

Training vessel SA Agulhas offers seatime to RMU grads

According to *Ports and Ships* website, the dedicated training vessel SA Agulhas has been active with new cadets joining the National Cadet Training Programme and preparing for a voyage to London as part of the preparation for the ship's Antarctic voyage on charter.

The scope of the vessel's training objectives has been expanded, now allowing trainees from other African countries to acquire seatime in a controlled learning environment that is not normally afforded them.

The South African Maritime Training Academy (SAMTRA) training manager, Pieter Coetzer, recently visited the Regional Maritime University (RMU) in Accra, Ghana, to select ten West African trainees to join the SA Agulhas when the vessel called at Tema, en route to London, says *Ports and Ships*.

It is estimated that only 5 - 10 people out of an entire class are afforded training berths in their region, and are able to obtain their Maritime Certificate of Competency (COC), reports *Ports and Ships*.

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