With the Sydney harbour fireworks still fresh in my mind I find it hard to believe that we are a whole decade into the ‘new’ millennium. Yet there it is. 2010 has been and gone and all that is left is to reflect upon is what has been achieved and where we might go next.

In terms of our achievements, in the last ten years, we have seen SIRC develop a reputation for thorough and impartial research in the under-developed area of maritime social science. This has allowed us to secure funding to undertake studies on behalf of policy making bodies such as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and it has led to a number of approaches from a diverse range of organisations including, in 2010, the Professional Yachtsmen’s Association (PYA). Importantly, it has also resulted in the award of significant funding from our two largest sources of financial support – The Nippon Foundation¹ and The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust (The LRET)². Such diversification of our funding base has allowed us to expand our range of research and make a broader contribution to the maritime community than was hitherto possible. This has, in turn, stimulated a wider interest in our work facilitating a greater potential impact on policy and practice in the sector and spurring us on in our research efforts.

The other major area in which we have made considerable progress in the last decade is in relation to our academic reputation. This has been enhanced by the production of a range of publications designed to present our research findings to the broadest possible audience. At one end of the scale articles have been published in highly esteemed peer-reviewed academic journals whilst at the other we have placed our own research reports ‘on-line’ to be accessible to the widest possible audience via our own website.

Despite the importance attached by Universities to the former kind of activity, it is probably the latter practice which has played a greater part in allowing us to become known internationally.

¹ The Nippon Foundation supports a wide range of domestic and international activities including maritime development and protection of the marine environment.

² The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust (The LRET) is an independent charity working to achieve advances in transportation, science, engineering and technology education, training and research worldwide for the benefit of all.
Today the Centre is regularly approached by scholars and researchers keen to work with us, to visit the centre, and to collaborate on new projects. SIRC staff are in demand to speak at conferences, as external examiners, and as book and article reviewers. Generally speaking the contribution that SIRC now makes to the academic community is greatly enhanced.

Last, but by no means least, it is important to mention the development of the PhD programme at SIRC. At the beginning of the decade SIRC had very few post-graduate students. However in 2004, with the support of The Nippon Foundation, the Centre was able to rapidly expand its post-graduate programme. As a result, in 2010 alone, we saw four students complete their theses and pass their viva examinations.

So, on reflection it is fair to say that the past ten years have been fruitful, but what of the future? The decade has ended with an ongoing international financial crisis and in the UK ‘austerity measures’ have only just begun to bite. University education has been hit hard producing social unrest and forcing redundancies in some departments. Yet this is just the beginning, and in the short term research activity is likely to diminish as a result of cutbacks in the next few years. Research centres will be vulnerable to closure and competition for government grants will become particularly fierce.

Despite this challenging context, however, I remain optimistic that SIRC will survive the storms that lie ahead. The Centre is fortunate to have support from funders who take a long-term view of the future and have a strong interest in capacity building in relation to research focussing upon the human aspects of the industry. We are also fortunate that, despite the impact of economic turbulence on the shipping industry, we nevertheless enjoy support for our studies allowing us to continue to access people despite their increasingly tight schedules and pressured working lives. At such times we are particularly appreciative of, and grateful for, the far-sightedness of such individuals and their willingness to contribute to the ‘greater good’ of the maritime community.

Professor Helen Sampson
Activities and Events

In terms of specific activities and events 2010 has been another busy year.

It began with a visit from a delegation from the National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCS), based within China. Our guests, from a range of academic disciplines, hoped to learn more about the Seafarers International Research Centre with a view to potential future collaboration and cooperation. They included: Wu Shicun, President; Kang Baiying Vice President; Ren Huaifeng, Deputy Director of Research Centre for Oceans Law and Policy; Zhao Wei, Assistant Researcher of Research Centre for Oceans Law and Policy; Sun Chengcai, Assistant Researcher of Research Centre for Maritime Economy.

The New Year also saw the return of doctoral research fellow Helle Oltedal from the Faculty of Technology, Business and Maritime Sciences at Stord/Haugesund University College, Norway. Having drafted a collaborative paper with Dr Wadsworth and Mr Ellis in 2009, Helle returned to revise this work and progress a second paper in line with requirements for her studies.

In early February Professor Sampson was delighted to offer a keynote address at an event hosted by AMET and the National Maritime Foundation in Chennai, India. Here she met with the new President of the World Maritime University and a number of familiar friends from a range of shipping-related backgrounds. The hospitality of the organisers was overwhelming and Professor Sampson was very happy to make a contribution to their efforts to stimulate postgraduate research within maritime science in India.

