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World Maritime University launched

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World Maritime University Launched

By THOMAS LAND

MALMO, Sweden — The world's first university to provide specialist training for senior maritime administrators in the developing countries is to open shortly under the auspices of the United States in this ancient Scandinavian seaport. It is intended to contribute to global efforts to reduce marine pollution.

The new World Maritime University will be based at the present Malmö Merchant Marine Academy, whose activities are gradually being phased out. The local authorities are also to provide accommodation and social facilities for students.

Malmö, the capital of Sweden's Malmöhus county, once belonged to Denmark. Appropriately, it is an important seaport and shipbuilding center. The bulk of the new university's academic work will take place in the city, but students will also visit fellow institutions elsewhere in Scandinavia and in other European countries for special courses.

An agreement on the provision of facilities for the new university has just been signed by Hålls Yngvesson of the Municipality of Malmö and C.P. Srivastava, secretary-general of the U.N.'s International Maritime Organization. Professor Solve Arvedson,

head of the Malmö Merchant Marine Academy, was sworn in as the university's first rector.

A specialist spokesman for IMO explains: "The aim of the university is to provide advanced training for maritime administrators, surveyors and inspectors, accident investigators, maritime lecturers and others holding key positions in the developing countries."

"Although there are many training schools at national and regional levels for cadets and sea-going officers in various developing countries, there are still no facilities 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 administrators all over the world."

The new university will receive its first students — at least 100 — on July 1. Most degree courses will take two years, but the university will also offer a wide range of other specialist courses, some of them lasting only a few weeks.

The final phase of the preparatory work is being carried out by a five-member team headed by the new rector. Professor Arvedson has wide sea-going as well as academic experience.

Several countries as well as global organizations concerned with the state of the oceans are expected to support the new institution. It is already backed by the U.N. Development Program; and it has attracted the intense interest of the U.N. Environment Programme and the various U.N. economic commissions concerned with the development of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

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