Director’s Overview

The year in brief

2003 was a significant year for the Seafarers International Research Centre. It was a year in which a number of projects were launched involving some new and exciting collaborations. We held the third International Symposium in Cardiff and ran a parallel event in partnership with the Singapore Maritime Academy in Singapore. These events were praised by many of the participants and, in Cardiff, there was a strong move to encourage the organisers to consider holding them over a longer period in future years (two or three days). In 2003 a wealth of articles that had been long held up in the publishing process (which is often frustratingly lengthy) finally appeared in print. Some significant reports were produced and staff travelled to a range of conferences and events to disseminate recent research findings.

Sadly 2003 was also the year which saw the retirement of Tony Lane as Director of SIRC. Tony had been at the helm since 1998 and was a charismatic presence in the Centre who will be sorely missed by staff and visitors alike. He had a tremendous passion for the welfare of seafarers and a considerable knowledge of the history of seafaring. However, despite moving to a beautiful new home in West Wales, and acquiring a new boat to sail the local waters, Tony still pops in from time to time and remains committed to the principles behind the Centre and to his own continuing work. He is not, therefore, wholly lost to us!
Projects

In the period 2002-2003 a number of new projects commenced. Some extended beyond the period covered by this report and some were completed within it. Amongst the most significant were:

- An ESRC-funded study of Port-State control and ILO conventions led by Michael Bloor and undertaken in collaboration with the Russian Academy of Sciences, The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai), and the International Labour Office. This research is due to complete in 2004 and reports and publications will be available in the period 2004-5. Preliminary findings are available in the SIRC Symposium Proceedings 2003 (www.sirc.cf.ac.uk).

- An ESRC/SIRC-funded study of work and organisation in the Maritime Carrier Industry. This research is being undertaken by Erol Kahveci and Theo Nichols (School of Social Sciences) and is due to complete in 2004. Preliminary findings are available in the SIRC Symposium Proceedings 2003 (www.sirc.cf.ac.uk).

- A SIRC-funded study of the sexual health of cruise ship workers undertaken by Michael Bloor and Michelle Thomas with assistance from Nick Bailey. This research has been completed and is being written-up.

- An ITF-commissioned study of shipping policy in a range of European and South American countries. This research was undertaken by Bernardo Obando-Rojas and was completed in 2003.

- An ITF-commissioned study of seafarers’ compensation claims in Ukraine and Philippines. This research was led by Nick Bailey and was completed in late 2003. We are currently awaiting release of copyright from the ITF in order that a summary and further analysis of the findings can be published.

- An MCA-commissioned study of unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency and other certificates in the UK. This study is being carried out by Bernardo Obando-Rojas, Neil Ellis and Nik Winchester. The study is due to complete in 2004.

- Regional labour market studies have been undertaken in India, Philippines, Turkey, China, Mexico, Panama, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. These are near completion and will appear as a series of reports in the years 2004-5.
A small-scale comparative study of officer training funded by the British Academy, and led by Helen Sampson, was completed in March 2003. Preliminary findings are available in the SIRC Symposium Proceedings 2003 (www.sirc.cf.ac.uk).

The ‘Global Labour Market Database’ project is ongoing and data for 2003 will be published in an interactive web-based form in 2004.

A study of abandoned seafarers undertaken by Erol Kahveci is complete and a report will be available in 2004.

A study of the recruitment and retention of cadets in Portugal and Spain that is part-funded by SIRC is being undertaken by Jaime Veiga and is due to complete in 2005.

A UK DfT commissioned study of the feasibility of setting up a database for non-UK-certified officers and ratings was completed in 2003 by Bernardo Obando-Rojas and Nik Winchester.

### PhD Thesis

Three PhD studies are currently being undertaken in the Centre

- A SIRC-funded study of risk behaviour and collision avoidance by Phil Belcher is due to be completed in 2004.

- A study of the impact of emotional health on cadet recruitment and retention in the UK is being part-funded by SIRC and undertaken by Liz Gould. This research is due to complete in 2008.