A little later in the month The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust organised a ‘Marine and Offshore Research Workshop’ hosted by the National University of Singapore. Here Professor Sampson was joined by other members of SIRC namely Dr Bailey, Mr Ellis and Dr Tang. The team found the papers at the event stimulating and thought provoking and enjoyed a very memorable banquet organised by their hosts in part celebration of Chinese New Year. Just to round off the trip they visited a Buddhist temple for New Year blessings .... a memorable moment in an eventful visit.

In March, it was the turn of Dr Bailey to visit India in order to deliver a paper at the Manning and Training Conference held in Mumbai. The paper was based upon research developed by The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust Research Unit at SIRC and discussed Seafarers’ Perceptions of Risk. Later in the month Dr Bailey attended a Digital Ship Round-table meeting in London to contribute to a debate on ‘Seafarer Safety and the Role of Technology’.
In early April, the annual British Sociological Association conference was held in Glasgow. Dr Bailey joined with former SIRC Research Associate, Dr Nik Winchester, to deliver a paper relating to global justice. This represents just one moment in an on-going research collaboration between the two who have developed a successful writing and research partnership.

In early May, following up on contacts made at The LRET workshop in Singapore Professor Sampson, Dr Bailey, Mr Ellis and Dr Tang visited researchers at Imperial College to discuss potential synergies in their respective research programmes and future plans for collaboration and dissemination.

Later in the month Professor Sampson was very pleased to be invited to take part in an all day seminar organised by The Nautical Institute West Scotland Branch in honour of the Year of the Seafarer. The event was hosted aboard The Tall Ship in Glasgow Harbour and discussed the challenges and opportunities for seafarers in 2010. In this context Professor Sampson’s paper specifically considered seafarer welfare.

In June, Professor Sampson was invited to become a member of the European Commission’s Task Force on Maritime Employment and Competitiveness chaired by Sir Robert Coleman. The objective of the task force is to assist the commission in developing policy which will promote the right balance between employment conditions for EU seafarers and the competitiveness of the European fleet.

On the 17th and 18th of June the third residential SIRC-NF Alumni event was held at Llansantffraed Court in Monmouthshire. Alongside alumni and current fellows Professors Sampson and Walters contributed to the event and welcomed Mr Elgan Lloyd from the MCA (and currently seconded to EMSA) to address the audience on the role of the European Maritime Safety Agency.

The following week, Dr Bailey and Professor Sampson attended the ESRC Centre for Risk and Regulation (CARR) one-day conference at Whitehall, London. This event marked the end of the ESRC Centre Grant to CARR.

In mid July Professor Sampson delivered a paper at the International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress of Sociology, in Gothenburg, Sweden. Subsequently she was nominated to join the board organising the stream for the Sociology of Work and was duly elected at the end of the year.
In September, Professor Sampson was delighted to attend the International Shipping Federation’s annual Manning and Training Conference in London. As ever the event was enjoyable and informative and was attended by a variety of operational staff and policy makers.

This was also the month when SIRC received a long-stay visitor from China. Meng Li joined us for a twelve-month period as a visiting scholar from Dalian Maritime University. At a specially organised buffet, he was officially welcomed alongside three new PhD students, supported by The Nippon Foundation, by Professor Sampson and the new Director of the School of Social Sciences (Professor Malcolm Williams).

As the new academic year got underway Professor Sampson visited the World Maritime University in Malmö in her capacity as external examiner whilst Dr Bailey initiated and convened the SIRC Seminar Series 'Background to the Maritime Industry’. Two external speakers attended SIRC to deliver seminars as part of the series and as such Professor Stephen Bonsall (Liverpool John Moores University) gave a session on ‘The role of Maritime Education and Training within the context of shipping as a globalised industry’ while Mr Steve Davies of Graig Shipping Plc discussed ‘Ship Management’ with SIRC staff and postgraduates. We are very grateful to them both for their contributions and time.

In a separate development SIRC staff and students were fortunate to be given the opportunity to participate in an in-house seminar offered to us by Professor Michael Quinlan from the University of New South Wales. Professor Quinlan was visiting the Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre (CWERC) which is run by Professor Walters. As a close collaborator of Professor Walters, he has written and researched extensively on the health and safety consequences of precarious employment and outsourcing in land based industries. Seminar participants were able to consider the implications of his work for sea-based contexts.

In October, in his role as External Examiner for nautical science and maritime related programmes at Liverpool John Moores University, Dr Bailey participated in an exam board meeting via video conference.

