Director’s Overview

The year in brief

2005 has been a year for consolidation in SIRC. In 2004, two major new programmes were launched (the Lloyd’s Register Research Unit and The Nippon Foundation Fellowship scheme) and in 2005 we worked hard at getting them off the ground and making them a success.

Two projects were progressed by staff associated with the Lloyd’s Register Research Unit on perceptions of risk in the industry, and on training associated with the introduction of new technology. Early findings from both of these studies were presented at the 2005 SIRC symposium along with a number of other SIRC papers on issues relating to: regulation, Chinese seafarers, occupational health and safety in the industry, and seafarer abandonment.

In the case of The Nippon Foundation Fellowship programme, the Fellows who joined SIRC in October 2004 received their final marks for the Research Methods diploma in 2005. Happily there were lots of smiling faces when these results were posted. The Nippon Fellows did fantastically well, with three of them achieving average marks of over 70%. This constituted an excellent start to a very popular programme.

In the summer, SIRC hosted its biennial symposium. Tragically this was marred by the terrorist attacks in London which took place on the second day of the event casting a sombre pall over the whole occasion. Notwithstanding this sad ending to the symposium, the Centre received a tremendous amount of positive feedback on the event and one or two suggestions for improvement which should keep us on our toes in 2007. Following the symposium, a number of papers received further exposure via the maritime press and popular maritime journals. We were therefore delighted with the overall success of the event, not least, because it was the first time that we had held it over two days. We hope to continue on this basis in the future.

During the summer the IMO hosted a talk by Mr Sasakawa, the President of The Nippon Foundation. SIRC staff and students were all keen to attend but places were limited, and in the event only Helen Sampson was able to go. It was a very well-attended presentation, and reception, and Mr Sasakawa’s speech was clearly, greatly appreciated by all present.
2005 was also the year of the 200th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar, and a number of events took place to mark this occasion all over the UK. As part of these activities a maritime reception was held at St James’s Palace hosted by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and attended by no less than five other members of the Royal Family. Helen Sampson was pleased to be among the 500, or so, guests which included representation from a vast array of marine-related groups, including fish restaurateurs, seafood retailers, the Royal Navy, the yachting community, charities, and so forth. In the circumstances she was very pleased to identify a certain maritime journalist amongst the guests, as well as some very friendly faces from classification societies and ship owners/operators.

October saw the arrival of a new cohort of Nippon Fellows from Egypt, Japan, Iran, and the Philippines. With the support of the first cohort they rapidly settled in and engaged in a flurry of social events in which the first cohort of Fellows and several staff participated. Despite the hazardous nature of some of their activities, such as ice skating and ‘laser tag’ (see the SIRC website for accounts of their antics with photographic evidence!), they all survived to join in the pre-Christmas SIRC event – a walk in the Brecon Beacons followed by a large Christmas dinner in a specially selected rural pub.

**Dissemination and Teaching**

In 2005, SIRC staff continued with their efforts to contribute to external courses, training, conferences, and workshops. In terms of contributions to industry events: Erol Kahveci led a workshop at the ISCW annual conference (in India) which was appreciated; Michelle Thomas and Helen Sampson joined together to deliver a presentation on women seafarers at the LSM European Manning and Training conference in Riga; and Helen Sampson had the pleasure of giving papers at both the Nautical Institute of Hong Kong’s one-day seminar in October, and the annual AMETIAP conference in Manila, in November. Apart from offering us the chance to disseminate our research findings to the wider shipping community, these events were also a welcome opportunity to keep in touch with the many individuals/organisations that have helped us in the past.

