

Worldwide Ferry Safety Association

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Ferry design competition: Proposals received from six maritime universities and colleges. A top prize of \$5000 is to be awarded.

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Student teams from six maritime universities and schools have submitted proposals for the Second Annual Design Competition for Safe Affordable Ferries sponsored by the Worldwide Ferry Safety Association (WFSA, see below).

A panel of five judges (see below) will review the submissions and will announce the winners by early Fall 2014. The top prize is \$5000 with second and third prizes also to be awarded.

The student teams were asked to submit a design for a ferry to transport up to 200 passengers and ro-ro cargo between Lae and Kavieng in Papua New Guinea (with several intermediate stops), a distance of 350 nautical miles. The tragic sinking of a passenger ferry, MV Rabaul Queen, with a loss of 164+ lives and operating on this route has brought the attention of the IMO and the maritime world into providing a design for a safe and affordable passenger ferry. Entries have been received from student teams in universities and schools in India, Canada (2 teams), France, Germany, and the US. (Student teams, see below)

“We began this design competition to respond to a major cause of ferry fatalities in the developing world, that is, inappropriate vessels in poor condition. With the design competition we are trying to promote technology in the direction of extreme affordability and safety. Recognizing that human error is another major cause of ferry fatalities, WFSA has commissioned student research in this arena as well.”

The winners of the first annual design competition for a Bangladesh River ferry were from University of British Columbia (first prize); and Tolani Maritime Institute (second prize). Istanbul Technical University, Turkey and University of Applied Sciences, Bremen, Germany, were third prize awardees.

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Editors: Background on WFSA

The Worldwide Ferry Safety Association (WFSA) is a not-for-profit organization whose board is composed of Stuart Ballantyne, Managing Director of Sea Transport Corporation which owns, operates, and constructs commercial vessels; Len Roueche,

CEO of Interferry and leader of the organization's Ferry Safety project; and Dr. Roberta Weisbrod, Principal of Sustainable Ports, a maritime transport consultancy, and coordinator of Interferry's Ferry Safety project.

The Safe Affordable Ferry Design competition is funded by a grant from the Heimbinder Foundation.

Editors: Background on Student Team Universities and Schools

The student team entries are from (by alphabetical order) Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes, France; Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada; The Apprentice School of Newport News, United States; Tolani Maritime Institute, India; University of British Columbia, Canada; University of Applied Sciences, Bremen; Germany.

Editors – Background on Judges:

Alfred Baird is a Professor of Maritime Business at Edinburgh Napier University's Transport Research Institute. He has conducted research and published on the economic, policy, and environmental aspects of ferry transport in the global market place.

Dr. Charles R. Cushing, President of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering firm, C. R. Cushing Co., has designed, built and/or supervised the construction of many vessels of all types worldwide. He is a peer-selected member of the National Academy of Engineering for his pioneering contributions to containerization. He is the author of the recently published book, Marine Casualty Safety Investigation.

Joe Hudspeth is Vice President of Business Development at All American Marine in Bellingham Washington. He writes the Boat Building column for Marine News and is a frequently invited speaker because of his insight into marine issues.

Fakhrul Islam is Chief Engineer and Ship Surveyor of the Department of Shipping Dhaka, Bangladesh and drafted the specifications of last year's design competition for a Bangladesh river ferry.

Captain Nurur Rahman is Executive Manager, Maritime Operations Division of the Papua New Guinea National Maritime Safety Authority. He has over forty years experience in both ship management and maritime administration in Hong Kong, the UK, Australia, and Papua New Guinea. Captain Rahman drafted the specifications for this year's design competition for a Ro-Pax ferry for inter-island transport in Papua New Guinea, which will also be generic for the whole of South-west Pacific Island region.

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