

**From a Seed of Hope to a Fruit
 of Gratefulness and Success**
 Congratulations and Encouragement from Chairman Sasakawa

One year ago, 31 hopeful aspirants of the WMU MSc Programme in Maritime Affairs, Class of 2021, received the excellent news of receiving the SPF grant for a scholarship that first paved the way to a fulfillment of a dream: to study at the prestigious University that produces competent maritime professionals and leaders, WMU. Anyone who has been aspiring to get the privilege of studying at WMU through a full-funded scholarship programme could speak of the magical feeling of being granted after several months, perhaps years, of hopeful waiting.

On 18 October 2021, the time of year has come again to hold the annual Sasakawa Fellows Awards Ceremony. Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation virtually graced the event from Japan due to the persisting COVID-19 pandemic.

In his speech, Dr. Sasakawa emphasized the “One World, One Family” philosophy of the foundation which breaks the wall of diversities, with the aim of building a bridge for a better world through proactive cooperation. The Nippon Foundation embedded this philosophy as its guiding principle in all its efforts. In application of this philosophy, Dr. Sasakawa welcomed the



SPF Class of 2021 fellows as official members of the family known as the “Friends of WMU, Japan.” He encouraged every fellow to maintain the network and cooperation despite the distance. Apart from his congratulatory message, he also mentioned his hope for a possible study tour of the SPF fellows to Japan when everyone is safe and free from the harm of the pandemic.

Giving her opening remarks, President Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry acknowledged the generosity of the Nippon Foundation, and how it has enabled WMU to have maritime professionals enrolling and graduating through the years. She also recognized the influence and impact made by the successful fellows in the ocean and maritime industry from all over the world, and how the fellows contribute to the effort for sustainable development.

The then students of Class 2021 were now part of the fellows, which now stand at a total of 730 supported by the Nippon Foundation, from 81 countries who have pursued the enhancement of maritime knowledge and skills in the maritime industry’s centre of excellence. This once-a-year event also provides a formal opportunity for every fellow to introduce themselves to Dr. Sasakawa and express their appreciation of how The Nippon Foundation has played a big part in achieving their dreams and making them a reality. Gathered in the WMU Sasakawa Auditorium, fellows were grouped according to country regions with a total of 25 different countries to deliver their brief, yet heartfelt speeches of gratitude. It was concluded by Ms. Mercedes Arevalo Aranaga from Venezuela, an MSc graduate from the OSGM specialization, who, on behalf of the WMU Class of 2021 SPF

fellows, described the earned status of the fellows as “ambassadors of SPF and the maritime field,” and “agents of change” that will help to build and strengthen maritime capacity.

Both messages by Dr. Sasakawa and President Doumbia-Henry convey keeping a lasting fellowship within the SPF family and University. As highlighted by President Doumbia-Henry, the 2 definitions of “fellowship” as “group of people sharing a mutual purpose, experience or interest” or an “existing friendly feeling to a group of people with the same interest,” the new Sasakawa fellows are highly encouraged to uphold the mission of the Nippon Foundation for social innovation; that is, to support one another. We realized the new responsibility at hand – to impart what the fellows have learned by having their colleagues learn from them when they return to their home country and mother organizations.

Learning is truly a continuous process. The network established by the SPF fellows does not end the moment they marched on the stage and received their diploma. In fact, the fellowship is yet to serve its great purpose of sharing the strength and continuously learn from each other especially in the maritime field. Through continuous learning, no one from the link of a united chain gets rusty and weak. This chain can strongly bind together and support a common goal for the development of the maritime and ocean industry even in the midst of challenges. As cliché as it sounds, the saying, “Every end has a new beginning,” holds true to these 31 fellows as they begin another journey to the real world of maritime and ocean fields.

Dana Justine dC. Natividad
 (Philippines, 2021)

New Members of WMU Sasakawa



Benyebka CHERIGUI

Harbour Master, Port Operations, Mostaganem Port Authority

Being awarded the Sasakawa Fellowship to study at WMU is definitely a great honour for me and an excellent opportunity to expand my knowledge in the maritime and ocean field. Moreover, It will allow me to build a solid international network with Sasakawa Fellows to better tackle global issues.

Algeria
MSEA



Chahrazed TIGHA

Second Engineer, Shipping Department, National Passengers Shipping Company

Many thanks to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for their prestigious fellowship for obtaining my master's degree at WMU. As a female seafarer, I have gained important experience in the maritime field, and I will definitely achieve my career goals thanks to this golden opportunity.

Algeria
MSEA



Jace SPENCER

Marine Inspector, Technical Department, Antigua Department of Marine Services

I am happy to be a part of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and will do my best so that I can contribute to my country and the worldwide maritime sector. I am also looking forward to networking and meeting fellow Sasakawa Fellows.

