AMC (Australian Maritime College) hosts international meetings

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In line with current Federal Government policy to improve the efficiency of education in Australia, the College is involved in discussions with the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian State Institute of Technology with a view to reaching a decision on a suitable format for one university in Tasmania. To date there has been no resolution to these discussions. However, the AMC is conscious of the desire of the Federal Minister for Education, Mr John Dawkins, to achieve some workable form of amalgamation. All parties, including the Federal Government, AMC and the maritime industries have emphasised the need for the AMC to maintain its identity as a national focus for education and training. This emphasis has been intensified with the recent establishment of the Shipping Industry Task Force.

AMC hosts international meetings

Two successful international gatherings were hosted by the College at Easter. The first was a three-day International Maritime Organisation (IMO), World Maritime University (WMU) and Australian Maritime College (AMC) seminar for Heads of Maritime Institutions in Developing Countries in the Asia/Pacific region. The annual meeting of the International Association for Sea Survival Training (IASST) and a meeting of the association’s Management Committee were also held at the AMC about the same time.

The IMO and WMU jointly sponsored the Heads of Maritime Institutions seminar with financial assistance for travel provided from UN and AIDAB sources. Countries including India, Asia, China, the South Pacific, Canada, USSR, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand sent 20 representatives to the seminar which was opened by the Federal Minister for Education and Training, Mr John Dawkins.

The Seminar resolved that —

- There was a need for increased co-operation between maritime training institutions within the Region. Because of the differences in the size, and resources, of the institutions, important initial requirements identified were:
  - Promotion of model short courses (with a request for distribution to institutions by the IMO);
  - Dissemination of information; and,
  - Production of a newsletter.
- The needs of maritime training institutions (for courses which cannot be offered due to lack of appropriate equipment) should be further identified — by such means as a questionnaire — and should include the following items:
  - Training and experience for instructors;
  - Staff development including exchange of staff; and,
  - Facilitation of student exchanges including trainee berths on training vessels.

These matters were generally initiated on a bi-lateral basis. The seminar confirmed the value of regular meetings of heads of institutions.

Participants in the IMO/WMU/AMC seminar outside Newnham Hall

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International meetings

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Achievement of the objectives incorporated in the resolutions will depend upon the availability of funding assistance to facilitate on-going discussion and cooperation within the Region.

It is hoped to include a page in the next AMC News on information from training institutions in the Region.

AMC helps out over NSC problems

The National Safety Council’s problems with its Victorian division resulted in the IASST meeting being held at the College.

Initially, the meetings were due to be hosted by the NSC in Sale, Victoria. Immediately after the AMC’s Heads of Maritime Institutions seminar.

Delegates from a number of countries in Europe and North America were virtually on their way here before finding out about the NSC collapse. The College stepped into the breach and hosted the two meetings.

Heads of maritime institution seminar participants:

Mr B. Zagorin, UK, Senior Adviser to Secretary-General, IMO
Mr E. Nordstrom, Rector, WMU, Sweden
Capt. D. M. Waters, AMC, Australia
Mr Chen Zuwei, China
Capt. T. K. Joseph, India
Commodore Yousuf Raza, Pakistan
Sub. Lt Sanchai Kulpreecha R.T.N., Thailand
Mr Netani Sukanaivalu, Fiji
Capt. Abdul Halim Bin Ahmad Sald, Malaysia
Mr C. Rupen and Mr N. Snelleksz, Papua-New Guinea
Capt. R. Cumbes, Solomon Is
Capt. Supt. J. M. Allison, Tuvalu
Mr Perive Lene and Mr R. Henshaw, Western Samoa
Capt. M. Tapealava and Capt. J. Roubal, Tonga
Mr H. J. Fockenga, Kiribati
Mr J. Haworth, Hong Kong

Federal Education Minister John Dawkins addresses the opening session of the seminar for heads of maritime institutions for Asia and the Pacific.

AMERICA’S CUP BID: AMC PLAYS ITS PART

The Bond Syndicate formed to challenge for the 1991 America’s Cup has contracted AMC Search Ltd to provide extensive Towing Tank testing.

The tank was booked for 30 days, starting in March and it is expected that there will be continual on-going work leading up to the final design and construction of the challenging yacht.

The syndicate sent its own naval architects to conduct the tests, and has been working out of office space provided on campus.

Capsizing research grant

The newly-formed Australian Research Council (A.R.C.) has awarded the AMC a research grant to study:

“Investigation into the capsizing and loss of control of small fishing vessels crossing a bar in following seas”.

DEEP WIRE TRAWL

AMC Search’s biggest project to date concluded successfully in December last year. A mine sweeping array to be deployed by commercial fishing vessels has been designed and produced to the full requirements of the Royal Australian Navy.

The project finished ahead of schedule and on budget, and the RAN has expressed its total satisfaction with AMC Search’s performance on the project. It is expected that further developmental work will be commissioned late 1989-early 1990.