SIRC staff also contributed seafarer-related material to seminars and lectures for the academic community. In addition to their routine teaching and supervision responsibilities within Cardiff University School of Social Sciences, staff at SIRC delivered lectures and seminars as follows: Erol Kahveci delivered a module on the ‘Human Element in Shipping’ for the University of Catalunya, (Spain); Bin Wu and Michelle Thomas contributed to a guest lecture series for an MSc course at Padova University (Italy) and delivered lectures at the University of Venice; Mick Bloor and Helen Sampson gave a joint paper at the University of Kent as part of the ‘Social Contexts and Responses to Risk’ ESRC-supported conference; and Helen Sampson contributed to the School of Social Sciences (SOCSI) seminar series by giving a talk on the impact of new technology on the lives of serving seafarers.
The year was also one which saw the on-line publication of two new SIRC research reports. One of these was based upon a database that SIRC established several years ago, on the composition of the labour market in the cruise sector. This data had not previously been fully analysed, nor written up in an accessible format. In carrying out his analysis Bin Wu did a very creditable job in highlighting some of the most interesting features of this complex labour market. The second report was published just before the Christmas break and drew upon data collected in the course of an AUNP-funded project which incorporated a study of seafarer perceptions of computer based training (CBT). This study surprised several of the researchers who took part in data collection, in as much as it found that seafarers had a far more positive attitude to CBT on board than had been predicted. Sometimes it is nice to be wrong! Both reports can be downloaded from the SIRC website.

Project Progress

SIRC continues to participate in the EC-funded Maritime Transport Co-ordination Platform (MTCP). David Walters has taken over from Jaime Veiga in leading the human resources ‘expert group’ and the small-scale study activities that SIRC contributed to - on port-State control and the supply and demand of EU seafarers - have been completed.

SIRC is represented by Neil Ellis on a European Commission ‘Leonardo-funded’ project on ‘Stress Prevention Activities’ (SPA). To date Neil has contributed to the project by adapting the SPA syllabus for use with seafarers and designing a role play activity to be used in conjunction with it. This year will see the finalisation of this work and the project will come to an end in 2006.

The EU-ASEAN project (Helen Sampson/Jaime Veiga and latterly Neil Ellis) developed in support of human resource and curricula development in Maritime Education and Training (MET) colleges in Spain, Philippines, and Singapore, drew to a close in December 2005. This project has entailed a considerable investment in terms of staff time but this has been richly rewarded. The project was evaluated by representatives of the funding body and they appeared to be pleased with its achievements to the extent of encouraging SIRC, and the project partnership, to submit a new bid to the Asia-Link programme in order to build on the initial project’s success. This suggestion remains under consideration.

The work of the Lloyd’s Register Research Unit (LRRU) is on-going. As part of the perceptions of risk project, a major survey of seafarers and the shore-based employees of ship-operating companies has been conducted.
The analysis of the findings from this survey is on-going. Company case studies, including office visits and shipboard fieldwork, are also being conducted in conjunction with the research and are nearing completion. The LRRU study of training provision in association with the introduction of new on board technology is also progressing, and a second period of data collection has been conducted at the Dover Coastguard CNIS\(^1\) station by Nick Bailey and Neil Ellis.

**New Projects**

In November a team of researchers at SIRC began work on a study of training capacity commissioned by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). This is an intensive piece of research and is scheduled to take place over an eight-month period. The project findings will provide the basis of a report to EMSA and are unlikely to be published in the public domain.

**Project Applications**

*Unsuccessful tenders and applications were made as follows:*

- Tender to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) – Development of guidance for the mitigation of human error in automated ship-borne maritime systems (Sampson, Walters, Winchester).
- Tender to the MCA – Development of a human cognition workload assessment tool (Sampson, Smith).
- Application to the ESRC for a study of the Chinese seafarer labour market (Fevre, Wu).

*Successful tenders and applications were made as follows:*

- Tender to EMSA – A study of training capacity (Sampson, Winchester, Kahveci).
- ITF Seafarers’ Trust - Health research programme (Sampson).
- Nippon Foundation 2nd year (Sampson).
- Hong Kong Polytechnic University – Collaboration in seafarer studies (Wu).

