



Press release

Last Friday 30th of October 2009, the first Master students received their diploma '**Master Shipping and Transport**' of the **Netherlands Maritime University** from Mr Erik Hietbrink, Chairman of STC-Group. With this milestone STC-Group marks a unique event for a number of reasons: Originating as a college for vocational education for the shipping and transport sector, STC-Group is the first school to deliver Master graduates. Next to this, the students receive a Master diploma which is accredited by both the Ministry of Education in the Netherlands as of South-Korea.

Students started in March 2008 with the Master Shipping and Transport curriculum and followed their courses in both countries; at Netherlands Maritime University's branch school STC-Korea in Gwangyang as well as on the main campus in Rotterdam. STC-Korea is the first foreign educational institute in Korea. The graduates come from a variety of countries: South-Korea, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Zambia and Oman. Students have gained unique maritime management knowledge and competencies throughout the past eighteen months. In the last six months, students have dedicated their time to write a Master thesis in their countries of origin and with their employer under supervision of NMU.

With the completion of the first Master program, NMU sets an important step towards further strengthening the maritime knowledge infrastructure in Rotterdam and the Netherlands. Knowledge that is difficult, if not impossible to find in one Master curriculum. However so much needed all over the world! The Master Shipping and Transport program receives worldwide interests from students, universities and companies, which offers unique opportunities for the promotion of Rotterdam as World Knowledge Port. Students are Rotterdam's trading partners for the future. In short STC-Group sets a trend with the NMU to maintain, expand and strengthen the highly specialised maritime knowledge base in The Netherlands.

Further information can be obtained at;
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