

World Maritime University

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# WMU OFFERS PORT MANAGEMENT COURSE

by David Robinson

**T**rade is the lifeblood of any nation and ports are a vital link in the transport chain which supports commercial activities be it imports or exports. The quality of port facilities and the standard of their

auspices of the International Maritime Organisation - the marine arm of the UN headquartered in London - to offer a wide range of maritime courses. A course in port and shipping administration has been included from the very first.



English language lecturers at the World Maritime University in Sweden

management dictates the level of contribution made by a nation's port to its economic success.

With completion constantly on the increase the requirement for good port management is essential, especially in developing countries where the efficient operation of a port is critical to the country's survival. In recognition of this fact, the United Nations has always placed a high emphasis on the training of port managers and workers. The UN has been prominent in organising courses and seminars at different places to meet the need for learning such skills.

The World Maritime University, which was officially opened at Malmo in Sweden in July 1983, was set up under the

The purpose of the University is to provide advanced training for senior personnel from developing countries who are involved in various maritime activities.

The University fills an important gap in maritime training and in the years to come will have a marked and beneficial effect on the two areas of the greatest concern to the IMO - the improvement of maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution from ships. All the developing countries among IMO's 133 member states have shown a great awareness of the need for tackling safety and pollution at an international level, through the adoption of conventions, codes and other recommendations. One

common feature of these and the shipping industry is its growing complexity compared to previous years constantly increasing the need for quality training.

Port management as a subject was originally contained within the General Maritime Administration course which has been the University's most popular course since it was formed. However a need emerged for a separate course so the GMA syllabus was divided into two and the Port and Shipping Administration was set up. The course clearly recognises the part which ports play in contributing to a national economy and how inefficiency can result in an increase in import and export prices, harm national development and severely affect safety.

The course concentrates on developing concepts and skills to enable graduates to function in the fields of port or shipping management; or related maritime enterprises. Emphasis is placed on a thorough understanding of the functions of shipping and ports and the role and obligations of management with respect to the financial, legal and environmental aspects. The importance of the maritime sectors to the national economy is stressed, as is the relationship with other modes of transport and other users of the sea. The course adopts the view that shipping managers need to know a good deal about ports, that port managers likewise require knowledge of shipping; and they both benefit from studying together and from exposure to an understanding of other modes of transport. Nevertheless, the two groups of managers are given opportunities to further specialise in port or shipping subjects under modules within the course and through the special project assignments and field courses.

The course lasts for two years and it is designed to give the students a broad range of experience. The course is open to all personnel who are to be appointed or are already serving as managers of shipping companies and ports or in other maritime enterprises. The minimal entry qualification is a Bachelor's degree or equivalent and the degree awarded is a Master of Science in Ports and Shipping Administration.

The course is split into some 35 individual modules covering six areas. ■