

Subject: Feedback
Title: Observation – Etelä-Kymenlaasko Vocational College (Maritime College)
Teachers: Matti Piipari & Eini Hakala
Students: Repairmen, boat engineers, navigation officers
Topic: 1.) Lessons in the engine workshop with Matti Piipari
2.) Lesson on a fast rescue craft on the sea with Eini Hakala
(training of several exercises e. g. docking manoeuvres)
Date/Time: 17.05.2011 / 08:30 – 14:30

Some facts:

Etelä-Kymenlaasko Vocational College was built in 1973 but the education authority has started a renovation some years ago. The engine workshop has been designed completely new but in another building. So Matti and his students will move to this new building beginning of next school year (August 2011).

During our visit Matti told us some facts concerning his personal background. He has been a teacher at Etelä-Kymenlaasko Vocational College for 4 years. Earlier he mostly worked for a Finnish power plant company abroad.

He gave us a demonstration of his profound knowledge. He tried to explain us the working of a ship. Unfortunately Sonja and I are no technicians but Matti tried his best and intensified this explanation with drawings. So the procedures were easier to understand for both.

Furthermore he guided us through the whole school area and he also showed us his new working place beginning with August.

The education for sailors is very strict and widespread. It's necessary to simulate all possible situations in the engine workshop at school. In case of emergency on board of a ship the crew has to act correctly and the Maritime College acts as training camp. The Vocational College owns several high value machines for diverse exercises.

Concerning evaluation Matti told us that since a short time ago there have been only 3 grades (1, 2 and 3) and it's sometimes really hard for him to do the right assessment.

In our opinion Matti is a very competent and nice teacher, his students benefit from this big knowledge. He always operates very actively with his students and it seemed that they liked to work in the engine workshop together with Matti.

In the afternoon Sonja and I got the opportunity to take part in a "special lesson". We were on board of a fast rescue craft together with lecturer Eini Hakala and her students.

They trained several exercises on the ship e. g. docking manoeuvres. As Eini said: "It's easy to go fast with a boat but not to manoeuvre it to the boarding bridge."

Although Sonja and I thought that we are not fit for small wavering boats we enjoyed our stay on board of this fast rescue craft.

It was a very nice experience and beyond that completely different to all other "school experiences" we have ever done.

Thanks again to Eini and Matti for organising our visit and their profound guidance during our stay. We really appreciated it!