



Dr Tolani (R) presenting a memento to Chief Guest Mr. K Mohandas



Dr Sujata Naik-Tolani

Another batch of

Ambassadors graduates from TMI



Seema Singh



Prof Gurunaryanan addressing the gathering

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Aristotle once said, "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." Great words to keep in mind as the 10th batch of Marine Engineering Cadets passed out after rigorous training from the Tolani Maritime Institute (TMI) here today.

TMI has produced some excellent mariners for the country, this graduating four-year batch of cadets, jobs

in hand, is looking forward to add to that growing list with pride and honour. The glittering passing out ceremony at the TMI campus was marked by blessings bestowed from industry dignitaries, TMI faculty, parents and friends of the cadets as they gathered on the auspicious occasion.

The august occasion was graced by the presence of Mr K. Mohandas, Secretary, Shipping, Government of India, Dr S. B. Agnihotri, Director General of Shipping and Dr N. P. Tolani, Founder of TMI. Others present included the members of the Governing and Academic Councils of TMI, senior personnel from BITS Pilani, representatives of various shipping companies and a large number of parents.

The programme was divided in two sessions. The first session saw the presentation of degrees to the graduating students by Professor Gurunaryanan, Dean WILPD of BITS Pilani. The second session comprised the distribution of certificates to cadets to mark academic excellence.

The invocation of Goddess Saraswati at the start set the stage for a great afternoon. Dr. B. K. Saxena, Principal, TMI welcomed the guests to the ceremony and congratulated the cadets passing out. "Faculty members have worked endlessly and tirelessly to give you the best," he told them. "The quest for knowledge should never stop. New technology awaits you, so keep upgrading your knowledge. Henceforth you will be known as Indian seafarers. Many people have contributed to the growth of this industry; you have to carry on doing the same and excel."

Professor I. K. Basu, Programme Chair- Marine Engineering, presented the account of the course and its achievements. "I request the cadets that are set to join the maritime industry to visit TMI in future and share their work experiences, technological advances, and new job avenues. This will strengthen the alumni association," said Professor Basu.

The degrees to the distinction holders and academic prizes to deserving cadets were conferred by Dr S.B. Agnihotri, who had been invited to the occasion as the

Chief Guest Mr. K. Mohandas presented awards to cadets for excellence. He began his address by congratulating the students on their meritorious performance. "Seafaring is one of the greatest professions where brave human beings face adversities and challenges thrown up by nature and mankind. Large quantity of cargo is transported around the world by sea; you have a great responsibility on your shoulders," he said.

"The maritime profession is one of the greatest professions. Mariners have always struck me as great human beings. This quality is acquired over a period of

time spent at sea and by global interaction," felt Mr. Mohandas.

Every individual associated with the institute made the day memorable. Dr (Mrs) Sujata Naik Tolani, Vice Chairperson, TMI Governing Council, in her address to the graduating class, said, "TMI has given you the best training to help survive in the industry. Let passion be the driving force for your career. Teamwork is important and it should never be neglected. Dare to think differently and make a difference. Safety is the only rule to be followed while onboard."

The award winners included Cadet Deepali Kulkarni who will soon join Teekay Shipping. Cadet Deepali stole the honours by grabbing the Chairman's Gold Medal for overall excellence, thus becoming the first girl cadet to do so in the history of TMI. Cadet Wasim Bhopalwala, all set to join TORM Shipping, walked away with the Vasant J Sheth Award for standing first in academics. Cadet Ibrahim Nibil- joining Selandia- was awarded the Best Leadership Prize by the Chief Guest.

Convocation is the time when cadets thank their mentors for the guidance given to them. On behalf of the graduating class, Cadet Damian Dias thanked the TMI faculty for making each of them "a different person" during their four-year stay at the campus. "We have been moulded to meet the needs of the maritime industry. This day is special since today the parents are known by the names of their wards and not vice-versa. This is a major transformation and gives us a deep sense of pride," said Cadet Dias.

The vote-of-thanks was given by Captain Raj Razdan, Provost at TMI. "I thank all parents and placement partners for keeping faith in the institute with the quality of the cadets passing out of this institute every year. We transform the boys and girls joining TMI into professional men and women who are fit for the industry," he added. Comparing the progress of the students to the process of the moulding of a teacup, Captain Razdan advised the cadets to be good human beings, always. "You have to keep the TMI flag high with your dedication and work meritoriously in the industry," he concluded.



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Dr Agnihotri, Mr Mohandas and Prof Gurunaryanan awarding degrees and medals to outstanding cadets