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Manpower Development of Maritime Professionals in Singapore

Introduction
With Singapore heavily investing itself to be a premier International Maritime Centre, maritime professionals for shore-based maritime careers in Singapore are demanded urgently. BSc (Maritime Studies) degree programme in NTU, being the first local Maritime degree programme, plays a crucial role in training manpower for the maritime industry.

Objectives:
Collect and analyse data from BSc(MS) students/graduates on following aspects: reasons for choosing BSc(MS) degree programme, experiences/expectations on industrial immersion and academic exchange to BI (Norway), and employment prospects.

Methodology:
Literature reviews, Surveys

Respondents’ characteristics:

Experiences/expectations about Industrial Immersion
- Acquire professional skills: shipping rules, ship chartering, brokering knowledge, terminal administration skills, etc.
- Acquire general business skills: report writing and presentation skills, interpersonal skills, etc.
- Help in future career choice

Experiences/expectations about Exchange study in Norway
- Norwegian School of Management (BI)
- Academic exchange to BI (Norway), and employment prospects.

Benefits
- Learn in a more mature maritime education system
- Gain experience in a more developed maritime nation
- Gain an international and intercultural exposure
- Experience an independent life

Disbenefits
- Very costly
- Too far away from home for 5 months
- Isolation from local (Singapore) life
- Cold weather in winter

Top reason for choosing BSc (MS) degree programme
1. Passions for the maritime industry
2. Good job prospects in the maritime industry
3. Attraction of the programme itself
4. Others

Research subjects:
- 5 cohorts of Maritime Studies students/graduates of Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

Job prospects
1. Shipping operation
2. Shipping management
3. Ship brokerage
4. Ship chartering
5. Ship finance
6. Freight forwarding
7. Marine insurance
8. Marine legal services
9. Marine surveying
10. Logistics services
11. Port/terminal operation
12. Government/regulatory authorities
13. Others

Current salary of Graduates respondents
- 4000-4500
- 3500-4000
- 3000-3500
- 2500-3000
- 2000-2500
- 1500-2000

Conclusions:
- Great passions and high expectations for maritime industry as more and more fresh talents are being trained for the huge maritime industry
- Education efforts for maritime industry in Singapore is under rapid and comprehensive development, with the BSc (MS) degree offered by NTU being a premier programme for shore-based maritime professionals
- Job prospects for shipping industry in Singapore are rather broad with strong demand for shore-based maritime professionals

Project Title: Manpower Development of Maritime Professionals in Singapore
Supervisor: Associate Professor Wong Yik Diew

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