



The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers has been expanding internationally in recent years. Almost 20% of our members live outside of North America. We started a local section in Greece four years ago, which now has over 300 members there. In other areas of the world, including the Nordic, UK, South American and in Asia regions we may not currently have a large enough membership base to form a traditional SNAME Section, but we feel that it may be beneficial both for the Society and the local members to have more contact with our membership in such regions.

In an attempt to have some face-to-face contact with existing members in these regions, SNAME has initiated a series of Collegia where SNAME members from N. American can meet with international members in a particular region, listen to what their interests and need are from a professional Society and describe some of the existing and new initiatives which SNAME is implementing. We held our first such Collegium last year in Shanghai, China and will hold Collegia in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Oslo, Norway this year, with plans for Collegia in the UK, the Arabian Gulf and a second one in China in 2008

Some of the new initiatives include an upgraded web-site to give improved access to SNAME's considerable technical knowledge data bases, expanding our mentoring and young professional programs, and expanding our Technical and Research program etc.

We will hold our first SNAME Nordic Collegium on Monday Oct 8, 2007 at DnV Headquarters at Høvik. And on the same day, Oct 8th, we will hold our first SNAME South American Collegium, jointly organized with our sister society in Brazil, SOBENA, and sponsored by PetroBras. It is hoped that many of our long-term members who live and work in these regions will be able to attend and take part in this program to strengthen our professional Society and to explore new ways to fulfill our mission to

- To advance the art, science and practice of naval architecture, shipbuilding, marine and ocean engineering,
- To encourage the exchange and recording of information,
- To sponsor applied research,
- To offer career guidance and support education,
- To enhance the professional status and integrity of its membership.

The format of the SNAME Collegia is to have a focused technical seminar on some topic of interest in the particular region, but in addition, to allow plenty of time to meet colleagues, to network and to exchange ideas on the future of our profession and on our professional Society. These Collegia are consistent with our Society objectives above, by providing for the dissemination of knowledge, the chance to discuss with like-minded professionals and the opportunity to network in an intellectually stimulating and exciting environment.

SNAME leaders for the Nordic Collegium are Peter Noble and Jack Mercier; the Rio de Janeiro Collegium is being led by Tom Mackey and Rob Tagg. While these Collegia are primarily for the benefit of our local regional members, any of our North American members who find themselves in these areas on Oct 8th are most welcome to attend.

Future plans are underway for Collegian in the Arabian Gulf region, the UK, China and elsewhere in 2008 and beyond.

Peter Noble
Chair, International Activities Committee