

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

From August 15th until September 19th 2009 the second 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.

The group consists of 13 different nationalities and represent countries from North and South East Asia, Middle-East, Africa and Latin-America. They all have a background in the shipping and transport sector. They work as navigator, engineer, for the port authority, Ministry of Transport, logistics service provider, ship broker/charterer, or as lecturer within a maritime institute.

During their stay the students followed classes as usual. Next to that the students visited f.e. 'Futureland' which is a visitor centre of 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. Of course visits to ECT, EMO and Deltaworks were organised for the students. These tailor-made visits were 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.
- 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.

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.' The timing of this trip 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. Furthermore they visited the wind mills at Kinderdijk and the capital city Amsterdam.

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.

Please visit www.stc-korea.kr or www.stc-nmu.eu for more information on Netherlands Maritime University and the Master Shipping and Transport program

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