

Presentation for the Award of an Honorary Doctorate of Business

Captain T.S Prasad Mani

Captain T.S Prasad Mani's passion for shipping management led to his establishing shipping company Aurotrans Maritime Services Ltd, which has become one of the leading tank container operators in South India.

An equal enthusiasm for supporting education has resulted in Captain Mani becoming a dedicated ambassador for Plymouth University, using his position as a successful alumnus to promote the university, and helped to secure a number of pivotal partnerships at an international level.

Captain Mani began his career as a Junior Officer in 1968 after completing his two-year pre-sea training.

He gained his Master Certificate in Foreign Going Vessels from the Government of India in 1976, becoming a ship's Captain, before completing a Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Management at Plymouth University in 1979, and electing to pursue a career ashore.

Captain Mani has held key positions with various shipping companies, including Chief Officer and Master at United Arab Shipping in Kuwait; Chief Officer and Master at Egon Oldendorff in Germany, and Vice President at Gordon Woodroffe Ltd in Chennai.

In 1987, Captain Mani established Aurotrans, where he became Managing Director in 1994. Aurotrans handled 60 per cent of the tank container traffic out of Chennai Port in 1999, and continues to be an authorised representative of major shipping companies in India.

With his wide range of experience and expertise in shipping, Captain Mani is renowned in the shipping industry internationally.

Captain Mani's commitment to education and training has seen him act as a consultant to the UN Development Programme in New York, and to work with UNDP and IMO – Regional Bureau of Africa as a Team Leader on an assessment mission in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.

Captain Mani has also worked tirelessly to promote Plymouth University on an international platform, securing a number of significant partnerships for the University through his influential position and links to the education sector.

Captain Mani's contacts at the Deputy High Commission, the UK DTI, the British Council and the British Business Group have also opened many other significant doors for the University, and Captain Mani has sought to find opportunities to promote Plymouth at public and international schools in the Chennai region, enhancing international recruitment opportunities in India.

Captain Mani was recognised for his sterling efforts in supporting the University when he was awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Enterprise Award in 2012, and we are pleased to further that recognition with the award of an honorary degree today.

Vice Chancellor, I have the honour of presenting Captain Prasad Mani for the award of an Honorary Doctor of Business degree at Plymouth University.