- An ESRC-funded (CASE award) study in collaboration with the Standard P&I Club is being undertaken by Aline de Bievre and is due to be completed in 2007.
**New Projects starting in 2004**

*Maritime Transport Co-ordination Platform (MTCP)*

SIRC is a partner in the EC-funded Maritime Transport Co-ordination Platform (MTCP) and will take a leading role in the group of ‘experts’ responsible for human resource related issues and ‘quality’. This Platform will act as an advisory body to the EC in policy formulation and will conduct some small-scale studies to facilitate this process.

*EU-ASEAN - Improving the Quality of Maritime Education in Europe and Asia-Pacific*

Helen Sampson and Jaime Veiga are leading an EC Europe-Aid-funded project supporting the development of curricula and human resources in maritime colleges in Spain, Singapore, and the Philippines. This project will complete in 2006. It will involve the organisation of dedicated training courses on SPSS and teaching skills in Cardiff, a series of workshops in the three partner countries, and a small-scale research study on the views of seafarers towards the use of computer-based training packages aboard ship.

**Funding Applications**

An application to *Lloyd’s Register* to establish a Unit in the Centre dedicated to research focussed on the interface between ships as technical systems and seafarers as human beings was successful and the Unit will be launched in 2004.

An application to the *Nippon Foundation* for funding towards a series of fellowships for overseas students (particularly those from Asia, the developing world, and Japan) was successful and will be launched in 2004.

Two *EC Leonardo* pre-proposals for studies/demonstration projects on the fast tracking of cadets and careers guidance relating to seafaring for pupils in fishing communities were unsuccessful.

An ESRC-LINK programme grant application on the diet and nutrition of seafarers was highly commended and recommended for re-submission but was not funded.
In September 2003, on the retirement of Tony Lane, Helen Sampson took over as Director of SIRC. In addition three ‘new’ members of staff joined the Centre. Neil Ellis (who was already a familiar face having previously worked on the fatigue study) joined the research team and brought with him a wealth of quantitative research skills and shipboard research experience. Professor Ramesh Datta was seconded from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai) to work with Michael Bloor on Port-State Control and additionally to undertake a study of the Indian seafarer labour market. Carl Smith was a welcome addition to the very stretched administrative staff and SIRC was also very fortunate in having Aline de Bievre register as a PhD (ESRC CASE award) student.

The management board showed little change. However Professor Gareth Williams took over from Professor Huw Beynon as Chair of the board and Reverend Berend van Dijken stepped down from the board and will be replaced, in due course, by the new General Secretary of ICMA (when appointed). SIRC owes a debt of thanks to departing board members and warmly welcomes their replacements.

### Staff and students at 31 December 2003

Dr Maragtas Amante
Dr Nicholas Bailey
Mr Phillip Belcher
Professor Michael Bloor
Ms Aline de Bievre
Professor Ramesh Datta
Ms Louise Deeley
Mr Neil Ellis
Ms Maria Goldoni
Mr John Goodwin
Ms Elizabeth Gould

Dr Erol Kahveci
Professor Tony Lane
Dr Bernardo Obando-Rojas
Dr Helen Sampson
Mr Tim Shelly
Mr Carl Smith
Dr Michelle Thomas
Dr Jaime Veiga
Dr Nik Winchester
Dr Bin Wu
Dr Minghua Zhao
Publications

Books and Academic Journal Articles


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1 CVCP Categories 1, 2 and 11


Short Works and Reports


Refereed Conference Contributions


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2 CVCP Categories 3 and 14

3 CVCP Category 4


**Non-refereed Conference Contributions***

Amante, M.S.V., (2003) ‘*Philippine seafarers in the global labour market: a profile*’. Presentation before the Philippine Seafarers Promotion Council (PSPC), Manila, July 23rd.

Amante, M.S.V., (2003) ‘*Philippine seafarers in the global labour market: summary of findings*’. Presentation before a public forum organized by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), AMOSUP Hall in Manila, September 25th.


Bloor, M., Thomas, M., (2003) ‘*Sexual health of cruise ship crews*’, Wales Group Medical Sociology Conference, Swansea, June 18th.


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* CVCP Category 5


**Contributions to Edited Works 5**


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5 CVCP Category 7


### Professional and Popular Journal Papers


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6 CVCP Categories 12 and 13


Book Reviews


Other Research Publications


