

World Maritime University

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### Maritime University "fills training gap"

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# LLOYD'S

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## Maritime University 'fills training gap'

ONE of the gravest impediments to a developing country establishing its own viable merchant fleet is the initial lack of expertise among its own nationals.

"It is true that expatriates can be employed initially," said Mr C. P. Srivastava, secretary general of the UN International Maritime Organisation (IMO). "But this is not a satisfactory solution because the costs of employing such personnel are relatively high and generally have to be paid in foreign currency, thus partially defeating

one of the objectives of a country establishing a fleet or other maritime enterprise under its own flag — namely to earn and save foreign currency."

Mr Srivastava was speaking at the opening of Marintec China 83 and Marintec Offshore China. The two are part of an eight day conference cum exhibition event for marine and marine-related industries held in Shanghai.

So far, however, individual countries have not found it feasible to set up large, advanced training

institutes for a relatively small body of maritime administrators, surveyors.

To fill this gap IMO inaugurated in July this year the World Maritime University with the support of the government of Sweden, the municipal government of Malmö, and the UNDP.

The university offers a two year MSc (masters of science) programme but hopes later to offer specialised four to six week courses on the operation of oil, chemical and liquefied gas tankers, crude oil

washing and the carriage of dangerous goods.

There are already 72 students from 42 developing countries enrolled for the programme and the university plans to raise total enrolment to about 159 students.

The show/conference was opened yesterday by Mr Srivastava, Mr Cai Shu Fan, president of the China State Shipbuilding Corporation and Mr Chang You-Xia, president of the Chinese Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

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