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WMU in the News

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WMU

WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITE MARITIME MONDIALE
UMM

UNIVERSIDAD MARITIMA MUNDIAL
UMM



IMO

Established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization
a specialized agency of the United Nations

WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

The World Maritime University, based in Malmö, Sweden, was officially opened on 4 July 1983 and is one of the most exciting and ambitious projects ever undertaken by the International Maritime Organization.

The primary purpose of the University is to provide higher education and training for senior personnel from developing countries who are involved in various maritime activities. Institutional training of this type is a novel concept and there is no comparable institution anywhere else in the world.

The WMU therefore fills an important gap in the maritime education and training and in the years to come will have a marked and beneficial effect on the two areas of greatest concern to the Organization - the improvement of maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution from ships. IMO recognizes that the improvement of personnel standards - on shore and at sea - is crucial if its global standards are to be effectively implemented.

The WMU is the first international effort to provide education and training opportunities for personnel who have already reached positions of some authority - personnel, in fact who are responsible for the effective implementation of IMO standards.

In November 1980 a seminar on the implementation of global training standards was held in Malmö, with financial support from SIDA. In connection with the preparation of this seminar, informal exchanges of views and discussions were held between the Representatives of the Swedish Government and the Secretary-General of IMO about possible Swedish support to the IMO Technical Assistance Programme through further co-operation in the field of maritime training.

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As a result of these discussions, at the beginning of the seminar the Minister of Transport of Sweden made an important statement relating to the establishment of an international University of Maritime Sciences and Technology in Sweden designed to provide up-to-date training in various maritime activities for students from developing countries.

The seminar was attended by Delegates from 45 developing countries who concluded the meeting by adopting a Resolution requesting IMO and the United Nations Development Programme - which acts as the main funding Agency within the United Nations system - to support the idea of establishing such an institution. The Resolution referred to the "enormous need" of developing countries for administrators, teachers, surveyors, examiners and other senior personnel, stating that a minimum of one or two years in a suitable academy would be necessary to acquire the extensive training needed.

From this point events moved swiftly. In November 1981, at its Twelfth Session, the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization recognizing the crucial importance of maritime training for the development and benefit of international shipping and the protection of the marine environment and marine resources and being concerned about the acute shortage of qualified instructors for staffing maritime academies in developing countries, and the non-availability of the needed numbers of maritime administrators, examiners, surveyors and inspectors, resolved unanimously: -

- (1) to express its sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General of IMO for his wise and timely initiative in identifying the critical need for a global high level maritime training institution;
- (2) to request the Secretary-General of IMO to take all further necessary action for the establishment of the World Maritime University;
- (3) to authorize and request the Secretary-General of IMO to take all appropriate and necessary steps in securing the requisite financial support, especially from the UNDP, and
- (4) to appeal to the Administrator of the UNDP to give the highest priority with a view to providing necessary financial support to the World Maritime University.

In pursuance of the above, the Secretary-General took the following actions:

- (1) He initiated discussions with the Government of Sweden. In response, the Government of Sweden agreed to provide a cash contribution to meet one-third of the total running cost of the University subject to a ceiling of USD 1 million per annum in respect of their contribution.

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- (2) The Secretary-General negotiated an Agreement with the Government of Sweden as regards the legal status of the World Maritime University. This Agreement was signed on 9 February 1983 and after the enactment of the necessary legislation in Sweden, entered into force on 1 May 1983.
- (3) At the request of the Secretary-General the Municipal Authorities of the City of Malmö provided appropriate premises and available equipment to the World Maritime University and also provided excellent hostel facilities at a very modest monthly charge. These agreements are covered by Agreements signed by the Secretary-General on 14 October 1982 with the City of Malmö.
- (4) Pursuant to operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the IMO Assembly Resolution, the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the UNDP held very detailed discussions at UNDP Headquarters in August 1982, as a result of which the UNDP provided USD 800,000,- per year.

The World Maritime University opened in Malmö, Sweden, on 4 July 1983 with 72 students from 42 different countries, the number of students enrolled having since grown to over 400 students from 89 countries (as per March 1987).

The Administrator of the UNDP, together with the Government of Sweden and the Secretary-General of the IMO, played a crucial role in the rapid establishment of the institution, first through the approval of UNDP preparatory assistance and, subsequently, by approving a large-scale project of support to the University.

