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WMU in the News

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# Report on the progress of the World Maritime University

Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization

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TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION  
COMMITTEE - 29th session  
Agenda item 5

IMO

DUPLICATE

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

Note by the Secretariat

1 The progress of the University since the last session of the Technical Co-operation Committee is reported below.

2 Since the twenty-eighth session of the Technical Co-operation Committee, the Executive Council of the World Maritime University met at its fifth session in London on 17 March 1987 at which it considered, in accordance with the Charter, the budget proposals for 1988 and other matters to be dealt with at the fifth session of the Board of Governors.

Graduation of students

3 The World Maritime University held its third graduation on 7 December 1986. On that occasion, 71 Master of Science degrees were awarded to students from 39 countries who satisfied the requirements for graduation on completion of their two year courses of study.

4 With the third graduation in December 1986, a total of 199 students have received their Master of Science degrees on completion of two-year courses and 13 students were given Diplomas for completion of their one-year courses (which were no longer given after 1985). It has been particularly gratifying that generally the graduates of WMU have been assigned to important positions of responsibility in the maritime field, often with promotions, when returning to their home countries. Comments by high officials of many countries have clearly shown the high respect accorded to the University and to the benefits gained by students, from their training and education at WMU, on the part of Governments and maritime authorities in many developing countries. The participation of WMU graduates in international maritime affairs can be

readily seen as a number of graduates have attended meetings of the Assembly, the Council and various Committees of IMO. The clear and substantial evidence of the benefits obtained from study at WMU, as well as the active involvement of graduates themselves, has contributed significantly to a considerable increase in interest in sending students to WMU.

#### Student enrolment in 1987

5 Following the enrolment in 1986 of the largest class so far to enter WMU, (a total of 85 students), there was further substantial growth in 1987 with a new enrolment of 104 students from 59 countries. With the addition in 1987 of nine new countries to send students to WMU - Brazil, Canada, Democratic Yemen, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Yugoslavia - the number of countries whose students have enrolled at WMU has reached the impressive figure of 89.

6 The class which entered in 1987 included, for the first time, students from developed countries, two from Sweden, one from Canada and one from Spain.

7 The intake in 1987 shows very good distribution from all regions of the world. From all the major regions of the developing world - Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean - 20 or more students have enrolled in 1987. A total of eight students entered the University from European countries with UNDP Country Programmes.

8 A summary of the regional distribution of students for all five classes thus far is as follows:-

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT ENROLMENT AT  
WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
1983-1987

	<u>No. of countries</u> <u>1983-1987</u>	<u>Number of students enrolled in</u>					<u>TOTAL STUDENTS</u>
		<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	
Africa	29	25	23	28	28	31	135
Arab States	15	11	6	18	17	21	73
Asia & Pacific	16	12	19	16	20	20	87
Latin America & the Caribbean	21	18	15	17	19	20	89
European countries with UNDP Country Programmes	5	6	2	2	1	8	19
Developed Countries	3	-	-	-	-	4	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>407</b>

9 In 1987, there was an improved distribution among the two-year courses with greater numbers attending the technical courses, particularly Maritime Safety Administration and Maritime Education and Training. The courses on General Maritime Administration and Technical Management of Shipping Companies in 1987 remained at approximately the same numbers as in the previous year.

10 The course distribution of student enrolment at WMU for the five years 1983-1987 is as follows:-

COURSE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT ENROLMENT AT  
WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
1983-1987

<u>Course</u>	Number of students enrolled in:					<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	
General Maritime Administration (Public Admin.) (Ports & Shipping)	22	27	31	38	39	158
	-	-	-	(25)	(25)	
	-	-	-	(13)	(14)	
Maritime Education & Training (Nautical)	9	4	4	11	12	40
Maritime Education & Training (Engineering)	10	1	3	3	8	25
Maritime Safety Administration (Nautical)	15	6	12	12	16	61
Maritime Safety Administration (Engineering)	6	12	7	8	15	48
Technical Management of Shipping Companies	10	12	14	13	14	63
*Technical Officers Engaged in Maritime Safety Administration	-	-	7	-	-	7
*Technical Staff of Shipping Companies	-	3	3	-	-	6
TOTALS	72	65	81	85	104	407

\* One-year courses no longer given at WMU

Academic programme

11 The decision undertaken in 1986 to separate the General Maritime Administration course into two parts, Public Administration and Shipping and Ports, has proved most successful. In addition to dividing the large course into smaller sections, the curriculum is more appropriate to the specific qualifications and experience of the students, and accordingly this is being continued. A new brochure describing the courses of study was issued in March 1987 and incorporates some changes in the modules of the various courses, including the new division of the General Maritime Administration course into its two parts.

