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1-1-1984

Role of Maritime University

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Recommended Citation

Zagorin, B., "Role of Maritime University" (1984). *WMU in the News*. 169.
http://commons.wmu.se/wmu_news/169

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in their countries, they mostly tend to depend on technologists from developed nations to manage their ports which in the long run consume a lot of the otherwise would be saved foreign exchange if the situation was different. Consequently, there has been a substantial increase in the size of merchant fleets of the developing countries enabling them to carry more of their own cargo as well as to have a larger role in the world shipping generally. Therefore the greater involvement of developing countries in the shipping industry and the need

developing countries assisting them in training of their own marine technologists. IMO is also responsible for promoting safety and preventing pollution from ships in the seas. The objectives of IMO are to enable the developing countries to build up their own maritime infrastructure and their own skilled manpower in order to ease their dependence on developed countries for them. In this way they will be able to implement effectively the technical standards of the IMO conventions which require the observances of rules and regulations, survey of

therefore the development of technical assistance programmes which cover the whole world.

Q: Mr. Zagorin can you tell us how the World Maritime University (WMU) came about and what are its aims?

A: The WMU was established after an agreement was signed between the secretary of the IMO, Mr. C.P. Srivastava and the Swedish government for the establishment of the university in Malmo, Sweden, in recognition of the compelling need for an institution to pro-

The WMU will provide a pivotal link in the international system for training in the maritime sector and complement, supplement and strengthen the training activities now being carried out in developing countries. It will also redress the imbalance which now exists between the developed and developing countries in the availability of advanced training in the maritime field. The advanced training in the university will serve to boost the present international network of training and technical co-operation in maritime transport while at

and the Commonwealth has also offered financial support. All the support has been very encouraging because it shows the importance and interest in which the WMU project has aroused in the whole maritime world.

Q: What courses does the university offer and what are the basic requirements for enrolment?

A: The WMU offers four courses which will all take two years in maritime administration, maritime safety, technical management of ship-

Morocco, Tunisia, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Zaire, Ghana, Gabon, Nigeria, Mozambique, Algeria.

Q: How is the World Maritime University likely to benefit Africa?

A: The first graduates within a few years will be back in their own countries putting their newly acquired knowledge into practice and this we hope will not only be beneficiary to their own countries but also prove to be a step to make shipping more efficient and safer too. Economic activities in countries throughout the world are heavily reliant on shipment by sea of innumerable products and materials.

It is a great pity that most people do not realise that a great percentage of the world trade is carried out in sea. Essential commodities from one country to another and from one continent to another are all carried out in the sea. The development of shipping industries in the Third World countries would boost a great percentage of their foreign exchange earners. With the establishment of the WMU it is hoped that many Third World countries will recognise the importance of shipping in boosting their trade overseas. Also, with the development of shipping industries in Third World countries and especially those of Africa with increasing birth rates and therefore increase in their populations, they will be able to exploit the sea for mineral and food resources. The exploitation of the resources found in the sea might in the future be the answer after the tremendous pressure now put on dry land



ON THE SPOT

THIS WEEK: BERNARD ZAGORIN

ON July 4, 1983 international shipping underwent one of the most important development phases in recognition of the compelling need by developing countries for better access to advanced technology and self-reliance in marine activities with the inauguration of the first World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmo, Sweden. It was set up by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) which is a specialised agency of the United Nations. The university will offer developing countries an opportunity to close the technology gap between themselves and the traditional maritime countries. Mr. Bernard Zagorin a senior advisor to the secretary general of (IMO) was interviewed by Emily Onyango of the *Sunday Times* on The World Maritime University, when he visited Kenya recently.



Emily Onyango

Role of Maritime University

QUESTION: Mr. Zagorin, shipping in the Third World countries is one subject that has not been treated with all the importance it deserves, can you tell us what maritime problems Africa faces?

ANSWER: There are many African countries who have very little experience in shipping activities that the developed nations have. Even though they have big sea ports

to maintain global standards have all combined to create in these countries an urgent need to fill the acute shortage of expert personnel in many maritime activities.

Q: What are the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) activities in Africa?

A: IMO has helped in establishing maritime academies in Africa, mainly Egypt, French-speaking African countries, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Mozambique. It has set up a wide network of technical co-operation in most of the

'Third World should stop depending on expat rates to manage their ports'

ships, their inspections and examinations which all require trained personnel and

vide advanced shipping training for developing countries in administration and other fields of maritime transport. The IMO realised that though it provided technical assistance programmes to developing countries, there was still a problem in these countries in form of shortage of trained experienced staff at high levels for the successful implementation of international standards. The difficulty was then discussed at a seminar on training standards in Sweden whose government greatly supported the idea and agreed to provide the facilities for the university.



Mr. Bernard Zagorin

the same time it will strengthen the capacity of developing countries to participate more fully and with great reliance on their own nationals in world shipping activities and to operate more effectively under agreed world standards for maritime safety, safety of navigation and prevention of pollution of seas.

Q: Where did the finance for the university come from?

A: The government of Sweden provides about sh. 14 million a year and further support has been provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other funds come from several IMO member states including those in developing countries

ping companies and general maritime education. All the four are post-graduate science courses which on completion will earn the students master of science degrees in their specific subjects.

Q: How many students from Africa are currently enrolled in the university?

A: The university at the moment has a capacity for 150 students and with its inauguration on July 4 last year it started with 72 students from 42 developing countries all over the world. The largest group, which was very encouraging, came from Africa with 26 students of 18 countries namely Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, Benin, Togo, Somalia,

098 No. 784