditure. Too many proposals in the past have seemed to accept that countries cannot be persuaded to pay in full and on time, and that it is meeting schedules and research that must be trimmed.

The situation is not the one that secretary general Mr C P Srivastava would have wished to leave to his successor, William O'Neil, of Canada. After 16 years, he has set a standard that will be difficult to maintain. His term of office, which ends next month, has been marked by some key initiatives, one of the most significant of which has been the creation of the World Maritime University. It has had an impact on the shipping industry worldwide yet it, too, is in need of funds and has launched an international appeal. Mr Srivastava has written an open letter to *LSM/SNI* readers urging support (see p4).

The first contribution to the appeal came from *LSM/SNI* — the day before the fund was officially launched.

Seen below presenting a cheque for \$1,000 to Mr Srivastava is *LSM/SNI's* editor, Paul Gunton. Readers will recall that as an incentive to complete a readership and industry survey questionnaire earlier this year, *LSM/SNI* offered to make a donation to the World Maritime University for every reply received, up to a maximum of \$1,000.

The presentation was made at IMO's London headquarters on the eve of World Maritime Day, at a ceremony to award the World Maritime Prize to Emmil Jansen of Norway, until last year chairman of IMO's most senior technical body, the Maritime Safety Committee.

Addressing an audience of the IMO's international delegates, Mr Srivastava said that *LSM/SNI* had always supported the IMO's efforts to improve shipping safety and had given strong support to the WMU. "It is fitting," he said, "that the presentation should take place on the day on which the International Maritime Prize is to be presented. The generosity of the publishers of *LSM/SNI* will ensure that the appeal gets off to a good start." *LSM/SNI* wishes it every success. ◇

