

TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE
66th session
Agenda item 8

TC 66/INF.8
19 August 2016
ENGLISH ONLY

**CAPACITY BUILDING: STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT OF WOMEN
IN THE MARITIME SECTOR**

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

Submitted 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 and IMO's regional support networks

Strategic direction: 3

High-level action: 3.3.1, 3.5.2

Output: 3.3.1.1, 3.5.2.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 10

Related document: TC 65/INF.4

Background

1 Students of the World Maritime University's class of 2014 established the WMU Women's Association (WMUWA), which is recognized by the University.

2 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. One fellowship per year is specifically designated under the name of the IMO-Women's Association for an appropriately-qualified female candidate who lacks other financial support to enable her enrolment. A student from Honduras is the most recent beneficiary of this fellowship. She is tasked with the particular responsibility of actively supporting WMUWA during her period of studies.

3 Membership is open to current WMU students (female) as well as alumnae. The Association also welcomes the support of male students, who are eligible to become affiliate members. As of August 2016, the membership of WMUWA was 154.

Female students at the World Maritime University

4 Since its establishment by IMO in 1983, WMU has educated over 4,000 graduates from 166 countries. There are currently 478 female graduates from 81 countries for the MSc programme in Malmö, and 794 female graduates from 96 countries in total. Approximately one fifth of the WMU Faculty is comprised of women.

5 The class of 2016 recorded the highest female intake with 35 women (32%), a significant increase from 25% in the previous year.

WMUWA activities to increase the impact of women in the maritime sector

6 From May 2015 to July 2016, the activities carried out by WMUWA include:

- .1 hosting of the WMUWA research seminar on ocean governance, held as the first "maritime soirée" on 20 August 2015. The seminar focused on ocean governance research by female researchers; external speakers included Dr. Lise Langaker (Norway). Over 40 people attended, almost evenly split between males and females. The message from the WMU President, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, highlighted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"; SDG 7 "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all"; and SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development";
- .2 hosting of the WMUWA charity drive, held in October 2015. Students and staff collected clothes for charity and donated them to the Skåne Stadsmission. A similar charity drive will be conducted in September 2016 to support a sustainable environment;
- .3 hosting of the International Women's Day workshop, held at WMU on 9 March 2016, under the theme of gender parity: "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality". This event was launched by a special message from the WMU President. The results of a survey on gender equality, distributed to all WMU students and staff, formed a basis for the workshop discussions. The workshop was supported by a social media campaign for gender parity;
- .4 WMU student sports events have often reflected male students' preferences and are led by men. To promote gender-inclusive sports, a survey was conducted in collaboration with the WMU Student Council. The sports shown to be most in demand by female students were volleyball and zumba (aerobics). WMUWA has subsequently organized these sporting activities, offering a more gender inclusive range of events; and
- .5 WMUWA also organized social events in the summer of 2016, such as a movie night and a beach picnic, which included team-building activities which connected the students in different classes, from different countries and cultures, and of different genders. Attendance at these social events was high and were deemed to be very successful.

Linkage to IMO and its regional support networks for capacity building

7 A growing number of WMU alumnae are an important human resource supporting IMO's activities (refer to annex 1 to this document).

8 Many female officials who are a member of one of IMO's seven regional associations for women in the maritime sector have expressed an interest in studying at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and WMU. During the recent IMO-sponsored events to promote integration of women in the maritime sector, it was noted that WMUWA has an important role in supporting capacity building for women at the regional level through education and training at WMU. Assistant Professor Momoko Kitada represented WMU by providing technical support in the areas of gender equality and maritime energy at the Women in Maritime Asia regional conference on "Promoting women's advocacy for domestic ferry safety, held in Manila, Philippines in September 2015, and the regional conference to relaunch the Pacific Women in Maritime Association, held in Nuku'Alofa, Tonga in April 2016.

Future activities

9 WMUWA seeks to improve its impact and the visibility of women in the maritime sector through programmes to support IMO's seven regional support networks for women. The following activities are scheduled to take place in the coming months:

- .1 WMUWA will host the second "maritime soirée" in October 2016 to promote membership among the new class of 2017 students. The agenda of the soirée will look at ways to motivate more women to pursue careers in the maritime field;
- .2 the WMUWA International Women's Day event will be held on 8 March 2017;
- .3 WMUWA has opened Twitter and Instagram accounts in addition to its Facebook page; all are continuously updated. Increased social media networking is planned, including the creation of a WMUWA LinkedIn account and a dedicated WMUWA website;
- .4 an annual WMUWA periodical will be published at the end of October 2016;
- .5 a mentorship programme will be launched in 2017 to establish a direct linkage between IMO's seven regional support networks for women and WMUWA. Each WMUWA member will maintain contact with the maritime women's association of their country and/or region. Thus, enhancing WMUWA's networking platform, providing opportunities for women in their respective countries and regions, and establishing continuity for regional women's associations to work towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; and
- .6 a funding proposal will be developed by the Secretariat and the WMUWA Executive Committee that will outline fundraising strategies, associated timelines, objectives and targets to support WMUWA and sustain the Association's operations.

Action requested of the Committee

10 The Committee is invited to note the information provided in this document.

ANNEX 1

FEMALE GRADUATES OF WMU AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN IMO'S REGIONAL SUPPORT NETWORKS

Female graduates of WMU are widely involved in the activities of IMO's seven regional associations for women in the maritime sector namely:

1. Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PacWIMA);
2. Network of 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 Asia (WIMA Asia);
6. Latin America Forum for Women Maritime Managers; and the
7. Women in Maritime Association, Caribbean (WiMAC).

ANNEX 2

CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAMS IN THE WMUWA

The Class of 2015 conducted a handover ceremony to the 2016 WMUWA Executive Committee Members on 21 October 2015. The Executive Committee members elected from the Class of 2016 are as follows:

1. Ms. Mwanaulu Issa Mwajita (Kenya) – President;
2. Ms. Maritza Queeley (Saint Kitts and Nevis) – Vice-President;
3. Ms. Maria Carolina Jimenez (Panama) – Secretary;
4. Ms. Helena Claudia Amanfu (Ghana) – Treasurer;
5. Ms. Boitumelo Olga Mano (South Africa) – Policy Officer;
6. Ms. Thalatha Sreeni Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka) – Events Coordinator;
7. Ms. Jemima Afua Ansa-Otu (Ghana) – Sustainability and Networking Officer;
8. Ms. Anusha Parvatee Sohatee-Tulloo (Mauritius) – Projects Coordinator; and
9. Ms. Pitinoot Kotcharat (Thailand) – Public Relations Officer.

The WMUWA Secretariat 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. The Secretariat is comprised as follows:

1. Mrs. Pamela Tansey, Former Senior Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO (United Kingdom);
2. Dr. Momoko Kitada, Assistant Professor, WMU (Japan);
3. Ms. Deniece Aiken, Founding President, WMUWA (Jamaica);
4. Ms. Ore Ovia Toua, Past Treasurer, WMUWA (Papua New Guinea); and
5. a vacant position.