



Development Paper

Note by the Secretariat of the IMO regarding the IMO's recent initiative to revise the existing Maritime English Model Course

This month the MariFuture Development Paper focuses on key developments in Maritime English as reported in the IMLA 2014 Conference which took place in China in October 2014. The Conference was timely as it coincided with the IMO's recent initiative to revise the existing Maritime English Model Course.

The note by the Secretariat of the IMO, see the following paragraphs, is very encouraging, It mentions MarTEL and SeaTALK and gives details of MarTEL phase tests. This is very encouraging for MariFuture, not only for the future development of MarTEL, but also for making the seas safer for all seafarers and sea users.

The introductory note by the Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General, is given below and the draft revised model course can be accessed from the following link ([Link to Model Course](#)) and partners are invited to review it and let us have their views. All contributions will be reviewed and forwarded to IMLA.

Regards

The Marifuture Team

The IMO Note

Since its inception the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recognized the importance of human resources to the development of the maritime industry and has given the highest priority to assisting developing countries in enhancing their maritime training capabilities through the provision or improvement of maritime training facilities at national and regional levels. IMO has also responded to the needs of developing countries for postgraduate training for senior personnel in administrations, ports, shipping companies and maritime training institutes by establishing the world Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden, in 1983.

Following the adoption of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, a number of IMO Member Governments had suggested that IMO should develop model training courses to assist in the implementation of the Convention and in achieving a more rapid transfer of information and skills regarding new developments in maritime technology. IMO training advisers and consultants also subsequently determined from their visits to training establishments in developing countries that the provision of model courses could help instructors improve the quality of their existing courses and enhance their implementation of the associated Conference and IMO Assembly resolutions.

In addition, it was appreciated that a comprehensive set of short model courses in various fields of maritime training would supplement the instruction provided by maritime academies and allow administrators and technical specialists already employed in maritime administrations, ports and shipping companies to improve their knowledge and skills in certain specialized fields. With the generous assistance of the Government of Norway, IMO developed model courses in response to these generally identified needs and now keeps them updated through a regular revision process taking into account any amendments to the requirements prescribed in IMO instruments and any technological developments in the field.

These model courses may be used by any training institution and, when the requisite financing is available, the Organization is prepared to assist developing countries in implementing any course.

Koji Sekimizu

Secretary-General