Antigua and barbuda
MSEA



Mohammad Mohiul ISLAM

Assistant General Manager, Finance Department, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for selecting me as a recipient of a WMU Sasakawa Fellowship. This is an opportunity for me to share knowledge with "Sasakawa Fellows" from different countries, which will be extremely helpful in developing maritime-related fields in my country.

Bangladesh
SML



Amrita Kumar SAHA

Assistant Manager, Marine Insurance and Claims Department
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, Bangladesh

I am sincerely grateful for the generous Sasakawa Peace Foundation Fellowship and was thrilled to learn that I had been selected as a recipient of this prestigious SPF/Nippon Foundation award. After graduating from WMU I will work for maritime affairs in Bangladesh and the common heritage of mankind.

Bangladesh
SML



Debora Cristina FERRARI RAMALHO

Collaborating Researcher, Oceanographic Institute of University of São Paulo Fisheries Ecosystem Laboratory

It is a great honor to represent my country as a Sasakawa Fellow at WMU. I strongly believe that this unique opportunity will open many doors for my career. I will endeavor to enjoy this experience, and I wish to sincerely thank Dr. Sasakawa and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Brazil
OSGM



Habchi MBAE

Port State Control Officer and Flag State Control
Maritime Safety and Security Department,
National Agency of Maritime Affairs (ANAM)

As a WMU Sasakawa Fellow, on behalf of my organization I would like to express my gratitude and thank you for offering the Sasakawa Fellowship Award. The knowledge I gain from WMU will, I believe, help me to fulfil my goals for my career in the maritime administration.

Comoros
MSEA



Paulina PATINO

Vessel Boarding Agent- Account Operator, Flopec Agency Department
FLOTA PETROLERA ECUATORIANA EP FLOPEC

I am beyond grateful and honored to be part of the Sasakawa Fellows' Network and a WMU Student. My goals involve protecting our oceans, increasing women's participation in the maritime field, supporting efforts to defend seafarers' rights and welfare, and advocating for both SPF and The Nippon Foundation missions.

Ecuador
SML



Mboumba mboumba DARNELA

Commanding Officer Patrol Vessel "COCOBEAH", GABON NAVY
MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF GABON

I will always be grateful to the Sasakawa Fellowship for this unique opportunity, a milestone in a very fruitful career in the maritime industry. Thanks to them, I am honored to be the head of the WMU Women's Association, on the front lines of gender equality.

Gabon
MSEA



Ebrima WEATHEROL

Assistant Manager, Statistic and Commercial Service
Gambia Ports Authority-Ferries

Dr. Sasakawa your name will be praised, and your deeds will forever remain in our memories. Thank you very much for providing this tremendous opportunity that will change my life, community, and country.

Gambia
PM



Besik CHKHIKVADZE

Navigational Officer, Head of Poti Maritime Teaching and Training Centre

I am so proud to be a part of the Sasakawa Fellowship Program and believe that my studying at such an internationally recognized institution will play a pivotal role in the advancement of Georgian maritime education and, and therefore directly benefit my career path.

Georgia
MET



Kwadwo FORSON-ADABOH

Officer in Charge / Lieutenant Commander
Naval Faculty Ghana Military Academy, Ghana Navy

I am honored to receive this great opportunity from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to study at WMU. After graduation, I will return to Ghana to impart my newly gained knowledge to naval cadets, fellow officers, and ratings of the Ghana Navy, and contribute to improving the Ghana maritime industry.

Ghana
MSEA



Surendra Kumar KARWASARA

Commandant(JG), General Duty Officer, Indian Coast Guard

I feel privileged and honored to be part of the Sasakawa Family and WMU. I will utilize the opportunities, knowledge, and friendship I gain at WMU to work for a better future for our oceans, and with gratitude contribute to making our network even stronger.

India
MLP



Raga PURWANTO

Structural Engineer
Plan Approval Division - Classification Operation Department
Biro Klasifikasi Indonesia (BKI)

Let us all be not only friends but also brothers and sisters in the great Sasakawa Fellowship family. Let us all be united in harmony and together make this planet a better place. Cheers.

Indonesia
PM



Saeid HASSANKHANI DOLATABADI

4th Engineer, Technical, IRISL(Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line)

A glimpse into history proves that unity and cooperation are the first and best solution for all the world's crises. Thank you to the Sasakawa Foundation, which contributes to WMU, for providing a basis for students from different countries to help our beautiful world overcome the climate change crisis.

Iran
MEM



Mamoru SHINOHARA

Officer, Education and Training Division, Administration Department
Japan Coast Guard

I am very honored to join WMU and the Sasakawa Fellowship Program. I believe that this connection is one of the most important relationships within the international maritime society and that we will play various important roles in the future.