12 There has been a marked increase in the participation in the Intensive English Language Programme for the students entering in 1987. For the 18-week course which began in November 1986, 26 students participated as compared with 6 in the previous year. Early in January 1987, an additional 25 students joined the English language programme for the 10-week course, bringing to 51 the total who participated in the language programme in the class entering in 1987. For the extra weeks towards the end of 1986 and the first two-and-a-half months of 1987, the University engaged part-time teachers to supplement the permanent staff of three English language teachers. A similar provision will be made for the next class. During the remainder of the year the permanent English language staff continues to provide help to students requiring assistance in English, including writing workshops and special help for students preparing their second-year theses, if this help is required.

Field training

13 The programme for field trips and on-the-job training continues to be an important part of the University's curriculum. Increasing student numbers and a strengthened programme has required increased funding from year-to-year and this has been provided for in the budgets of the University.

Faculty

14 During 1987 and 1988, the University will be having its first significant turnover of academic personnel. A change-over in the posts of several resident professors is anticipated in these two years and new appointments of maritime lecturers in 1987 and in 1988 will complete the University's plan for academic recruitment.

Financial support to WMU

15 The anticipated increases in financial support from the Governments of Sweden and Norway and the United Nations Development Programme have beneficially affected the income of the University in 1987, as envisaged. In addition to the anticipated income from the Governments of Sweden, Norway and Portugal and from the United Nations Development Programme, budgetary support in 1986 was also received from the Governments of Finland, France and Venezuela and is again anticipated in 1987 from Finland.

Fellowship support

16 There has been an encouraging increase in the number of donors offering fellowships for students to attend WMU. In addition to the continued financing by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden (SIDA), Denmark, Norway (NORAD) and France, in 1987 the Government of Canada (CIDA) has joined Government contributors in the financing of WMU fellowships for students from developing countries. In 1987, the Commonwealth Secretariat continued its financing of five new students each year and the International Centre for Ocean Development in Canada provided fellowship support, as in the previous year, for two students entering in 1987. The International Transport Workers' Federation provided fellowship financing for the first time for three students enrolled in 1987. There has also been a notable increase in financing of fellowships by foundations. The Henri Kummerman Foundation and the Friends of the World Maritime University, USA again provided fellowship financing for new students in 1987 and new contributors were the Salèn Foundation of Sweden, the Royal Swedish Court, joint financing by two Malmö Shipping Foundations and the Swedish Agency for International Technical and Economic Co-operation, all of these contributors supporting one student each in 1987.

Capital Fund

17 It will be recalled that the total contribution to the Capital Fund of WMU amounted to \$US 288,857 as at 31 March 1986. Since then, as at 31 March 1987, the total standing in the Capital Fund amounted to \$US 319,891 including \$US 48,510 of interest earnings.

Financial requirements of the University

18 There is a continuing and urgent need for the University to secure assured financing so that it can provide, well into the future, its service to the international community which was envisaged in the University's Charter. The University will have achieved its maximum student population and full complement of academic and administrative personnel in 1988, and maintaining the University at these levels of no growth will require substantial additional financing in future years. It is, therefore, imperative for Member countries of the International Maritime Organization to consider all possible ways in which support may be given to WMU to ensure its future financial viability.

19 At the same time, Member countries are asked to give serious attention to the question of financing fellowships for students to attend WMU, whether through contributions of official donor organizations or other organizations to enable students to attend the University or by developing countries utilizing their UNDP Country Programmes, arranging assistance through bilateral programmes, or by providing financing through their own national organizations. It is very much hoped that the widening of the circle of donors of WMU fellowships will continue.

20 A major problem confronting the University is the source of fellowship funding required for the enrolment of 100 new students each year, which is to provide roughly half of the University's income. In this context, it is necessary to underline the decision taken by the fifty-sixth session of the IMO Council in June 1986 stating:

"The Council urged all Member States to appeal to the UNDP to maintain its financial support of the World Maritime University at the 1987 level."

and the decision of the fifty-seventh Council in November 1986 in which the Council:

- (a) "appealed to all IMO Members to convey to the United Nations Development Programme through the relevant national authorities at the highest possible level their support for IMO technical co-operation programmes and for the continuing support by UNDP



to the World Maritime University, and to convey to the aid-giving authorities the need for enhanced attention to the maritime sector....;

- (b) reiterated its gratitude to all those associated with the World Maritime University, and stressed the importance of placing the University on a secure financial footing."

21 Member Governments are, therefore, kindly requested to continue their efforts with the UNDP for maintaining the 1987 level of financial support.

Conclusion:

22 In conclusion, the Organization wishes to thank all the international bodies whose decisions have brought the University into being and have provided it with the necessary support. The University is an institution established by IMO, and the continuing support of the IMO governing bodies and all IMO Member States is vital for its effective and efficient functioning.

23 The WMU has been established on a solid academic and administrative foundation, and its graduates attest to its tremendous success in the field of high-level maritime training. The high quality of the graduates of the WMU establishes beyond doubt the excellent professional knowledge acquired at the University. However, it still needs indications of adequate support to ensure its financial viability and unhindered further progress well into the future.

Action requested of the Committee

24 The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided and to comment as appropriate.