The City of Malmö has contributed land, buildings, hostel facilities and recreational facilities of the highest standard. The generous and increasing Norwegian contribution has also been crucial during the early years of the University.

A remarkable feature of the WMU project was the speed with which it was brought into being. The idea did not receive formal approval from the IMO Assembly until November 1981. During the next year financial support was secured, physical facilities provided, a Board of Governors named, academic and administrative staff appointed, curricula worked out and a Charter prepared.

Barely 15 months had passed between the start of the project when, in February 1983 an Agreement concerning the establishment of the University was formally signed by the Secretary-General of IMO and the Swedish Ambassador in London. Following approval by the Swedish Government this Agreement became effective on 1 May 1983; six weeks later the first students arrived in Malmö.

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The Aims of the World Maritime University

These can best be stated by quoting the Charter of the WMU, which says:

"The World Maritime University shall be the international maritime training institution for the training of senior specialist maritime personnel in various aspects of shipping and related fields concerning the improvement of maritime safety, the protection of the marine environment and the efficiency of international shipping, in furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the International Maritime Organization as a Specialized Agency of the United Nations."

In order to achieve the objectives, the Charter says that the University shall:

"provide interested countries, and in particular developing countries, with the most modern and up-to-date facilities for the training of their high-level maritime personnel in all areas of shipping and related maritime activity"

The University will also:

"help to establish an internationally recognized cadre of experts in the major aspects of shipping, including visiting professors, lecturers, consultants and other experts to provide suitable knowledge and assistance to developing countries and other governments as appropriate, on problems relating to maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and the prevention and control of marine pollution"

Finally, says the Charter, the University will:

"help in developing a uniform international system for the training of experts in the maritime field as a means of facilitating and promoting international co-operation in shipping and related maritime activities"

Who will benefit from the World Maritime University

Virtually everybody involved in shipping can expect to benefit from its establishment.

- * Shipowners will gain because the level of expertise in shipping operations in the developing world will rise steadily as the graduates of the University take up senior posts at home.
- * Port operations will become more efficient and faster, helping shipowners and shippers to save time and cut costs.
- * Safety standards will rise: the University puts primary emphasis on the proper implementation of IMO and other safety measures.

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- * Crew standards will improve: the University runs special courses for teachers in maritime training academies and nautical schools. This will result in standards in merchant marine academies around the world rising in the years to come.
- * The environment will benefit: the University emphasizes the importance of IMO anti-pollution measures. It also runs special short courses on tanker safety, pollution control and other aspects.
- * Governments will gain: as the administrative capabilities of newly-emerging shipowning countries improve so will it become easier to establish and maintain effective co-operation between governments.
- * Business will gain: delays in ports and administration will be reduced, enabling business to deliver and receive goods more quickly and with less cost.

The Courses offered

The World Maritime University concentrates on two-year courses, satisfactory completion of which results in the student receiving a Master of Science Degree.

Courses run from early February to mid-December, with a December-February break.

MSc Degrees are offered in the following Courses:

General Maritime Administration (Public Administration)
General Maritime Administration (Shipping and Ports)
Maritime Safety Administration (Nautical)
Maritime Safety Administration (Marine Engineering)
Maritime Education and Training (Nautical)
Maritime Education and Training (Marine Engineering)
Technical Management of Shipping Companies

All instruction at the WMU is in English and for students who need to up-grade their proficiency in that language two special intensive courses of 18 weeks' and 10 weeks' duration are held prior to the regular maritime courses.

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Organization of courses

The teaching methods used at the World Maritime University have been carefully designed to meet its special requirements and take full advantage of modern technologies and teaching methods. Courses include:

- * Lectures
- * Demonstrations
- * Projects
- * Field (On-the-job) Training/Experience
- * Tutorials
- * Case studies
- * Industrial experience

While students will spend most of their time at the University, arrangements are made for them to extend their experience by field trips to other cities and institutions within Sweden and many other countries in Europe and elsewhere. These visits are one of the most important features of the whole project and were one reason why Malmö was selected as the site for the University. Visits normally begin during the students second semester at the University and generally consist of relatively short visit to ports, industries and other organizations involved in shipping. The third semester is mainly dedicated to field (on-the-job) training.

