



World Maritime University Graduation Ceremony 2022

By Liaison officer Lars E Sahlin

On 31 October, the maritime leaders of tomorrow graduated from the World Maritime University (WMU).

The Class of 2022 has received the education required to contribute to maritime and ocean matters in their home countries, and more broadly, the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The graduating class includes 276 graduates from 70 countries, and sets a record of 94 female graduates.

WMU President, Dr Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, delivered welcome remarks highlighting the return of the first “normal” graduation since 2019, due to COVID-19. She congratulated the graduates and highlighted the importance of the WMU alumni network that will be particularly crucial in the years to come – particularly as there are only eight years left to achieve the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

“You will have battles to fight, you will need to be careful and strategic in accomplishing your goals. But, together you will be able to make change happen, and the world will be a better place, thanks to your efforts,” Dr Doumbia-Henry said.

This year’s Guest of Honour was Mr Emanuele Grimaldi, President and Managing Director of Grimaldi Euromed and Chairperson of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS). He spoke of the urgent and serious environmental issues we face.

Mr Grimaldi spoke extensively about the responsibility of the entire shipping sector to turn the tide in how we address decarbonisation, and contribute in a significant way to the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development.

“Only a common global solution can solve a common global problem,” Mr Grimaldi said.

In his graduation address, HE Mr Kitack Lim, the first International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General and WMU Chancellor to hold a MSc degree from WMU, thanked the City of Malmö and the Government of Sweden for their continued generosity and support in hosting the University.

Mr Lim also thanked the many donors for their ongoing commitment to the WMU mission and its sustainability. He highlighted the strength of WMU's interdisciplinary studies that result in well-rounded, informed, intelligent individuals, with a holistic approach to maritime and ocean subjects. Additionally, Mr Lim spoke of the deeply interconnected maritime world in which the graduates' paths would cross again with their classmates, predecessors, and successors.

“Together, you join the mighty international network of WMU graduates, who are a great force for good in the world. You have been equipped to work as experts for the benefit of the international maritime community, and its future rests on your shoulders,” Mr Lim said.

On behalf of the City of Malmö, Ms Carina Nilsson, Mayor and Chairperson of Malmö City Council addressed the gathering and expressed pride in hosting the University. She emphasised that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are guiding stars for both the City of Malmö and WMU.

With over 180 different nationalities in Malmö, she noted that the City is often described as a young, modern and global city, the same characteristics that could be attributed to WMU students.

Of the 276 graduates, 131 are from the Malmö MSc programme, and 63 graduates from the China programme, making a total number of 194 MSc graduates in 2022; four PhD graduates; 2 MPhil graduates and 76 graduates from the distance learning programmes including 8 LLM graduates.

The 2022 graduation ceremony brings the total number of WMU graduates to 5,910 from 171 countries.

Annual Student Awards

The Chancellor's Medal for Academic Excellence for the MSc in Maritime Affairs 2022 in Malmö, as well as the C P Srivastava Award for International Fellowship, were awarded to Mr Herbert de Vera Nalupa (Philippines). Ms Elisabetta Pietrobon (Italy) received the Richard Charvet Scholarship for the Postgraduate Diploma in International Maritime Law. Ms Mo-Ran Pia Maria Han Lindberg (Sweden) received the Richard Charvet Scholarship for the best student of the Master of Laws in International Maritime Law.

Postgraduate Diploma

Elisabetta Pietrobon is a lawyer under Italian law. She has been working for the European Union for more than twenty years, in several different fields ranging from foreign policy to parliamentary affairs and security: Since her years at university she has developed a keen interest in maritime affairs that led her, among other things, to deal with maritime security within the European Commission, notably in the development of an innovative mechanism for enhanced maritime security awareness through improved information exchange (CISE – Common Information Sharing Environment). Enrolling in the Postgraduate Diploma course offered by the World Maritime University offered her a way to deepen her knowledge of maritime issues while drawing on her law background. She also highly appreciated the deep insight into common law provided by the training.

LLM = Master of Laws in International Maritime Law

Mo-Ran Pia Maria Han Lindberg . She is a originally Swedish but currently live in Dubai, United Arab Emirates since 2008 where I work as compliance manager for Monjasa, a bunker trading company. She have an LLM from Uppsala university, however, since she joined the shipping industry in 2013, she have always had an interest for maritime law and finally in 2019 after the completing the certificate course in maritime law, she decided to start the Post Graduate Diploma course and continued with the LLM course in September 2021. It has been an incredibly interesting journey, having the opportunity to study together with students from other parts of the worlds who are also involved in the shipping industry. The WMU has been very kind and supportive and I feel that I have learned so much over these past years.

“I feel incredibly grateful and humbled to receive this award and would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the World Traders for this recognition and to the WMU for their academic support.”