---

\(^1\) Many thanks to all the staff at Dover for their assistance and co-operation.
Theses

A significant number of post-graduate theses are currently being undertaken at SIRC. These cover a variety of areas linked broadly to seafarer health, safety, and welfare. Current postgraduates and their topics of interest are as follows:

- Mohab Abou-Elkawam - Seafarers and Growing Environmental Concerns
- Philip Belcher - Collision Avoidance in the Dover Strait
- Jessica Bernfeld - States, Ships and Sovereignty: What is Revealed by Industrialized Nations’ Responses to Globalization?
- Syamantak Bhattacharya - The operation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code in the Shipping Industry
- Aline De Bievre - Why do safety systems fail?: a qualitative study of risk, regulation and insurance practice in occupational safety on board ships
- Victor Gekara - Globalisation and the Transformation of Shipping Labour; a UK case study of the effectiveness of state response
- Mohamed Ghanem - The Social Construction of Marine Accident Investigation Reports
- Elizabeth Gould – The experience of merchant navy cadets: a study of current and enduring aspects of seafaring life
- Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III – The relationship between Seafarers and Commercial Sex Workers: Implications for HIV/AIDS
- Shahriar Mazhari - Seafarers’ interpretation and application of the Collision Avoidance Regulations (COLREGS)
- Momoko Motohashi - Women seafarers and their identities
- Lijun Tang - Being a Seafarer-Partner: Chinese Seafarer-Partners’ Experiences Online

People at SIRC

It was a sad start to the year as SIRC said goodbye to Jaime Veiga. Jaime had been in SIRC for many years and was a well known member of the Centre with particularly good connections in Europe. Whilst colleagues and friends were very sad to see him go, nobody could feel that he was making a mistake in joining the European Maritime Safety Agency, where he can make an excellent contribution to safety in the
industry. In May 2005, we had more sad farewells as Michelle Thomas left the Centre. Michelle joined SIRC in 1999 and undertook valuable work on issues related to gender, seafarer health, research methods, and family life. Her leaving do was a memorable event involving much merriment and a tour of Cardiff in a partially renovated open top bus! She is much missed by her colleagues and former students. SIRC also said goodbye to Carl Smith who left the administrative team in the first half of the year. We were delighted, however, to welcome a new addition to the staff in the form of Iveta Martincova. We soon learnt that Iveta not only skis proficiently but is also very effective on the Cardiff Christmas-special ice rink! We await repeat performances next year!

Staff at 31 December 2005

Dr Nicholas Bailey  
Ms Louise Deeley  
Mr Neil Ellis  
Ms Maria Goldoni  
Mr John Goodwin  
Dr Erol Kahveci  
Ms Iveta Martincova  
Dr Helen Sampson  
Mr Tim Shelly  
Prof David Walters  
Dr Nik Winchester  
Dr Bin Wu  

Research Associate  
Administrator  
Research Associate  
Administrator  
Archivist  
Senior Research Associate  
Administrative Assistant  
Director  
Data Manager  
Research Associate  
Research Associate

Associate Researchers

Professor Michael Bloor  
Dr Bernardo Obando-Rojas  
Dr Marlene Calderon  
Dr Michelle Thomas

Future Plans

In 2006 we hope to see the publication of the long awaited series of SIRC regional Global Labour Market reports. We now intend to publish these on-line as SIRC ‘in-house’ publications to provide maximum, and free, access. Other SIRC publications are planned on a recently completed study of seafarers’ life and work aboard car-carriers, and on crewing levels aboard vessels flagged with different types of registry (open, national, second). Our ‘in-house’ publications will also benefit from the addition of a series of brief reports focussing upon the findings of one aspect of the 2003 SIRC global labour market crew list data (for example seafarer nationality or age). This series will be designed to provide a user friendly, bulletin format, analysis of the global seafarer labour market.
We are excited at the prospect of beginning a new phase of work on seafarer health and will look forward to a new member of staff joining us early in 2006. Initially this individual will work with the Director and Professor Walters in documenting international sources of data on seafarer health. Having familiarised themselves with the research context the appointee will then assist with the development of funding proposals to undertake new research specifically focussed upon health issues in the maritime sector.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of several bids to funding bodies. These include:

- Bin Wu and Valter Zanin – Padova University (and others).
- Helen Sampson – The Nippon Foundation (3rd year).

In addition, a number of bids are in preparation for submission in 2006. These include:

- David Walters and Nik Winchester (ESRC) - The formation of global regulation.
- Helen Sampson (ESRC) – The effectiveness of supranational ‘enforced self-regulation’: the case of internationally agreed standards of training for merchant seafarers.
- Erol Kahveci (ITF-ST) – The formation and maintenance of port based welfare work from the perspective of seafarers.
- David Walters and Bin Wu (ESRC) – Precarious employment and health & safety of Chinese freelance seafarers.
- Theo Nichols, David Walters and Erol Kahveci (ESRC) - Self-regulation, representation and consultation in OHS in the Shipping Industry.

