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World Maritime University: New academic year begins 2) First Soviet student joins University 3) New professor appointed

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New academic year begins

World Maritime University students from around the world attended an inauguration ceremony at Malmö on March 20 to mark the beginning of a new academic year. The University’s new students, the class of 1990, were welcomed by the Chancellor, Mr C. P. Srivastava.

Mr Srivastava told students, staff and guests that the University had admitted 600 from over 100 countries since it opened in 1983. He said that those graduating from the University were playing and increasingly significant role in implementing IMO international conventions, codes and guidelines dealing with safety at sea and maritime environment protection.

"The Secretary-General added: "The World Maritime University brings together people of many different cultural backgrounds. It is an outstanding example of international cooperation and a reminder that North, South, East and West are merely navigational terms, rather than markers for division in the world."

The University’s student population now totals 204 and is at full complement. High-level MSc courses of two years’ duration are offered and there is stiff competition for places. Course subjects include Maritime Safety, Administration and the Technical Management of Shipping Companies. Many University graduates now occupy posts of great responsibility within their home countries – from harbour-masters to marine lawyers and accident inspectors.

Members of the class of 1989 have just commenced their third semester – a programme of studies providing for extensive field trips and on-the-job training. Meanwhile, the class of 1990 are settling into their introductory courses and lectures.

During his welcoming address, Mr Srivastava paid tribute to the generosity of Sweden and the many other countries, institutions and commercial interests which have extended financial assistance to the University during its formative years. He then thanked the City of Malmö for its increasing support and major contribution to the University’s continued well-being.

First Soviet student joins University

Obtaining an insight into modern commercial shipping practice is one of several priorities for Vadim Bagatouriya, the first student from the Soviet Union to join the World Maritime University. Vadim, 29, has joined the two-year Technical Management of Shipping Companies’ course.

A graduate of the Leningrad Maritime Academy, Vadim holds a Chief Mate’s certificate. He gained sea-going experience with the Baltic Shipping Company before winning top position in the entrance examinations set by the Soviet Ministry of Shipping in selecting a candidate for the University. He says: "The WMU offers an opportunity to study the free market principles of international shipping. One of my main areas of interest is the brokerage system."

Vadim adds: "Given the global nature of the shipping industry, it is vital to build good relationships at international level and exchange knowledge, at first-hand, with students from Africa, Asia and other areas of the developing world."

During the spring of next year, when the third semester opens, Vadim and his fellow students will begin a programme of field trips and visits to shipping concerns in Europe and further afield. Vadim looks forward to visiting London and learning more about the workings of the Baltic Exchange.

More students from the Soviet Union and other developed countries are expected to attend the WMU in the years ahead.

New professor appointed

Patrick Alderton has been appointed Course Professor of Ports and Shipping Administration at the World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden. He was formerly Director of Transport Studies at London’s City University.

Following a sea-going career, Professor Alderton joined City University in the 1980s, with responsibilities for co-ordinating the work of the Transport Division. He was Course Organiser and Admissions Tutor for the full-time Shipping Diploma and Certificate and Chairman of the Shipping Examination Board.

Ports and Shipping Administration is one of seven Master of Science degree courses offered by the WMU, established by the International Maritime Organization. There are currently 26 students from 23 countries taking the course – including five women.

Professor Alderton says: "Ports and Shipping Administration is an intense and demanding course, both from a teaching and learning point of view, but very rewarding. It examines maritime administration from a commercial standpoint and gives students a global perspective. Our students will play a major role in shaping both national and international shipping policy in the years to come."

Professor Alderton holds an Extra Master’s Certificate and is the author of some 30 papers on shipping-related matters, including the book "Sea Transport Operation and Economics". He has been the editor of Reeds Nautical Almanac since 1970.

Mr C. P. Srivastava, Chancellor of the University, addressing students and guests at the graduation ceremony for the class of 1988.

Vadim Bagatouriya

Prof Alderton