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[World Maritime University visits Netherlands]

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IMO NEWS



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The World Maritime University party which visited the Netherlands

A group of 31 students from the World Maritime University visited the Netherlands earlier this year on a three-day-long tour. They were accompanied by two members of the University staff, Professor Gunnar Stubberud, professor of general maritime administration, and Professor Masaku Nomoto, professor in technical management of shipping companies.

The purpose of this field trip was to give the students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the organization and operation of the Dutch maritime administration, the port of Rotterdam and Dutch shipping companies.

On the first day of their field trip the students visited the Directorate General of Shipping and Maritime Affairs (part of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works) in Rijswijk near The Hague. After a short welcome by the Director-General, Mr. J. J. Valk, the students listened to introductions on the organization of the Directorate, the Dutch implementation of IMO conventions, shipping inspection and port state control. These introductions were followed by discussions between the Dutch government experts and the students.

paid a visit to two shipping companies in Rotterdam. During the morning they had the opportunity to talk with the managing director of Nedlloyd Lines, the Netherlands' biggest liner company. Topics that were raised during the discussions were, amongst others, the technical aspects of liner management and the policy

of the Dutch shipping companies *vis à vis* the developing countries. The afternoon was spent at the head office of Smit International, a major Dutch towing and salvage company.

The third day was entirely dedicated to the Rotterdam Port Authority. After an introduction and discussions on the historical

and future development of the Port area, the organization and operation of the authority, the students went on an extensive trip through the various parts of the port itself.

It is expected that similar visits to the Netherlands by groups of WMU students will take place on a regular basis in the future.

FIRE PROTECTION – 29th SESSION

Fire test recommendation amendments approved

The sub-committee agreed on a number of amendments to the Recommendation of Fire Test Procedures for Surface Flammability of Bulkhead and Deck Finish Material, which was adopted in Resolution A.516(13) by the IMO Assembly last November.

The recommendation is designed to help assess the flammability and suitability of materials intended for use in marine construction.

The proposed amendments were submitted to the MSC for consideration and circulation to

their consideration for adoption by the 14th Assembly.

The sub-committee also agreed on draft amendments to the Recommendation on Test Method for Determining the Resistance to Flame of Vertically Supported Textiles and Films adopted by Resolution A.471(XII) in 1981. They have also been submitted to the MSC.

A simple ignitability test for primary deck coverings is to be developed by the sub-committee

Inert gas guidelines revised

The sub-committee agreed to amend the *Revised Guidelines for Inert Gas Systems*, which were approved by the MSC last year, in order to permit periodic cargo measurement and sampling. The proposed amendment was submitted to the MSC for adoption and circulation to Member States.

The sub-committee continued its work on the preparation of guidelines for oil tankers not fitted with inert gas systems and hopes to complete its draft at the next session.