

World Maritime University

The Maritime Commons: Digital Repository of the World Maritime University

WMU in the News

3-22-1983

Report on the progress of the establishment of the World Maritime University

Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization

Follow this and additional works at: http://commons.wmu.se/wmu_news

Recommended Citation

Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, "Report on the progress of the establishment of the World Maritime University" (1983). *WMU in the News*. 132.
http://commons.wmu.se/wmu_news/132

This News Article is brought to you courtesy of Maritime Commons. Open Access items may be downloaded for non-commercial, fair use academic purposes. No items may be hosted on another server or web site without express written permission from the World Maritime University. For more information, please contact library@wmu.se.



Council Report 21088
No. 53:83

C 50/9
22 March 1983

Original: ENGLISH

COUNCIL - 50th session
Agenda item 9

IMO

DUPLICATE

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The purpose of this document is to report developments in regard to the establishment of the World Maritime University since the forty-ninth session of the Council.

Financial Assistance

Assistance from the Government of Sweden

2. It will be recalled that the Government of Sweden had responded favourably to the proposed financial arrangements that out of the required total of \$3.6 million towards meeting the annual recurring expenditure, it should make available its indicated cash contribution of \$1 million and that the balance of \$2.6 million should be found from the contribution of UNDP and through the joint fund-raising efforts of IMO and UNDP. This commitment of the Government of Sweden was reiterated most kindly and generously by His Excellency, Mr. Olof Palme, the Prime Minister of Sweden when he received the Secretary-General in January 1983. Also present on the occasion were H.E. the Minister of Transport and Communications, H.E. the Under-Secretary of State for International Development Co-operation and other colleagues, which was a clear manifestation of the continuing and powerful support of the Government of Sweden at the highest level for this important project.

3. In accordance with the stipulated procedures the Government legislation regarding the proposed financing of the University was introduced in the Swedish Parliament in early January and although the decision on the bill is scheduled for 4 May 1983, further information received would indicate that it might be possible to arrange for the decision to be made even a few weeks earlier.

4. The Secretary-General would wish to place on record his deepest gratitude to the Government of Sweden for their most generous financial support, to H.E. the Prime Minister, Mr. Olof Palme, H.E. the Minister of Transport and Communications, Mr. Curt Boström, H.E. the Under-Secretary of State for International Development Co-operation, Mr. Göste Edgren and their colleagues, all of whom have given such tremendous encouragement towards the establishment of the University.

Assistance from UNDP

5. The Secretary-General wishes to recall, with profound gratitude, the extensive, clear and powerful support which many delegations from developing and developed countries expressed for the World Maritime University at the session of the UNDP Governing Council held in Geneva in May 1982. Since then the Secretary-General has had the benefit of several discussions with the Administrator of UNDP, Mr. Bradford Morse, who has taken extremely keen and personal interest in this project and has guided the examination of various related issues within the UNDP administration. The Secretary-General has had similar consultations with the Deputy Administrator of UNDP, Mr. G. Arthur Brown whose help has also been invaluable.

6. The Administrator of UNDP, Mr. Bradford Morse, has now announced his decision that UNDP will support the World Maritime University by providing financial assistance amounting to \$800,000 annually from its inter-country funds, for the duration of the current UNDP cycle. With the Swedish contribution of \$1 million, the available cash contribution is now \$1.8 million leaving a balance of \$1.8 million to be found to make up the total of \$3.6 million. This contribution of UNDP from its inter-country funds has given a tremendous fillip to the fund-raising effort of IMO and is clear evidence of the tremendous interest of UNDP in this important project. In addition, the Assistant Administrators have very kindly addressed a special letter to all Resident Representatives in their respective regions. They have explained the details of the World Maritime University, its vital role in the training of senior maritime personnel from developing countries at post-graduate degree level and have requested the assistance of the Resident Representatives for part financing of the training costs by way of fellowships at \$10,000 per student per year from country IPFs or other funds available to the nominating country. The Senior Director of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects, Mr. William Mashler, who has been appointed as the focal point at UNDP headquarters by the Administrator to co-ordinate all activities concerning the World Maritime University, has provided tremendous assistance at every step.

7. The high point of the support of UNDP to the World Maritime University has been the report of the distinguished Administrator to the Special Meeting of the Governing Council held on 18 February 1983, when he announced his full and resolute support by stating inter alia "UNDP will continue to work closely with IMO and through IMO, with the Government of Sweden, in order to ensure that everything possible will be done to bring the World Maritime University into being during 1983".

8. The Secretary-General wishes to express his profound thanks and gratitude to the Administrator, Mr. Bradford Morse, for the keen personal interest which he has taken in this matter and for the decision announced by him in respect of UNDP's financial support for the World Maritime University. The Secretary-General is deeply grateful also to the Deputy Administrator, Mr. G. Arthur Brown, who has given personal attention and strong support to the project all the way.

