

# THE DEPLOYMENT OF MANILA STCW 78/95 AMENDMENTS IN SEA-GOING EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT VIMARU

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## Abstract:

In the maritime economic development strategy, the urgent important role of human resource education has been affirmed by the Vietnamese Government. At present time, this human resource primarily comes from Vietnam Maritime University (VIMARU), Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport, Maritime College No.1, Ho Chi Minh City Maritime Vocational College and a number of non-public vocational training colleges. Every year more than 3,000 students graduate from sea-going sector become the seafarer and devote their service to the Vietnam maritime industry. These seafarers should be standardized as stipulated in STCW 78/95 amended in 2010. The standardization of crew team can only be realized through a rapid and comprehensive change in all national sea-going training institutions where VIMARU) plays a leading role. Concurrently, with the strategy of developing the University into the national center of maritime training and science and technology, the improvement of the University's training quality becomes the core step in the process of integration into international maritime industry.

On that basis, after the overview of education and training results in sea-going profession, the recommendations for deploying STCW 78/95 amended in 2010 in the University shall be put forward in the paper.

**Key words:** Education, training, sea-going, STCW amendments, VIMARU.

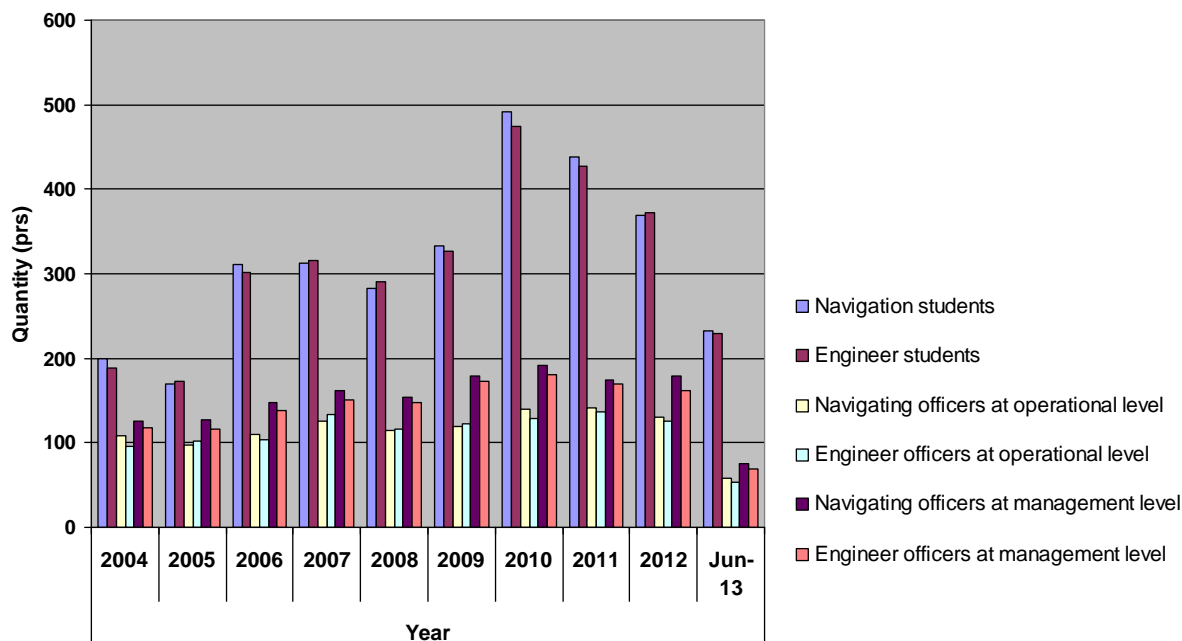


Figure 1 Result of sea-going education and training at VIMARU from 2004 to June-2013

Table 1. Statistic of sea-going education and training according to standards of the Convention STCW from 2004 to June-2013 at VIMARU [1, 2, 3]

The quantity of education and training (in person)	Year									
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	6/2013
Navigation students	200	169	311	312	282	333	491	439	369	233
Engineer students	189	172	301	315	290	327	474	428	372	230
Navigating officers at operational level	108	97	110	126	115	120	140	142	130	58
Engineer officers at operational level	96	102	104	134	117	123	129	137	125	54
Navigating officers at management level	125	128	147	162	154	179	192	175	179	75
Engineer officers at management level	118	116	139	151	147	172	181	170	162	69

## 1. Revisions and amendments of STCW directly concerning the sea-going training

In 1978, for the first time of history, IMO (International Maritime Organisation) adopted the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW). The convention entered into force on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1984. Vietnamese Government approved this convention on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1991 and became a member of the convention. During its developing process, a major revision of the convention was taken place in 1995, and a new STCW Code was established.

At the Diplomatic Conference in Manila, the Philippines from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010, IMO has decided major revisions of the convention STCW in order to meet the improvement of science-technology and the development of maritime industry over the world, as well as to settle the matters in maritime practice. The main subjects at Manila conference include:

- Future amendments and review of the STCW Convention and Code;
- Measures to ensure the competency of masters and officers of ships operating in polar waters;
- Attracting new entrants to, and retaining seafarers in, the maritime profession;
- Accommodation for trainees;
- Promotion of the participation of women in the maritime industry;
- Contribution of the International Labour Organization;
- Role of the World Maritime University and IMO International Maritime Law Institute and International Maritime Safety, Security and Environment Academy (IMSSEA) in promoting enhanced maritime standards;
- Year of the Seafarer; and Day of the Seafarer;
- Promotion of technical knowledge, skills and professionalism of seafarers;
- Development of guidelines to implement international standards on medical fitness for seafarers;
- Promotion of technical co-operation.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, the amendments, to be known as "The Manila amendments to the STCW Convention and Code" were set to enter into force under the tacit acceptance procedure. As a result, all members of the convention including Vietnam have to obey the amendments. The adopted amendments relating to sea-going education and training have always been emphasised as the followings:

