

STC-Korea Students on Exchange Program to Rotterdam, the Netherlands

From September 5th until October 3th 2008 the first group of students 'Master Shipping and Transport' at STC-Korea have participated in an exchange program of Netherlands Maritime University (NMU) in Rotterdam. This International Exchange Program is part of Netherlands Maritime University's Master program, in which students follow courses in two locations: STC-Korea in Gwangyang (Korea) and at STC-Group's head office in Rotterdam (the Netherlands). Students have been familiarised with Dutch culture as well as with the Port of Rotterdam, one of the world's largest port and shipping centres.

On Friday evening 5th of September the group of 17 students and a STC-Korea staff representative arrived at Schiphol Amsterdam Airport. Two staff members from the NMU welcomed a internationally mixed group, with students coming from Korea, Indonesia, Oman, Bangladesh and Zambia. The timing of their arrival could not be better for students following a Shipping and Transport education program! That particular weekend Rotterdam celebrated its World Port Days, which attracted around 400,000 visitors.

During their stay the students followed classes of the course Port Design & Management. Students visited the Port of Rotterdam Authority, where the students were introduced to the project organisation that prepares the port expansion of Maasvlakte 2. Maasvlakte 2 is the new port and industrial zone that is to be built at the outskirts of the existing port and into the North Sea. 1000 hectares of sites will become available for deepsea-related container throughout, distribution, chemicals and new industry. After the presentation, the group of students visited the port control room. The Control Room, situated on the 19th floor of the World Port Centre, is equipped with state-of-the-art information systems, and visibility tools. On large screens, operators have an overview of all ship movements within the port area, with the possibility to retrieve all kinds of detailed information on the ship, its cargo, voyage, classification and more. In total, the control room manages the annual traffic of 100,000 movements of sea-going vessels and 320,000 movements by inland ships.

In the afternoon the students headed for the brand new Euromax Terminal, located at Maasvlakte. The Euromax Terminal was officially opened on September 5th and is a joint development by Europe Container Terminal (ECT) and the CKYH Alliance (Cosco Group, K-Line, Yang Ming Line and Hanjin Shipping). After all construction plans are delivered, the Euromax Terminal will have a capacity of 5 million TEU. For the students this tailor-made visit was an excellent opportunity to get up close and personal with the latest container terminal technology.

For various aspects of the course, simulators and 'management games' were used to gain practical experience and execution of business cases as assignments;

- SIM-Port Management Game; simulation game that mimics the real processes involved in planning, equipping and exploiting a port expansion area in a simulated period of 30 years.
- Euro Port Management Game; business case in which a fictive landlord port undergoes a transition from a conventional and bulk port, towards a port in which containers and ro-ro traffic have a majority share in port traffic. Students are fulfilling the functions of stevedores and agents, that have to negotiate on prices, cargo and make investments for new terminals.
- Full Mission Bridge Simulator; in this course used for testing and training management capacities, communication and team work
- Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Simulator exercise ; this course provided an opportunity for the students to design and operate a VTS system.



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As an outcome of this exchange program, students were provided with a lifetime experience in relation to planning, designing, operating and optimising ports, terminals and navigation fairways through fieldtrips, simulators training and management games. Trust the students will be able to apply some port organisation and management aspects after returning in their home country or organisation.

Last but not least, there were plenty of opportunities for leisure activities and visiting the 'hotspots' in the Netherlands. Weekend programs included a sailing trip on tall ship 'The Eendracht,' visit to the wind mills at Kinderdijk and a visit to the capital city of Amsterdam. Especially the bicycle tour on a Saturday afternoon in Amsterdam, with its narrow streets and canals, turned out to be a real adventure. Some students of the group are able to navigate a 300 meters length, 300,000 DWT vessel through the Suez Canal, but riding a bike seems to demand other capabilities...

On October 7th classes started again at STC-Korea premises in Gwangyang. Students will continue studying until mid-March 2009. Then the students will start their Thesis project, being in Korea, their home country or in Rotterdam.

The start date of the Master Shipping and Transport program in Gwangyang, Korea is March 16th 2009. The application is now open. Please visit www.stc-korea.kr or www.stc-nmu.eu where an application form can be downloaded.

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