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Man and the sea: The co-operation with foreign maritime colleges

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This article presents the actual state and prospects of further co-operation of the Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia with foreign maritime colleges.

The co-operation with foreign maritime colleges

The basic objectives of such co-operation cover the improving of the level of the didactic, scientific and educational work by way of exchanging experiences, materials and publications, short practical trainings connected with delivering lectures as well as joint undertaking of scientific-research and research-development work. A special feature of co-operation is the exchange of groups of students and workers undergoing education within the framework of doctoral studies, and also invitation of scientific-didactic workers as guest professors.

The 1984/85 academic year witnessed animation of the international co-operation and contacts of the Academy. It took up a range of new initiatives striving for expanding the co-operation with foreign colleges, and thus increasing the chances for the Academy's workers and students in the sphere of gaining new experiences and increasing their professional knowledge.

Traditionally good are the Academy's relations with the Admiral Makarow Memorial Merchant Navy Academy, Leningrad. These relations consist, first and foremost, in the assistance rendered by the Soviet college in the sphere of education of a young scientific-didactic staff. At present the Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia, employs about 20 doctors in technical and sea navigation sciences educated at the Leningrad Academy. A few further scientific-didactic workers from the Merchant Navy Academy have undertaken doctoral studies at the Admiral Makarow Academy this academic year. In addition to educating scientific workers, both the Academies are exchanging didactic and scientific publications, their workers taking part in symposia and scientific conferences arranged by the partner. Equally close are the relations of the Gdynia Academy with the Marine Engineering School of Warnemünde/Wustrow /GDR/. The co-operation of both the schools is based on an agreement concluded up several years ago.

This academic year the number of exchanged scientific practical trainings amounts to about 100 person days for either party; while undergoing practical training the workers of both the schools deliver lectures and conduct seminars. Each year the scientists from the Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia deliver several lectures at international symposia traditionally arranged by the German school. Similarly, exchange of groups of students undergoing practical training connected with implementation of a programme of didactic occupations is taking place. At present one worker of the Merchant Navy Acad-
emy, Gdynia, is undergoing doctoral studies at Warnemünde. It is expected to expand the co-operation between both the schools connected with undertaking joint studies on problems of technical operation of sea-going ships.

For several years co-operation has been carried on with the Navigation Department of the Technical University at Bremen /FRG/. Practical training of students of the Merchant Navy Academy’s Navigation Department on ship maneuvering simulators and night lights at Bremen is continued, students, from Bremen undergoing short practical trainings on instrumental vessels of the Gdynia Academy. Short practical trainings of scientific-didactic workers are being exchanged; two persons of either party are undergoing such practical training this year, it being possible to increase the number of persons depending on the financial resources of the FRG party. Again the school of Bremen has invited a specialist in maritime law as guest professor from the Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia to deliver a cycle of lectures. Probably, it will be possible to continue this kind of co-operation with the School of Bremen in the future as well.

The co-operation with the Technical University of Bremenhaven /FRG/ is based on an agreement of 1978. One of the joint projects has been concluded successfully—a momentometer for the Mechanical Department of the Bremenhaven school. This year 6 scientific-didactic workers from the Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia are undergoing the training, Gdynia Academy is sending 2-3 workers from the FRG to an exchange of scientists and didactic workers, the project is based on a reciprocal exchange.

In May this year a co-operation agreement was signed between the Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia and the Maritime Studies Department of the University at Rijeka /Yugoslavia/. This Department is educating about 1000 students specializing as engineer-navigators, engineer-mechanics and radio-officers. A Yugoslavian delegation is to arrive in Gdynia in September 1985 to conduct detailed discussions on the subject of the co-operation. A reciprocal exchange of 2-3 persons from either school is to be expected. The school of Rijeka conducts interesting studies on maritime law, sea communication, employing computer technique in navigation, and technical operation of ship systems and equipment.

The Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia also co-operates with the Navigation Department of Kotor belonging to the University of Titograd /Yugoslavia/. This co-operation is based on an agreement concluded a few years ago, due to financial difficulties, the Yugoslavian party was compelled to restrict fulfilment of the agreement stipulations. At present, a possibility of resuming the co-operation comes into view. The management of the Gdynia Academy has been invited to Kotor in order to discuss the conditions and schedule of joint activities in 1986.

This academic year, the management of the Academy has taken up an initiative to establish a scientific and didactic co-operation with the Department of Maritime Studies and Transport of the Technical University, Plymouth. In May 1985 a delegation of the Gdynia Academy visited Plymouth to hold talks on the subject of a possible agreement. Both parties expressed their interest in mutual co-operation respecting the subjects lectured at the navigation departments and also in the field of economics and sea transport management. It is also possible to establish co-operation with other departments of the Technical University, Plymouth, in particular in the sphere of operating ship power plants and employing computers in the process of operating the machinery. In autumn this year, a delegation from the Maritime Department of the Technical University, Plymouth will pay a visit to our Academy. During this visit, the signing of an agreement on co-operation between both the schools is foreseen.

A particularly interesting partner for co-operation to our Academy is the World Maritime University of Malmö /Sweden/ which under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization conducts courses and studies for lecturers of maritime schools from the developing countries. The co-operation with the World Maritime University is based on an agreement concluded between the Office for Maritime Economy and the University. Within the framework of co-operation, specialists from our Academy are being invited to deliver lectures at Malmö as guest professors. In September 1985, students from the World Maritime University will undergo short practical training on board the training vessel Dar Molviszegy. It is expected to further the co-operation, groups of students to be admitted to undergo specialist studies at laboratories of the Gdynia Academy.

Estimating the extent and forms of the cooperation of the Merchant Navy Academy, Gdynia with maritime schools abroad, the Senate of the Academy confirmed at the session held in June 1985 that the present profile and extent of this co-operation secures the interest of scientific development of the workers of our Academy. The co-operation brings about definite profits in way of raising the level of the didactic process at the Academy as well.