It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the World Maritime University is an essential practical institution designed for students who have already proved their abilities and have been selected for further promotion. While courses include a considerable amount of traditional class-room work, the practical content is much greater and more varied than in normal postgraduate studies.

Board of Governors

The University is supervised by a Board of Governors, the Chairman of which is Mr. C.P. Srivastava, the Secretary-General of IMO. The Members of the Board have been chosen for their pre-eminence in shipping and related areas and have also been chosen to give a wide representation to both developed and developing maritime nations.

Academic Staff

The academic and administrative work of the University is directed by a Rector. He is assisted by the Vice Rector and eight full-time professors, each responsible for a specific course, and lecturers. (See page 10).

In addition to the full-time academic staff, the University also benefits from short-term visiting professors and lecturers to cover certain specialized subjects.

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The University arranges for the services of these specialists who, not available on a long-term basis, can, as eminent persons in their field, provide valuable teaching resource. The combination of full-time staff and visiting lecturers thus allows the University to provide a comprehensive coverage of each subject as well as to give the students access to the leading experts in their respective professions.

It has been particularly encouraging feature that so many renowned persons in maritime transport have served the University free of charge.

There are also three programme officers, two of whom are mainly involved in organizing the field trips and the practical aspect of the on-the-job training programmes, and aiding the professors and visiting lecturers as well as the students in the conduct of the University's course work.

The Library

The Library officially opened one year after the inauguration of the University. It began with a collection of textbooks, a few donations, several periodical subscriptions, and the remains of the former Malmö Merchant Marine Academy. Today the Library contains 4,000 volumes, subscribe to 250 periodicals, and has a growing collection of backissues of essential maritime related periodicals. The Library is a member of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) network which electronically links the University to over 6,000 libraries around the world.

Living accommodation

Students at the University are provided with their own individual apartments in the Henrik Smith House. The building contains 160 flats, each with cooking and bathroom facilities, together with an indoor garage, restaurant, sauna, recreation and television rooms and other amenities. The building is fully staffed and in practice offers many of the advantages of a hotel - at a rent which is only a fraction of the normal rate. The building has been completely redecorated and refurnished. Plans are underway for extending these facilities in order to accommodate the growing number of students.

Social facilities

The Malmö Authorities have also arranged for students at the University to be allowed to use a modern recreation centre, situated only a few hundred yards from the World Maritime University itself. The building contains an indoor swimming pool, ice rink, bowling alley, squash, badminton and tennis courts, restaurant and other facilities. Contacts with families in the Malmö region are being encouraged.

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Admission to the WMU

At present all candidates for places at the University are expected to be nominated by Governments. Any candidate interested in attending the University should therefore contact the appropriate Government Department in his/her home country. This does not apply, however, to students from developed countries who can contact WMU directly.

Since opening

The University's Inaugural Class numbered 72 students from 42 different countries - an indication of the wide appeal of the University concept. This increase has continued: in 1984 some 65 students enrolled, a further 81 in 1985, 85 in 1986 and 102 in 1987, including 4 from developed countries.

But while the students have come from many different countries and have varied backgrounds and experience their quality has been one of the University's strongest assets.

The Report of the Board of Governors to the IMO Council in 1985 states: "Perhaps the greatest strength of the University is the excellence of its Student Body. The general evaluation by Resident and Visiting Professors, as well as by the Organizations and persons visited by WMU students in field trips and on-the-job training clearly shows a high-quality Student Body approaching their work at the University with seriousness and diligence".

Most of the graduates, at the request of their professors, have provided information on their occupations which showed that many of them had immediately been appointed to highly responsible positions in their home countries. Regular contacts are being maintained with graduates through an Alumni Association and WMU is also publishing a Newsletter.

Financial support

The present around USD 6 million annual budget of the World Maritime University has been kept to much less than what it costs to build even a medium-sized cargo ship today. The money for the University comes entirely from voluntary contributions, both in cash and in kind. Over half the annual budget comes from recurring contributions from: Sweden (one third of the budget costs); the United Nations Development Programme (USD 1,2 million in 1987); and Norway (USD 500,000). Other contributions are in the form of fellowships. The leading donor is the Federal Republic of Germany. Other important donors are Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

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Other forms of support

The donation of a substantial amount of training equipment has been arranged by several donors. Several organizations have also donated textbooks and other professional literature. One organization has even donated a mini-bus.

