

World Maritime University

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WMU in the News

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Training for tomorrow's mariners

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Lloyd's List, Frady Jul

WITH THE identification of a lack of advanced training opportunities open to personnel from most of the developing countries, the concept of establishing an international university to satisfy this began to crystalise in the minds of IMO experts.

With the support of the Swedish government and the city of Malmö — which offered the use of the premises and facilities of the former Merchant Marine Academy — the plan for such a university came closer to realisation.

The World Maritime University established under IMO's auspices has a truly international status. However, it is a separate entity and will function as an independent body responsible to an international board of governors.

The members of this board have been selected by IMO Secretary-General Mr C. P. Srivastava, whose aim has been to achieve a balanced composition, with representation from a wide range of countries and shipping activities.

Training for tomorrow

Students are accepted for study at the university after careful assessment by a selection board. IMO says that the entrance requirements are designed to ensure the highest standards. Entrants are expected to have attained a high educational level, and possess a university degree or equivalent professional qualification in a technical field.

Enrolment in "General Maritime Administration" — one of the two-year WMU courses available — will be open to officials about to be appointed, or already serving, in maritime administrations.

The other two-year courses will be open to master mariners, chief engineers, naval architects and maritime pilots. Enrolment in a one-year course covers those not meeting the eligibility requirements for the two-year courses.

The academic and administrative life of the WMU will be directed by its rector, assisted by

eight full-time professors. The faculty consists of a number of departments: Nautical Sciences; Maritime Safety and Administration; Marine Technology; and Marine Environment Protection.

IMO has recognised that visiting professors and lecturers comprise a valuable teaching resource which could enrich the efforts of the full-time academic staff. The WMU will rely heavily on the input of these visitors. "A combination of full-time staff and visiting professors and lecturers will allow the university to have more comprehensive coverage of the complex maritime field, as well as give the students access to the very best people in their respective professions," says IMO.

Two agreements have been signed between IMO and the Malmö Municipal Authority regarding the establishment of the WMU.

One covers the university prem-

THE plan for a World Maritime University (WMU) has its origins in an in-depth review of a very large number of reports on training submitted by the International Maritime Organisation's specialists. These made clear the lack of advanced training facilities for senior maritime personnel and administrators — particularly in many developing countries. In this second article marking the opening of the WMU on July 4, Robert Thomas discusses the objectives of the university and describes the facilities available to students.

ises for training and administration, while the other allows for the use of an apartment building for student accommodation.

The building of the former Malmö Merchant Marine Academy, together with its equipment, have been made available free of cost. The city has carried out all renovation work required prior to the opening of the WMU;

has also undertaken to maintain the facilities free of charge.

The students will live in a apartment building of 159 flats made available at modest cost each having its own cooking and bathroom facilities.

The facilities of the former academy consist of: classrooms and working tutorial rooms — two rooms accommodating 35 people

8, 1983

LLOYD'S LIST, Friday July 8 1983

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and three rooms accommodating 24 people each; working group rooms; a lecture theatre seating 60 students at a time; a library; administrative buildings; accommodation for staff; tutors preparatory rooms; an equipment room for audio-visual aids, films and projectors; an equipment repair and maintenance room and laboratories dealing with aspects of oil, chemical and gas transportation.

The roof has an open area for celestial observations, and a moving circular platform with a binnacle for magnetic compass adjustments.

The fifth floor consists of a moving circular platform. This features a bridge mock-up, installed with radio direction finders to ascertain radio deviation, Decca receiver, Omega receiver, and a radar covering the Baltic Sound. Fourth floor facilities include cargo handling and loading computers, and a puncher keyboard for

making morse programmes.

An annex to the main building houses ships main auxiliary engines. The engine hall has evaporators, separators, oil-content meters, a crude oil washing demonstration model, a model inert gas generator, a reefer chamber and gas measuring instruments. Laboratories for various tests and research work, feature an infra-spectrofotometer, gaschromatographs and other advanced equipment.

A second annex contains testrooms for demonstrating the administration's obligation to control and certify navigation lights and other items.

The very essence of the WMU will be the transfer of expertise. For this reason, much emphasis will be placed on maintaining close links with other maritime training institutions. This will mean direct contact between the WMU and other educational establishments,

The WMU will conduct two-year and one-year courses and award degrees and certificates. Normally, satisfactory completion of a two-year course for students with appropriate entrance qualifications will result in the award of an MSc. The initial two-year and one-year courses began this month.

In future years, these courses will run from February to December, with a December-February breaks in the middle of the two-year course. So, after the initial group enters in 1983, there will be new batches of 40 one-year students and 40 two-year students starting in February each year beginning in 1984.

The WMU two-year courses are in general maritime administration; maritime safety administration; maritime education; and the technical management of shipping companies. A two-year course in technical port management is being considered.

● A detailed look at each of the courses offered by the WMU will form the subject of the final part of this series of articles by Robert Thomas.

No. 29:83
061