Whilst it is not possible to predict the outcome of these submissions, we are optimistic that some of them will be awarded funding and we look forward to the results of our collective endeavours in this regard.

Other plans for 2006 include the re-designing of the SIRC website to give it a more contemporary feel and, importantly, to make it more user-friendly. In this we hope to organise our publications according to topic as well as by author and to create links to the places on the internet where either full articles can be purchased or downloaded free of charge. We hope this will assist the many people who currently contact us directly from all over the world to seek advice about publications relating to our work. It is hoped that the new design will make the site much easier for students and other researchers to use in the future. Check out how we are getting on by visiting us at www.sirc.cf.ac.uk!
Publications

Books/Academic Journal Articles


Short Works/Reports


---

2 CVCP Category 1 & 11
3 CVCP Category 3 & 17


Refereed Conference Contributions


Non-refereed Conference Contributions


Contributions to Edited Works


Professional/Popular Journal Papers


Other Research Publications


Annual Report 2005


**Conferences, Lectures, Workshops, Seminars**


Kahveci, E., (2005) University of Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain, Teaching a (10 credit) PhD course on ‘Human Element in Shipping’ (including, fatigue, social isolation and work/life balance).


Wu, B., (2005) Guest lecture series to MSc course ‘Seafaring Employment and Career Development in GLM’ at Padova University, Italy, 20-21 April:

- ‘Global seafarer database at Cardiff University: principles and findings’;
- ‘Seafaring career analysis: comparison of post-socialist seafarers’;
- ‘Chinese seafarers in the global labour market: survey design and findings’.


**Forthcoming**


Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACC: Accident Compensation Corporation
AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIS: Automatic Identification System
AMETIAP: Association of Maritime Education & Training Institutions in Asia Pacific
AUNP: ASEAN-EU University Network Programme
CBT: Computer Based Training
CNIS: Channel Navigation Information Service
COLREGS: Collision Avoidance Regulations
EC: European Community
EMSA: European Maritime Safety Agency
ESRC: Economic & Social Research Council
EU: European Union
EU-ASEAN: European Union – Association of Southeast Asian Nations
GLM: Global Labour Market
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HM: Her Majesty
HRH: His Royal Highness
HSE: Health and Safety Executive
ICMA: The International Christian Maritime Association
ICSW: International Committee on Seafarers’ Welfare
ISM: International Safety Management
ITF: The International Transport Workers’ Federation
IMO: International Maritime Organization
LRRU: Lloyd’s Register Research Unit
LSM: Lloyd’s Ship Manager
MCA: Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MET: Maritime Education and Training
MSc: Master of Science
MTCP: Maritime Transport Co-ordination Platform
OHS: Occupational Health and Safety
PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
RGS-IBG: Royal Geographical Society-The Institute of British Geographers
SIRC: Seafarers International Research Centre
SOCSI: School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University
SPA: Stress Prevention Activities
SPSS: Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
UK: United Kingdom
SIRC Staff 2006

Nick Bailey
BaileyN3@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4740

Maria Goldoni
GoldoniM@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4742

John Goodwin
GoodwinJ@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4161

Erol Kahveci
KahveciE@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 6238

Helen Sampson
SampsonH@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4475

Tim Shelly
ShellyT@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4741

Iveta Martinova
MartinovaI@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620

Dover Walters
WaltersD@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 0013

Nik Winchester
WinchesterN@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4741

Bin Wu
WuB@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 6429

Louise Deleley
DeleleyL@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620

Michelle Thomas
sirc@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620

Associate Researchers

Michael Bloor
sirc@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620

Marlene Calderon
sirc@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620

Bernardo Obando-Rojas
sirc@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620

Michelle Thomas
sirc@cardiff.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620

Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC), Cardiff University, 52 Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3AT
Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4620, Fax: +44 (0)29 2087 4619
Email: sirc@cardiff.ac.uk, Web: www.sirc.cf.ac.uk

February 2006