

TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE
65th session
Agenda item 9

TC 65/INF.4
1 May 2015
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**CAPACITY BUILDING:
STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT OF WOMEN IN THE MARITIME SECTOR**

Information on the World Maritime University Women's Association (WMUWA)

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides updated information on the World Maritime University Women's Association (WMUWA) and the linkage between that Association with IMO's regional support networks

Strategic direction: 3

High-level actions: 3.3.1, 3.5.2

Planned outputs: 3.3.1.1, 3.5.2.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 11

Related documents: TC 64/INF.6 and TC 64/INF.7

Background

1 The IMO's "Strategy on the Integration of women in the maritime sector" since its initial launch in 1988, has continued to make great impact on the maritime industry through various activities, programmes and associations.

2 To date, seven regional networks have been established under the auspices of IMO for the purpose of capacity building for women in the maritime sector, namely,

- .1 Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PacWIMA);
- .2 Network for Professional Women in the Maritime and Port Sectors of West and central Africa;
- .3 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the Africa Arab International Women's Maritime Forum;
- .4 Association of Women Managers in the Maritime Sector in Eastern and Southern Africa (WOMESA);

- .5 Women in Maritime Association-Asia (WIMA-Asia);
- .6 Forum for Women Managers in the Maritime Sector, Latin America; and
- .7 Women in Maritime Association, Caribbean (WIMAC).

3 In addition to the regional support networks, a number of national chapters have been established, namely, Women in Maritime Philippines (WIMAPHIL) and the Papua New Guinea Women in Maritime Association (PNGWIMA).

The WMU Women's Association

4 Students of the World Maritime University's class of 2014 established the WMU Women's Association (WMUWA), which is recognized by the University and hosted its official launch on 9 August 2014.

5 The objectives of the Association are, inter alia, to connect, educate and inspire women in the maritime industry and to promote the interests of female maritime professionals by the creation of an international network for women from the WMU and women involved in other internationally-recognized female associations in the maritime sector. Membership is open to current WMU students (female) as well as alumni. The Association also welcomes the support of male students, who are eligible to become affiliate members.

6 Since its establishment, the WMUWA has been involved in and hosted a number of activities as follows:

- .1 hosting of a discussion forum in Malmö, Sweden, where female maritime professionals were invited to discuss the viability of the Association and to motivate and encourage the members of the Association. Such professionals included Rear Admiral Stosz of the United States Coast Guard; Ms. Karin Orsel, President of WISTA International; Ms. Lena Göthberg, Secretary-General, Institute of Shipping Analysis; Dr. Tanya Tamara Carlucci Sucre, Head of Compliance and Enforcement Department, Merchant Marine Directorate, Panama Maritime Authority; Ms. Meenaksi Bhirugnath Bhookhun, Maritime Officer, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Mauritius; Ms. Naa Densua Aryeetey, Head of Shipper Services, Ghana Shippers' Authority; and Dr. Victoria Radchenko, Operational Centre of the International Ocean Institute, Ukraine;
- .2 participation in the second international conference on Maritime Women: Global Leadership at WMU (31 March to 1 April 2014);
- .3 hosting of the 2014 International Women's Day tea party to celebrate women around the world and to raise awareness of the issues affecting women globally;
- .4 hosting of a leadership team workshop for the newly inducted WMUWA Leadership;
- .5 establishment of an annual fellowship under the name of the IMO-Women's Association in 2014, which is specifically designated for an appropriately qualified female candidate who lacks other financial support to enable her enrollment at WMU. The first beneficiary of this fellowship was awarded to Ms. Nguyen Quynh Trang of Viet Nam, who is tasked with the particular responsibility of actively supporting the WMUWA during her period of studies;

- .6 hosting of a charity drive to contribute to the less fortunate persons supported by the Skåne Stadsmission, an organization that works with young girls, adolescents and adults in Malmö, Lund, Kristianstad and Helsingborg, Sweden to assist them in dealing with vulnerable life situations and providing them with resources that are not readily available to them. The WMUWA collected an overwhelming number of boxes of clothing from students and staff of the University and donated these to the Skåne Stadsmission;
- .7 hosting of the first WMUWA workshop in Malmö, Sweden, on 13 March 2015 with invited speakers: Mrs. Pamela Tansey, Senior Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO; Dr. Layla El Saeed, Professor, Arab Academy for Science Technology & Maritime Transport; Mrs. Meenaksi Bhirugnath Bhookhun, President, WOMESA; Mr. John Connors, CEO, Council of Marine Professional Associates; and Commander Christine Pauline Diciano, Vice President of the WMUWA, class of 2015. The distinguished panel of speakers covered a wide range of topics including: professionalism and etiquette, coexisting in a male dominated industry and the value of female leadership in the maritime industry. The sessions were chaired by Ms. Aspasia S. Pastra, Research Analyst, Gnosis Management Consultants Ltd. (WMU alumnus, 2004). The feedback from the workshop sparked the realization that much more needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the WMUWA and with greater focus on the matters affecting women in the industry; and
- .8 establishment of the WMUWA Secretariat which is comprised of five members tasked with overseeing the activities of the Association and providing guidance and assistance to the Leadership Team for the period 2014-2019 as follows:
 - .1 Mrs. Pamela Tansey, Senior Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO;
 - .2 Dr. Momoko Kitada, Assistant Professor, WMU;
 - .3 Ms. Deniece Aiken, Founding President, WMUWA;
 - .4 Ms. Ore Ovia Toua, Past Treasurer, WMUWA; and
 - .5 Ms. Nokuzola Mchizwa, Past Sustainability and Network Coordinator, WMUWA.