- Enhancing requirements of quality management system in education and training for seafarers;
- Requirements of medical standards for crew according to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 of ILO, issue of medical certificates;
- Addition of new ranks such as electro-technical officer and electro-technical rating;
- Courses of Bridge Resource Management and Engine Resource Management become mandatory requirement for crew;
- Specially highlighting the training of leadership competence, management skill and teamwork skill of senior officers and other crew;

- Verification of certificates of competency and endorsements contained; Improved measures to prevent fraudulent practices associated with certificates of competency and strengthen the evaluation process (monitoring of Parties' compliance with the Convention);
- Enhancement of IMO's verification and assessment to Parties of the Convention on standards of White List, and upgrading of explicitness in documents exchange;
- Requirements for shipping companies in training and updating knowledge for joining crew; Ensuring that their crew satisfy requirement of effective oral communication at all times;
- Emphasizing administration's awareness on risk of crews' fatigue; Hours of rest for crew; Requirement of administration for crew in daily recording rest hours in accordance with standard forms for inspection.

As a result, according to the requirements of the amendments, Vietnamese crew have to meet the demand of high standards in competence, English and medical fitness. Apart from crew's effort, management agencies and education institutes, especially VIMARU, have to build up and deploy appropriate policies, methods and solutions as well as promote all resources for improving quality of crew.

## **2. National requirements for educating and training the sea-going human resources**

Basing on the current matters of maritime industry, Vietnamese Transportation Ministry has issued legal document for development of sea-going education and training quality to be satisfactory with the requirements of STCW 78 amended in 2010. In detail, the Ministry has adopted two special strategical circulars. The first is Circular No.07/2012 on crew ranks, crew's functions and registration of crew working on board Vietnamese vessels. The second is Circular No.11/2012 on competence standards, certificates of crew, and minimum manning for Vietnamese vessels. The contents of those have revealed that Vietnamese Government is legalizing the regulations of STCW 78 amended in 2010.

In addition to issuing the legal documents, the administration has kept sharp attention to directing the education and training crew centers, investing materials and technical base, as well as reinforcing professional skill complying with STCW Convention.

Paying attention to the STCW and national requirements, such education and training institutes as VIMARU has firmly determined that the upgrade of education and training quality is main duty in supplying high proficient manpower so as to contribute the implementation of the maritime industry goal – "Safe, Secure and Efficient Shipping on Clean Ocean".

## **3. The state of the deployment of STCW Convention amended in 2010 and other national requirements at VIMARU**

Recognizing its important role in educating and training sea-going human resources for maritime domain, VIMARU has actively and thoroughly deployed preparation for education and training programs, lecturer and trainer staff, material facilities, and management activities. Since 2010, the following works have been conducted:

- The purposes and plans for carrying out fully and straightly regulations of STCW Convention amended in 2010 were set up. After entry into force of the amendments, VIMARU built up a project "Deployment of regulations of STCW 1978 amended in 2010". In the project a large amount of money is reserved for supplementing simulation components serving education and training.
- The education and training programs as requirements of STCW 78 amended in 2010 were accomplished. After receiving approval from the Transportation Ministry, VIMARU shall carry out the programs without delay (courses of enhanced college, courses of updating the amendments of the convention for both operational and management officers).
- Making plan for upgrading lecturers and trainers at oversea advanced centres.
- 37 programs and 75 syllabi have been additionally compiled; preparation of teaching materials as IMO standards fulfilled.
- The training programs for electro- technical officer and electro-technical rating were completed.
- The updating programs for the amendments of the convention have been concluded in order to

- timely change crew's corresponding certificates.
- 37 training programs were translated into English.
- 06 sets of maritime officer questions have been compiled for national exams at all training centres.
- Education programs of navigation, engineer and electro-electricity majors in credit system have been renewed to satisfy the requirements of STCW 78 amended in 2010.
- Training equipment has been upgraded and newly installed. A bridge and communication simulator room is being built in the project "Improvement of competence for maritime activities".
- ISO 9001:2008 has been applied in raising VIMARU quality management to higher level in accordance with factual practice.

#### **4. Continued works for comprehensive and effective deployment of STCW Convention amended in 2010 at VIMARU**

VIMARU has always been aware that comprehensive and effective deployment of STCW Convention amended in 2010 plays an important role in retaining Vietnam in "White List" of IMO, as well as improving quality of maritime human resources for the success of Vietnamese sea strategy. For that purpose, VIMARU is concentrating on the following works in coming years:

- Implementing the project "Deployment of regulations of STCW 1978 amended in 2010". At the beginning stage, VIMARU invests in programs and material facilities for maritime training as a priority.
- Keeping on building and strengthening lecturer and trainer staff by means of augmenting competence and English at standard level.
- Continuing submission of new projects focusing on material facilities to take full advantage of the government's support.
- Keeping renovation of management by devolving on functional units of VIMARU according to the strategic orientation of the university leaders.
- Intensifying international co-operation by exchanging lecturers and students to grow up mutual activities in AMFUF as well as among maritime universities in the world and Asia.

#### **5. Conclusion**

With the initial achievements during the deployment of the convention amendments, VIMARU has clearly determined its important position, role and duty in education and training maritime human resources in the coming period, specially after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

For building up crew generations with full capability of international integration, beside its own attempt of VIMARU, co-ordination of administration parties, shipping companies, crew management companies, and more significantly, the effective co-operation among the universities become appropriate and inevitable with present circumstances.

#### **6. References**

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