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University's key role in marine world

Martyn Barr

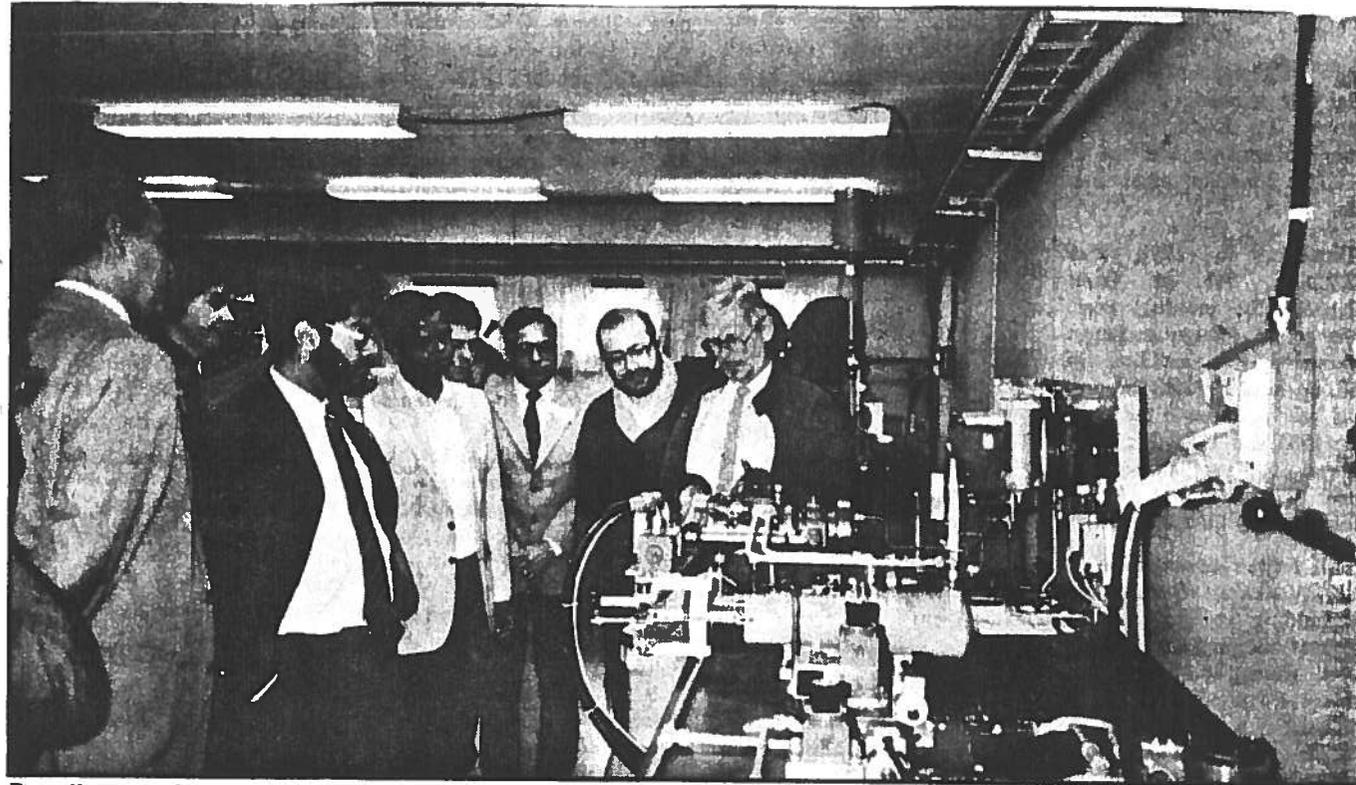
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University's key role in marine world



Propellor manufacturer KaMeWa's training manager demonstrates gearing systems to WMU students at the Kristinehamn factory.

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This month sees the inauguration of a new class of students at the World Maritime University at Malmo. Sweden has been an active supporter of the WMU since the idea of a maritime education institution, geared specifically to the needs of the developing world, was first mooted in the late 1970s, writes MARTYN BARR.

THE inauguration ceremony at the World Maritime University marks the start of a two-year intensive study programme for 100 new students from over 50 maritime nations.

WMU students have already demonstrated their abilities and have been selected for further training and greater responsibilities. The university offers them courses leading to MSc qualifications in seven subjects, ranging from maritime education and training to the technical management of shipping companies.

The Swedish government makes a significant contribution to the university's \$7m annual budget, while the host city Malmo provides and maintains the campus buildings free of charge and student accommodation facilities at a moderate cost. The Swedish maritime industry also plays an active role in offering WMU students field training facilities, providing an opportunity to gain an invaluable insight into modern commercial, technical and administrative practices.

The Swedish organisations and companies assisting in WMU field trips include: the Swedish National Administration of Shipping and Navigation, Transatlantic Ship Management, Gorthon Lines, the Swedish Club, Port of Gothenburg, Transmeta Kockumation, Stena Line, Wärtsilä Diesel and KaMeWa.

One of the main contributors to WMU field training is the Swedish National Administration of Shipping and Navigation (Nasan). A four-week visit to the organisation's headquarters in Norrköping and other local offices forms part of a 14-week training programme in the Nordic countries for students of the two Maritime Safety Administration courses (Nautical and Engineering).

Head of planning at Nasan's

Maritime Safety Inspectorate, Staffan Boden said: "We provide a very full programme for our WMU guests, including lectures and practical training across a very broad range of subject areas. These include search and rescue, hydrography, tonnage measurement and pilotage. We believe we are making a direct and worthwhile contribution to higher global maritime safety standards in extending this facility to the students."

"The training facilities we offer WMU students have a strong element of mutual benefit," said Birger Simonsson, marine personnel manager of Swedish liner operator Transatlantic Ship Management. "Students visiting us learn a great deal about the practicalities involved in management and marketing of liner operations. But, at the same time, they are experienced mariners, administrators and instructors, and we also benefit from their ideas and experience."

Paul Kolling, personnel director of Helsingborg-based shipping company Gorthon Lines, says his company seeks to stress to visiting WMU students the crucial importance of operational efficiency.

The Swedish Club offers students on the course for technical management of shipping companies a practical insight into the world of marine insurance. Students are able to follow the work of the Hull, P&I, Technical, Underwriting and Marketing departments. Managing director Lars Lindfelt, who regularly lectures on insurance-related matters at the WMU, said: "Beyond the goodwill factor, the benefit of offering such facilities may not be immediately obvious. However, we regard it as an investment. We are making important contact with tomorrow's senior decision makers in the international shipping community."