Linkage to IMO and regional support networks for sustainability and capacity building

7 The established regional networks have provided a channel to address local and regional issues relating to women in the maritime sector. It is beneficial for female graduates of WMU, in particular, to have access to adequate support to build up their careers when they return to their countries. While they are primarily based in the existing WMU alumni network, the WMUWA will be able to serve as the link between the WMU alumni and the IMO's regional support networks to effectively promote women in the maritime sector. Similarly, the WMUWA aims to establish itself as that link between maritime training institutions and the regional support networks, providing a strong network whilst also providing qualified female maritime professionals to serve the industry at the regional and national levels.

8 The WMUWA also aims to contribute to the sustainability of the regional support groups as their membership will be reinforced regularly by returning graduates who also maintain their WMU international contacts through WMUWA. The Association will facilitate this process by arranging workshops and seminars. The expertise necessary to lead these activities is to be found in the regional groups and among WMU alumni. This sharing of regional expertise in an international forum such as WMUWA is part of the capacity-building activities in its truest sense. Regional expertise: global impact.

Projected Activities

9 The WMUWA seeks to improve its impact and visibility through continued programmes and activities geared at empowering women in the maritime sector while building capacity to support the existing regional support networks for women, and participating in discussions with the stakeholders of the industry at the national and regional levels.

10 In an effort to attain this and other objectives of the Association, the following activities are scheduled to take place within the coming months:

- .1 membership enrolment: the WMUWA currently has 136 members and in an effort to better engage the membership, attract new members and for accountancy and identification, the Association will improve the administration of membership through a designated Membership Coordinator, who will be tasked with assigning registered-member numbers and issuing electronic membership letters to the membership;
- .2 establishment of a mentorship programme: in an effort to solidify the linkage to the regional support groups, the Association will launch its "Each One Teach One" programme, which aims at pairing each female enrolled at the WMU with a female maritime professional from the regional support groups, who will act as a mentor and will facilitate continued communication and support throughout the student's tenure at WMU;
- .3 IMO-WMU Women's Association Fellowship: the WMUWA seeks to maintain the current partnered fellowship with the IMO to fund one appropriately qualified female to attend the WMU;
- .4 social responsibility: to maintain our social responsibility, the WMUWA will continue to host charity drives for the collection of the basic necessities for the host charity organizations in and around Sweden and with them aim of contributing to other countries of the world in the near future. The Association will also host clean-ups of the beaches and natural surroundings as well as the University premises as an annual contribution to the sustenance of the WMU and its environs;
- .5 annual discussion forum: the WMUWA wishes to establish an annual discussion forum, to include the invitation of female maritime professionals to speak to the membership to encourage and motivate the members as well as facilitate topical discussions and research;
- .6 establishment of a WMUWA periodical: in an effort to build capacity in the area of research, the WMUWA seeks to establish a quarterly periodical, aimed at fostering research and discourse on topical issues in the maritime sector, as well as, introduce a gender-focused research and data source;

- .7 promotion of speakers: the WMUWA aims to promote its members to be engaged as speakers at conferences worldwide and to develop experts in the maritime sector. The Association will be actively making attempts to source these speaking engagements for the members;
- .8 an annual meeting of the WMUWA Secretariat: the Association has benefitted from the guidance of the Secretariat and in aid of improving the efficiency of this group of persons, it is important that the members have at least one meeting annually. The first meeting is scheduled to be held in late 2015 or early 2016; and
- .9 development of a communication platform: it is imperative that active communication be maintained between the Association and its members. The WMUWA will embark on the development of a website which will, among other things, facilitate the application of prospective members, channel of communication and information for existing members and improve visibility of the Association on a global level. It will function alongside the Facebook page to extend its reach to as many end users as possible.

Action requested of the Committee

11 The Committee is invited to note the information provided and take any action it considers appropriate.
