



**China Centre (Maritime)
Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering**



Newsletter of the China Centre (Maritime)

December 2017

Time flies! It has been a very busy year. Following on from our launch of the new research project Seafarers Welfare in China (SWiC) in April, the highlight was the Centre's successful organisation of the 'International Conference on Maritime Policy Technology and Education (ICMPTE 2017)' and the 'Internationalisation Seminar' in June on behalf of the then School of Maritime Science and Engineering. Vibrant and stimulating, this joint event with Shanghai Maritime University attracted over 70 delegates from a range of countries with 43 presentations over two days.

In addition, several CCM Research Seminars delivered through the year with fascinating and diverse topics on maritime issues concerning UK, China and beyond. The year has also seen joining in our team three 'new faces', all senior scholars engaged in maritime studies as Researcher Fellow or as Visiting Academics from prominent Chinese universities. Their expertise and links contribute to Solent's strategy of internationalisation and in particular to the School's maritime strategy especially in research and development of new projects which will lead to joint publication of academic papers or new bids.

Our PhD programme has made steady progress in the year, with milestones achieved by all the projects holders. The CCM door is open to new research students. For those who are interested in pursuing their doctorate, please contact us anytime minghua.zhao@solent.ac.uk

The past 12 months have seen the CCM members publishing new academic articles in reputable maritime journals, delivering presentations to conferences, seminars and workshops as well as taking new initiatives in research and publication. The 44 issues of the *Global Maritime Weekly Digest* produced by our Centre have been well received by the target maritime communities, generating very positive comments and feedback from a growing international readership.

The year has witnessed the Centre's due contribution to the university's internationalisation strategy by active facilitation and participation in a range of activities. It has also witnessed

the increase of its effectiveness in engaging with the local maritime community at the university and in Southampton.

We are now preparing our SWiC Conference to run on 23 March 2018 in London, a high-profile invitation-only international event to discuss seafarers work and welfare and other important issues concerning world maritime labour.

We hope you enjoy this second issue of the Newsletter of the China Centre (Maritime) and will continue to follow our activities through our website

<https://www.solent.ac.uk/research/maritime-technology-environment/china-centre-maritime>

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New Colleagues



Dr/Prof. Gaochao He



Prof. Shenhua Yang



Dr Zhihua Zheng

Dr. Gaochao He, Professor with China's Zhongshan University, Guangzhou has joined us since April. He is a political scientist by training. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago in 1993, and has served in the department of political science at Sun Yat-Sen (also called Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou of China between 2004 and 2017. He is also a senior research associate at the Labor and Work Life Program of Harvard Law School since 2016. Gaochao's research interests mainly focus on politics of labor, and on the changing labor relations among the state, trade union, managers and workers in China. At SSU, Gaochao plays a major role in carrying out our research project Seafarers Welfare in China (SWiC with details to be seen later in this newsletter).

Professor Shenhua Yang, Deputy Dean of Navigation College of Jimei University has recently joined us as a Visiting Academic. His university locates in Xiamen, a very pretty coastal city in China's Southeast, beside the Taiwan Strait. Shenhua has received his PhD from Shanghai Maritime University and his specialist research area is maritime technology. In his own words, Shenhua says, 'I am extremely keen in developing collaborative research projects with colleagues at Solent during my visit.' He is indeed already fully engaged with colleagues at the Centre and the School on a collaborative comparative study which evaluates the relationship between seafarers simulator training and their experiences of sailing on board vessels. Shenhua will stay with us for 12 months and his visit is fully funded with a grant from the Chinese government.

Dr Zhihua Zheng is Senior Research Fellow from East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL) and a high profile specialist in the Law of the Sea. He has served as senior editor of *China Oceans Law Review* and he currently serves at the post of the Deputy Secretary General of Shanghai Law and Society Association since 2014. Zhihua has a wide range of scholarly interests, including the oceans law and policy to maritime security. At Solent, he will team up with colleagues in the university to research on China's attitude and engagement in managing and settling maritime disputes, from a comparative approach taking into consideration of the UK's experiences in shipping and fishing. His research will explore the mode of action and philosophy regarding China's engagement with international maritime law in the context of its increasing prominence as a maritime power. He also intends to develop a research project to further the collaboration between Solent and ECUPL. Zhihua's visit will be fully funded by the Chinese Higher Education Fund and he plans to arrive in Southampton around Christmas.

ICMPTE 2017



The 2nd International Conference on Maritime Policy, Technology and Education (ICMPET2017) was successfully held, 7-8 June 2017 at Spark Building in Southampton. As an important part of the collaborative programme with Shanghai Maritime University, our strategic partner in China, the ICMPET2017 has successfully brought together a wide range of perspectives and stakeholders including academia, industry and NGOs engaged or interested in maritime issues. The Conference and the Internationalisation Seminar, which went hand in hand with the conference, have attracted a total of 43 presentations from amongst a large number of delegates from maritime and other universities in China, the UK and other countries such as Germany, Norway and South Africa. We are delighted to have created such a forum to address important issues in today's maritime industry concerning safety and security at sea, marine environmental protection, maritime technology, seafarers' education, training and career, human, social and cultural factors in shipping and so on. The CCM has organised this conference on behalf of the School and the University. We would like to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to colleagues at the School for their great help and support in this major operation.