Finally in mid November Professor Sampson attended the 11th Asia-Pacific Manning & Training Conference in Manila. As always the conference was well-attended and Professor Sampson was able to catch up with many colleagues and contacts having been absent from the audience for a couple of years.
The work of The LRET Research Unit at SIRC

Three projects are ongoing as part of the work of The LRET funded Research Unit at SIRC. These are:

- A study of perceptions of risk
- A study of training and technology
- A new study of vessel accommodation

The study of Perceptions of Risk is the most established piece of work at the Unit and three major research reports have already been published on-line reporting research findings in a format intended to be accessible to members of the shipping industry and to international scholars with an interest in this area. A fourth report is currently being worked up from qualitative data collected from five shipping organisations. This report will seek to shed light on the reasons why perceptions of risk vary across companies despite efforts to encourage a more homogenous understanding of safety and risk in many corporations. This report will be published by the end of 2011.

In relation to the study of Training and Technology which is also well-established (two SIRC reports have previously been published) in 2010 we collected over 1000 self-complete questionnaires from seafarers. The questionnaires explored the training seafarers had received, and the training they had found most helpful, in relation to the use of new technology on board. The data from these will be analysed and reported on in 2011.

A study of vessel accommodation design is now underway at the Unit. Some exploratory pre-pilot work was conducted by the team in late 2010, and in 2011 a questionnaire will be worked up and distributed amongst seafarers.

Other Projects at SIRC

In the Spring of 2010, we were approached by the Professional Yachtsmen’s Association (PYA) with a request to assist them in undertaking a study of the living and working conditions of people working aboard privately owned and commercially operated yachts. As available funding was limited, SIRC undertook to design the questionnaire utilised in the research but not to administer it. We then undertook the data analysis and reporting on behalf of the PYA. We understand that in late 2010 the report informed discussions between the PYA and the ILO in connection with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). Ultimately it is expected that these discussions will lead to special provision for yachts under the MLC and we are very pleased to see our work put to such immediate and practical use.
In the Autumn of 2010, we began work on a study of the regulation of ship emissions. The research has been funded by the ESRC and Professor Bloor is the Principal applicant. Professor Sampson and Professor Susan Brown are also involved in the study as co-applicants. The study has got off to a rapid start and Professor Bloor has already begun the fieldwork in the UK and additionally visited Sweden to set up the fieldwork there.

Professor Sampson has been leading a SIRC-funded study of seafarer self-medication. The study is questionnaire-based and so far over 500 questionnaires have been collected. In 2011 a further 500 will be collected and the data will be analysed in preparation for the publication of an online SIRC report.

SIRC is currently collaborating with the Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre, led by Professor Walters, on research funded by IOSH. The study considers the effectiveness of efforts to manage health and safety across supply chains and focuses upon case studies in construction, food, and the maritime sector.

In 2010 Professor Bloor completed a SIRC-supported study of Labour Intensification and Health Capital. Professor Bloor has prepared a paper derived from the research for publication but we also hope to place a short report about the findings on our website in 2011.

**Teaching**

SIRC staff continued to contribute to teaching within the Cardiff School of Social Sciences. Dr Bailey convened and taught on a course considering the ‘Principles and Practice of Research Design’. Mr Neil Ellis contributed to a Masters level course on ‘Strategies for Applied Research’ and assisted in providing seminars to students of the Principles and Practice of Research Design Masters level course which Dr Bailey convened. While Professor Sampson both contributed to courses on ‘Globalisation’ and ‘State, Labour, and Capital’ and ran a workshop on researcher safety for the Research and Graduate School.

**Theses and Alumni**

In 2010 Nelson Turgo was awarded a PhD qualification at the July graduation ceremony for Cardiff University. Nelson’s thesis was called ‘Bugabug ang Dagat: The Local Life in a Fishing Community in the Philippines’ and his delighted supervisors were Dr Tom Hall and Prof Helen Sampson. Subsequently, Dr Turgo was successful in obtaining a position as Research Assistant at SIRC (Cardiff University). He was not the only post-graduate to be smiling in 2010, however, as Peidong Yang, Momoko Kitada and Elizabeth Gould also successfully completed theses in this year.
Peidong Yang was awarded an MPhil for his thesis ‘Romance of the Three Unions: A Comparative study of the Identity Discourses of Three Indian Maritime Trade Unions’ (supervisors: Prof Michael Bloor and Prof Helen Sampson). He has now moved to Oxford University to take up a scholarship place to study for a DPhil.

Momoko Kitada did extremely well balancing her workload and the demands of first-time motherhood to succeed in completing her PhD thesis on ‘Women Seafarers and their Identities’ (supervisors: Prof Teresa Rees and Prof Helen Sampson). It is our hope that we will see her back in Cardiff in 2011 to take part in the awards ceremony as well as The Nippon Foundation fellows’ alumni event and SIRC symposium.