A significant contribution made by several countries, mainly those in the category of developed maritime nations, is in the form of renowned maritime personages, who have agreed to serve as Visiting Professors. Although these Professors serve in their individual capacity and entirely free of charge, it is clear that they receive the necessary encouragement from their employers. The World Maritime University budget pays only for their travel and per diem. Over 150 such Professors are now on the WMU roster.

The International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD), Canada, and a few other organizations working in international co-operation support the academic work at the University by participating in and financing the development and implementation of seminars and also provide fellowship support.

Maritime Administrations, Shipping Companies, Shipyards, Ports, Classification Societies and other maritime institutions are playing a very important role in educating the students. Their facilities are now available to the students free of charge during their field trips and on-the-job training. This type of training forms an important and integral part of the training programme of the students. Excellent programmes were drawn up for the visits of students.

Among the countries which have offered such facilities are Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, USSR and Yugoslavia.

No less important is the support of the developing countries themselves for the World Maritime University. Although they are the main beneficiaries, they have sent students at sacrifice. Each student who joins the University has to be backed up by the stipulated amount of fellowship money. This often comes out of the assistance provided by an international donor agency such as UNDP or a donor country with whom some bilateral aid arrangement exists. Within the limited amount of aid available, necessary priority must be given to the WMU courses at the cost of something else.

In a number of cases direct financing in foreign exchange has been provided for fellowship money. Further, the absence of the official undergoing training at the University for as much as two years, requires a developing country to make alternative arrangements to fill the vacancy. Additional expenditure has therefore to be incurred by the country for this purpose.

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Thus, the combined and creative use of the facilities of international organizations and other donors, the host country, private foundations and enterprises, developing countries and the goodwill of numerous individuals at all levels in Maritime Affairs adds strength and originality to this truly universal institution.

Capital Fund

To help secure funding for the University on a long-term basis, the Secretary-General of IMO has also launched a world-wide appeal for contributions to a Capital Fund, the aim of which will be to provide very stable financing for the University. As on 28 February 1987 there has been a total contribution of USD 317,488,- to this Fund, including interest earnings.

Conclusions

The World Maritime University has come a long way in the brief period since July 1983. Its first three classes have graduated and new groups of students have enrolled. There is now a well established Resident Faculty, enriched through an effective scheme of Visiting Professors, a successful programme of field trips and on-the-job training, a strengthened intensive English Language Programme, a considerable amount of up-to-date donated equipment installed for instructional purposes, a good Library and, perhaps the most important of all, the diligent involvement of an excellent Student Body sponsored by a vast and ever-growing number of countries who see the advantages of the advanced training offered at WMU.

All concerned can reasonably state with pride that in this early phase itself, the World Maritime University has lived up to its promise.

May 1987.
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ACADEMIC STAFF AT THE WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY - MAY 1987

NAME	COUNTRY	OFFICE	COURSE AND CLASS
E. Nordström	Sweden	Rector	
G. Zade	Federal Republic of Germany	Vice Rector Professor	Maritime Education and Training (Nautical)
H. Adachi	Japan	Professor	Technical Management of Shipping Companies
A. Couper	United Kingdom	Professor	General Maritime Administration
P. Houssin	France	Professor	Technical Management of Shipping Companies and General Maritime Administration
CE. Mathieu	United States of America	Professor	Maritime Education and Training (Marine Engineering) and Maritime Safety Administration (Marine Engineering)
AA. Monsef	Egypt	Professor	General Maritime Administration
A. Os	Norway	Professor	General Maritime Administration
PS. Vanchiswar	India	Professor	Maritime Safety Administration (Nautical)
S. Fagerström	Finland	Lecturer	
A. Ulstrup	Denmark	Lecturer	
C. Moreno	Spain	Lecturer	
H. van Walen	The Netherlands	Lecturer	
I. Sund-Battista	Sweden	Lecturer	English Language Programme
C. Cole	United Kingdom	Lecturer	English Language Programme
A. Howe	United States of America	Senior Lecturer	English Language Programme

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WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

J.	Horck	Sweden	Programme Officer
B.	Wagner	Sweden	Programme Officer
SÅ.	Wernhult	Sweden	Programme Officer

R.	Poisson	United States of America	Librarian
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