Assistance from other sources

9. The Secretary-General, accompanied by Mr. Bernard Zagorin, Senior Adviser, has visited several countries who are potential donors and the response has been encouraging. The Government of Norway, which had initially indicated an annual contribution of \$100,000 has now made a firm commitment of double this amount i.e. \$200,000. This will be used for financing two members of the University staff, equipment and some fellowships. The Government of Greece has announced a contribution of \$50,000. The Government of France envisages financing two fellowships in 1983. The Secretary-General wishes to recall with gratitude the kind offer of the Government of Egypt and of the Commonwealth Secretariat to provide five fellowships each.

10. In addition, the Secretary-General has remained in constant touch with several other countries through their Ambassadors and High Commissioners, several of whom have indicated that the matter of assistance is receiving the active consideration of their governments. Similarly, approaches have also been made to several organizations and individuals in the private sector as well.

Legal Status of the University

11. An Agreement with the Government of Sweden establishing the legal status of the World Maritime University under the auspices of IMO was signed on 9 February 1983 by His Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden and the Secretary-General of IMO in London.

University - Physical, Organizational and Academic Preparations

Facilities

12. Under an Agreement signed between the Secretary-General of IMO and the Municipality of Malmö, the latter has agreed to make available the premises of the former Merchant Marine Academy and residential flats situated in the building called Henrik Smith's House on extremely generous terms for which the Secretary-General is most thankful. These buildings are being upgraded and refurbished at considerable costs to the Municipality and steps to fulfil other commitments of the Agreement are also being taken by the authorities. The requisite facilities will be ready and available well in time. The Rector of the University, Professor S. Arvedson, is looking after this and other related matters personally.

Board of Governors

13. In accordance with the decisions taken by the Council at its forty-ninth session action has been taken in regard to the formation of the Board of Governors on a wide geographical basis. The Secretary-General is happy to report that in some cases nominations have already been received, while in other cases governments have informed that the matter was under consideration.

Visiting Professors and Visiting Lecturers

14. Several eminent and world renowned persons who are specialists in a particular maritime subject or subjects have been approached to provide their services as Visiting Professors and Visiting Lecturers in a purely honorary capacity. Once again, the Secretary-General is happy to report that the responses received and the interest shown have been overwhelming. Already more than 85 positive responses have been received in the most enthusiastic terms while several others are expected. It is reiterated that these services are being provided free of charge and in a spirit imbued with complete dedication to the cause of maritime safety and training and in furtherance of the objectives of the Organization. These professors and lecturers have been drawn from all leading maritime nations and action is also in hand to appoint other academic staff from May 1983.

Contacts with developing countries

15. Very tangible progress has been made in this respect. The Secretary-General has addressed a comprehensive letter to the Ministers of Merchant Marine in developing countries through the kind assistance of the Resident Representatives of the UNDP. The Resident Representatives have been of great help in this

regard and the Secretary-General is most appreciative of their support. The letter from the Secretary-General explains fully the aims and objectives of the World Maritime University, the various courses planned to commence during 1983 and those which are expected to be conducted in 1984 and in subsequent years. It also explains the financial arrangements for the University and the contribution of \$10,000 per student per year which the government is required to make from its available resources including utilization of country IPF. A brochure containing detailed information about the organization and structure of the University and the various courses of study proposed to be established initially at the World Maritime University was also sent with the above mentioned letter.

16. A number of developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and in the Middle East have also been visited by IMO staff and by Regional Advisers, to explain the details of the courses offered initially by the World Maritime University and to assist the countries in the identification and selection of suitable students.

Preparation of Brochure

17. A brochure on the World Maritime University has been prepared which contains the purpose and setting up of the University, its organization and structure, explanatory notes on faculty and students, cost of operating the University, etc. and details of the courses of study. In the session commencing in July 1983 six courses are planned to be conducted. These are the course on General Maritime Administration, course on Maritime Safety Administration, course on Maritime Education, course on Technical Management of Shipping Companies, each of which will be a two-year course leading to a Master of Science degree, while there will be a one-year course for technical officials engaged in maritime safety administration and a one-year course for technical staff of shipping companies. The latter two courses are intended for those personnel who for want of the required eligibility qualifications cannot undertake the two-year post-graduate degree course.

18. In future years the University plans to hold a post-graduate degree course in technical management of ports and several short courses to meet the recommendations of the STCW Convention.

Inauguration of the University

19. The Secretary-General is happy to report that in view of the steady all round progress which has been maintained in the several stages of preparation, which in a number of cases has even been ahead of schedule, the inauguration date would be Monday 4 July 1983, as originally planned and that, as would indeed be befitting to the occasion, His Excellency the Prime Minister, Mr. Olof Palme, has graciously consented to inaugurate the University unless prevented at that time by other important State duties. Once again the Secretary-General would wish to express his profound thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Sweden for his continued and abiding interest and support for IMO and in particular for the World Maritime University.

20. The progress reported above would be incomplete if the fact was not acknowledged that it has been achieved primarily because of the resolute support provided by all Governments Members of IMO. The Secretary-General wishes to convey his deepest gratitude to all of them. He wishes also to express his immense and immeasurable thankfulness to the Council for the tremendous encouragement, guidance and support which the Council has provided constantly.

Action requested of the Council

The Council is invited to note the foregoing progress report and to provide further guidance as appropriate.