Finally, after many years of hard work as a part-time student Elizabeth Gould completed an excellent piece of work which will be of great interest to the maritime community. Her thesis, which was called ‘Towards a Total Occupation: A Study of UK Merchant Navy Officer Cadetship’, dealt with the cadet experience and was based on detailed research with British-based officer cadets (supervisors: Prof Michael Bloor and Prof Helen Sampson). The effort and determination required by students in full-time work to complete a thesis cannot be overstated and Liz’s achievement was particularly marked given the outstanding quality of her work.

Our congratulations go to all of these postgraduates and their supervisors whose hard work culminated in these awards. The achievement of the SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows, many of whom have no prior exposure to social science research, is difficult to overstate.

In 2010, SIRC-NF fellow, Lin Li submitted his thesis ‘Great Expectations: Chinese Seafarers in the Age of Transition’ for examination (supervisors: Dr Nicholas Bailey and Prof Ralph Fevre). His viva is due to take place in early 2011.

Work is currently progressing on the following PhD studies (all of which are financially supported by The Nippon Foundation):

- **Sanley Abila** - Maritime Education and Training and the Development of Provincial Maritime Communities in Central Philippines from 1970’s onwards
- **Mohab Abou-Elkawam** - Seafarers and Growing Environmental Concerns: compliance levels and the possibilities of governance
- **Iris Acejo** - Transnational Communities and the Assimilation of Filipino Seafarers
- **Ngwatung Akamangwa** - Global Environmental Standards and Workers in the Shipping Industry
• Jabeth Dacanay - Regulatory Approaches to Occupational Health and Safety of Seafarers Serving Foreign Flags

• Manasi Dutt - The Impact of Organisational Hierarchy on the Expectations and Experiences of Dignity at Work for Indian Seafarers

• Samuel Edmund - Ghanaian Seafarers in the Context of the Global Labour Market for Seafarers: Exploring the Local Impacts of Globalisation

• Roderick Galam - Identity, Subjectivity, and Agency of Filipino Seafarers' Wives

• Mohamed Ghanem - Accidents at Sea: The Social Construction of Marine Accident Investigation Reports

• Aditi Kataria - An Ethnographic Exploration of ship-shore communication

• Priscilla Leong - Understanding Seafarer Shortage in the context of a Global Labour Market

• Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III - Navigating the Seas, Negotiating the Sex: An Ethnographic Study on the Sexual Risk-Taking Behaviour of Seafarers in the Context of HIV/AIDS

• Shahriar Mazhari - Certification and Competence in the Global Shipping Labour Market: Employers' Perception of Fitness for Purpose.

• Sarah Simons - An Analysis of Maritime Piracy in Eastern Africa Between 2000 and 2010 and its impact on Seafarers' Welfare

• Conghua Xue - Shaping Safety Culture at Sea: The Role of Communication

• Zhiwei Zhao - The Human Resource Strategies of Chinese State Crewing Agencies with Special Reference to Labour Export and the Experience of Chinese Seafarers

The broad interests of the new cohort of SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows who joined us in 2010 are as follows:

• Amewu Attah - Developing Viable Economic Alternatives for Oil-Rich Communities: The Case of Ghana

• Taurai Mlambo - Shipboard Technology and Training Onboard

• Jean Pia - The Precarious Nature of the Labour Supply Arrangement in the Seafaring Industry with Focus on the Legal Framework
The following SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows and alumni have found employment in 2010:

Iris Acejo – Part-time Research Assistant, SIRC, Cardiff University.

Nippin Anand - Research Fellow at Nottingham University Business School.


Nelson Turgo - Research Assistant, SIRC, Cardiff University.

People at SIRC

In 2010 there were two births, one wedding and a retirement. Aditi Kataria gave birth to a healthy baby boy called Shiv and Samuel Edmund became father to a daughter called Maïly. In June, Neil Ellis donned tails and cowboy boots for his marriage to Natasha Music at the Dan-yr-Ogof caves. Whilst in December after many years as a volunteer at SIRC, John Goodwin handed in his keys to his office to enjoy a full-time retirement.

In March we said goodbye to Helle Oltedal who had been visiting from Stord/Haugesund University College, Norway. However her desk was soon taken once again as in September we were joined by another doctoral candidate Mr Meng Li from Dalian Maritime University.