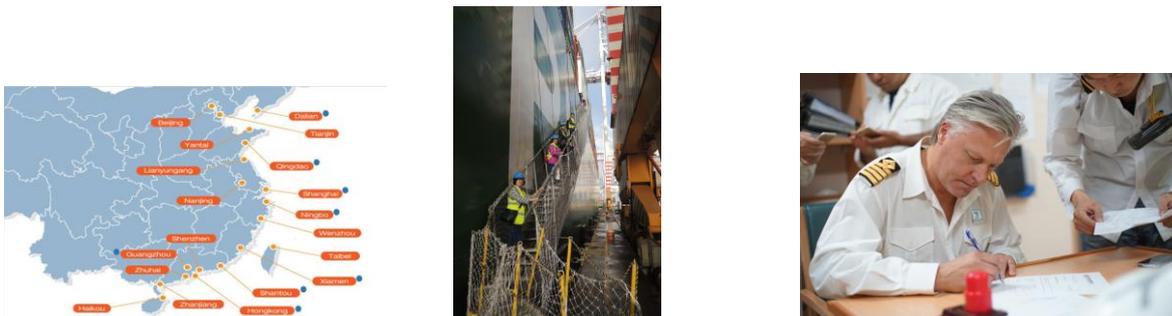
CCM Research Seminars



Built on the success of the the CCM Research Seminar Series last year, the Seminar has gained increasing popularity. These series cover a variety of topics and themes concerning important maritime issues in China and the UK, including the following in 2017

- One Belt One Road Initiative: China's Innovation and Connectivity, W. 15/02/2017, Dr/Capt. Pengfei Zhang
- Virtual Reality & Industry 4.0 for Maritime Industry in China and the UK, W. 26/04/2017, Dr Jilin Ye
- Visiting Academics Research Reporting: (1) Cruise Shipping in Southampton and Shanghai, Dr Hua Li, Shanghai Maritime University; (2) Port Development in Southampton and Guangzhou, Dr Jun Cheng, Guangzhou maritime University; (3) Plagiarism of Online Literature in China, Dr Zhigang Wang, Henan University.

The SWiC Project



The CCM launched its research project '**Seafarers Shore-based Welfare in Chinese Ports**' (**SWiC**) in April. The project is intended to go well beyond assessing what welfare services are currently provided for seafarers employed on ships calling at Chinese sea ports. Another aim is to help develop best practice in port-based welfare provision, informed by ideas derived from the research on seafarers' needs. One key research element is to look closely at various stakeholders' current policies. Funding is being provided by the ITF

Seafarers Trust, and the project is endorsed by Nautilus International, the UK Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB) and the International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN). So far, fieldwork has been conducted in more than 15 ports, most in China but also in Germany, Hong Kong and the UK. This has generated a large mass of empirical data which will lead to creation of new knowledge with impact on policies and practices and prospect to benefit the 1.3 million world seafarers. For more details, see <https://www.solent.ac.uk/research/current-projects/swic-project>

The PhD Projects



Our PhD programme has made steady progress in the year, with milestones achieved by all the projects holders. The CCM door is open to new research students. For those who are interested in pursuing their doctorate, please contact us anytime. The current research titles and their owners include:

- The First Maritime Code in China: translation with commentary and analysis of the factors and forces in its formation in the Song-Yuan Dynasties, Yuan Li.
- An Exploration into the Extent to which National Cultural Factors Affect the Implementation of Crew Resource Management Training in Shipping, Quentin Cox.
- Using LNG as an Alternative Fuel for Today's Commercial Ships: an evaluation of the vessel's economic performance, Yifan Wang.
- Who Will Save the Salvors and Why We Need a Thriving Salvage Industry in the 21st Century? Nicola Pryce-Roberts.

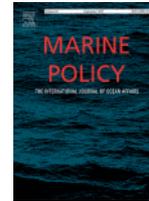
New Publications



Global Maritime Weekly Digest

Publishing Director: Prof Minghua Zhao

Editor: Richard Scott



The past 12 months have seen publication of two academic articles in a reputable maritime journal, delivery of presentations to conferences, seminars and workshops and taking of new initiatives for more and better by the members of the Centre. The 44 issues of the Centre's weekly publication of the *Global Maritime Weekly Digest*, bringing the total issues of the publication to 100 by 12 December, have been well received by the target maritime communities, generating very positive comments and feedback from a growing international readership.

New Connections with the Local and World Communities



2017 has also seen the Centre's due contribution to the university's internationalisation strategy and the School's maritime strategy with a range of activities. It has also witnessed the development of closer links with the local maritime community in Southampton and Shanghai in particular.

The picture in the middle documents the Inauguration of the Work Group for Ports and Seafarers in Shanghai, 7 July, a high-profile activity which places seafarers' welfare at the centre stage for the first time in China. The inauguration took place at a maritime conference participated by over 100 delegates and witnessed by senior officials from Chinese and British national and international organisations including those from the British **Consulate-General** in Shanghai and UK-based International Seafarers Welfare Assistance Network and Merchant Navy Welfare Board.

The other two pictures show our recent meetings with port chaplains at the Southampton Ports and and at the newly launched Southampton Seafarers Centre (SSC) where the chaplains welcome the CCM's offer of language and cultural assistance to the SSC as volunteers.

Upcoming Event

The International Conference on Welfare for Seafarers in Chinese Ports

Friday 23 March 2018 London



The International Conference on Welfare for Seafarers in Chinese Ports will be held in London, Friday, 23 March 2018. It is a high-profile invites only event to discuss findings of the SWIC Project (as reported above) with delegates from national and international organisations concerning seafarers work and welfare such as the IMO, ILO, ICMA, ISWAN, ACFTU, ITF, ISF, and maritime academic scholars and specialists from Southampton Solent University and other relevant higher institutions or research centres. Invitation will be sent out from China Centre (Maritime) in near future.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

