

SMU, MPA beef up maritime courses

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ECONOMICS majors from the Singapore Management University (SMU) that are pursuing the group of maritime-focused courses will now have their education enhanced with experiential learning outside the classroom and through interaction with industry practitioners.

Students doing the Maritime Economics Concentration (MEC) will have classes taught by industry specialists, go on local and overseas industry-study trips, site visits and exchanges to international maritime academic centres of excellence, as well as undergo internships with maritime companies.

The beefed-up MEC comes courtesy of The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and SMU which signed a memorandum of understanding to co-fund and support the MEC programme.

The programme started its first run in August with 24 students, who are preparing for careers in the maritime and related sectors here.

Under the partnership, the MPA, SMU's International Trading Institute

(ITI@SMU) and the School of Economics will work together on the continued development, delivery and promotion of the MEC.

The MPA will provide the link to Singapore's maritime industry players.

ITI@SMU has also brought on board seven industry partners, namely Aries Shipbroking (Asia) Ptd Ltd, BW Maritime Pte Ltd, Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd, Swire Pacific Offshore Operations (Pte) Ltd, PSA International Pte Ltd, Singapore Shipping Association and Womar Logistics Pte Ltd.

Additionally, it is working closely with the Copenhagen Business School to include an overseas exchange programme. The current cohort of MEC students will attend a two-week-long exchange there; this will be progressively extended to a full term in the next year or two.

Under the MOU, scholarships for MEC students will be introduced. Worth \$10,000 each, they come courtesy of the partnership between the maritime industry and SMU, and are to be offered under the MaritimeONE Scholarship Programme.