Academic Staff at 31 December 2010

Prof Helen Sampson Director SIRC and The LRETRU
Prof Michael Bloor Professorial Fellow
Dr Nicholas Bailey RCUK Academic Research Fellow
Mr Neil Ellis Research Associate
Dr Lijun Tang Research Associate
Dr Emma Wadsworth Research Fellow
Ms Iris Acejo Research Assistant
Dr Nelson Turgo Research Assistant

Administrative Staff

Ms Louise Deeley Executive Officer
Ms Maria Goldoni Administrator
Ms Sarah Venables Administrative Assistant
Future Plans

In the summer of 2011 SIRC will host its seventh international symposium for industry. This two-day event is once again generously supported by The LRET and it will take place on 6th and 7th July.

The year ahead is likely to be one of consolidation as we progress a number of existing studies and established programmes of work. We hope to publish several new reports online and work up a number of academic and industry publications. Alongside Meng Li we are expecting to welcome a second international scholar, this time from Brasil and we are looking forward to the completion of several PhD theses and the arrival of a new cohort of SIRC-NF fellows. So it looks as if it is going to be another eventful and stimulating 12 months, and of course we wouldn’t have it any other way!

Publications

Books/Academic Journal Articles (RAE 2008 Categories A & D)


**Short Works/Reports (RAE 2008 Category T)**


**Professional/Popular Journal Papers (RAE 2008 Category D)**


**Contributions to Edited Works (RAE 2008 Category C)**


Book Reviews


Refereed Conference Contributions (RAE 2008 Category E)


Non-refereed Conference Contributions (RAE 2008 Category E)


Events, Lectures, Seminars, Workshops etc


Other Conferences Attended


Forthcoming Publications

Acejo, I. ‘Transnational crews and their ways of belongingness’, *Journal of Intercultural Studies*.

Bloor, M. ‘An essay on 'health capital' and the Faustian bargains struck by workers in the globalised shipping industry’, *Sociology of Health & Illness*.


Sampson, H. ‘Spilling oil, spilling blood: Cost and corporate decision making concerning safe working practices’, *Policy and Practice in Health and Safety*.


Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMET: Association of Maritime Education & Training
CARR: Centre for Risk and Regulation
CWERC: Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre
DPhil: Doctor of Philosophy
Eds: Editors
EMSA: European Maritime Safety Agency
ESRC: Economic & Social Research Council
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IOSH: Institution of Occupational Safety and Health
ISA: International Sociological Association
ILO: International Labour Organisation
MCA: Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MLC: Maritime Labour Convention
MPhil: Master of Philosophy
NISCS: National Institute for South China Sea Studies
PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
Plc: Public limited company
PYA: Professional Yachtsmen’s Association
RAE: Research Assessment Exercise
RCUK: Research Councils United Kingdom
SIRC: Seafarers International Research Centre
SIRC-NF: Seafarers International Research Centre – Nippon Foundation
The LRET: The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust
The LRETRU: The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust Research Unit
UK: United Kingdom
Provisional Programme

**Wednesday 6 July** (Chair: Professor John King)

1330  Registration and refreshments  
1400  Symposium photograph  
1415  Welcome and handover to Chair - Prof Helen Sampson, Director SIRC  
1420  Introductory address - Mr Thomas Thune Andersen, Lloyd’s Register  
1435  Programme overview - Prof Helen Sampson  
1445  **Training and new technology** (Dr Lijun Tang)  
1505  Burning questions  
1515  Refreshments  
1545  **The working and living conditions of those working aboard yachts** (Dr Nick Bailey)  
1605  Burning questions  
1615  **Seafarers and growing environmental concerns** (Capt Mohab Abou-Elkawam)  
1635  Discussion  
1705  Close  

1900  **Symposium Reception, Hilton Cardiff Hotel, Kingsway**

**Thursday 7 July** (Chair: Professor Michael Bloor)

0955  Welcome from the Chair  
1000  Programme overview - Prof Helen Sampson  
1010  **Fatalities at sea** (Mr Neil Ellis/Dr Emma Wadsworth)  
1030  Questions and discussion  
1045  Refreshments  
1115  **Managing health and safety through the supply chain: the case of shipping** (Prof David Walters)  
1135  Questions and discussion  
1145  **Health and the self medication of seafarers** (Dr Nelson Turgo/Ms Iris Acejo)  
1205  Questions and discussion  
1215  **Personalities, policies and the training of officer cadets** (Dr Elizabeth Gould)  
1235  Open Forum - Reflections on the papers presented at the 2011 SIRC Symposium  
1300  Lunch  
1400  Close

---

The 2011 SIRC Symposium is supported by The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust. The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust (The LRET) is an independent charity working to achieve advances in transportation, science, engineering and technology education, training and research worldwide for the benefit of all.