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WMU in the News

10-1-1982

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The Council of American Master Mariners

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Recommended Citation

The Council of American Master Mariners, "World Maritime University" (1982). *WMU in the News*. 101.
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No. 10:82



Published by
The Council of American Master Mariners Inc.

Sidelights

"An adequate, efficient, prosperous
MERCHANT MARINE is necessary for the
naval and military safety and economic
well being of the UNITED STATES."

Volume 11, No. 4

Fourth Quarter, 1982

WORLD

MARITIME UNIVERSITY

(Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the December, 1982 issue of SEAWAYS, The Journal of the Nautical Institute. We quote, too, from their editorial, "At a time when there is so much discussion about declining standards at sea, it is most encouraging to see that the IMO is establishing an International Maritime University, in Malmö, Sweden. Much credit for this idea must go to Mr. C.P. Srivastava, Secy-Gen. of IMO." The Nautical Institute, obviously, endorses the concept.)

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.