Japan
MSEA

Sasakawa Fellowship, Class of 2022



Ko TAGUCHI
 Technical Official, Maritime
 Bureau Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

I am very honored and grateful to be able to study at WMU with the support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. I want to enhance my professional knowledge and also make connections at WMU. I will contribute to maritime fields utilizing what I gain through my experience here.

Japan
MSEA



Alex mwangome MWAKUNI
 Gmdss/Maritime Sar Officer, Maritime Safety
 Kenya Maritime Authority

I am honored to have this rare opportunity offered to me by the Sasakawa Foundation. The knowledge and skills I acquire while at WMU shall be an achievement for not only me but also my country and the global maritime sector.

Kenya
MEM



Richard B KAMARA
 Policy Analyst, Department of Coast Guard
 Ministry of National Defense

I am very grateful to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for the Sasakawa Fellowship award to study at WMU. After returning home, I intend to better represent the Ministry of National Defense at maritime functions on issues relating to maritime policy formulation and implementation nationally and internationally. Thank you!

Liberia
MSEA



Mariah Rhoda WILLIAMS
 Senior Environmental Officer, Environmental Department
 Margibbi County Administration

This opportunity afforded to me is one that I will cherish for a lifetime as such opportunities do not readily come along. Armed with the knowledge I gain, I promise to return home and contribute to my country, region and the world, and also make meaningful and lasting international connections.

Liberia
OSGM



Latifa OUMOZOUNE
 Head of Technical and Educational Affairs, Studies and Research Department
 The Higher Institute For Maritime Studies, ISEM Casablanca

I feel thrilled to be part of the Sasakawa Family and study at WMU. I am sure that this opportunity will have a huge impact on my future career. Having acquired the necessary MET knowledge, I will make positive changes to better serve my home institution and its partners.

Morocco
MET



Suama Namulilo MUNDJEGO
 Fisheries Inspector, Operation
 Ministry of Fishery and Marine Resources

I am honored and grateful to be a member of the Sasakawa Fellowship Program, WMU being the best maritime university. I expect to gain graduate attributes for the benefit of Namibia and the world at large. Thank you, Dr. Sasakawa!

Namibia
OSGM



Peter OHAGWA
 Principal Maritime Safety Officer (PMSO), Maritime Safety and Seafarers' Standards
 Nigerian Maritime Admin. and Safety Agency

I thank God for the gift of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and the opportunity to study at the prestigious WMU. Thank you, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa. I resolve to apply the knowledge I gain to the advancement of world maritime affairs, especially with regard to safety, security, and the environment.

Nigeria
MSEA



Euphraim Jayson DICIANO
 Chief of Staff/ Cg Commander, Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao
 Philippine Coast Guard

I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for the great learning opportunity at WMU. I deeply hope that the knowledge and wisdom that I gain at this institution will contribute to the development of my country's socio-economic and geopolitical landscapes.

Philippines
MSEA



Marilyn JAAL
 Commander, Department of Transportation (DOTr)
 Philippine Coast Guard

It is an honor to be a part of the growing global community of Sasakawa Fellows. To exchange information and learn from experts and well-known professors on various maritime subjects will be extremely beneficial in my line of work as a coast guard officer.

Philippines
OSGM



Yankuba MARAH
 Port State Control Officer, Maritime Safety And Security Department
 Sierra Leone Maritime Administration

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Sasakawa Fellowship. Receiving such an opportunity has highly motivated me and made me realize that my dream is achievable and that I am one step closer to being able to give back to my country. Thank you.

Sierra Leone
MSEA



**Habakkala Watawala Kankanange
 DARSHANA SAMPATH KUMARA**
 Assistant Manager, Technical, Ceylon Shipping Corporation Limited

This program can enlighten an entire nation by providing a unique chance for one person to advance their knowledge. I will use this opportunity to develop Sri Lanka's entire maritime sector through the wealth of knowledge I gain at WMU. I am sincerely grateful to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Sri Lanka
MSEA



Kelum Prasanga JALATH MUNASINGHE
 Junior Manager, Operations Divisions, Sri Lanka Ports Authority

I am honored and grateful to be awarded a Sasakawa Fellowship. Studying at WMU is a great opportunity to enhance my knowledge and build international relationships. After completing the program, I will serve my county by enhancing the efficiency and productivity of our ports.

Sri Lanka
PM



Julio DOS SANTOS
 Nautical Training Assistant (Instructor), Department of Maritime Safety
 National Directorate of Maritime Transport

I am deeply grateful to the WMU/Sasakawa Program for awarding me the Fellowship and for their support. I consider this scholarship an invaluable investment for my country and my organization, and especially for my family and future career. I am also grateful to the Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Peace Foundation.

Timor-Leste
SML



Raniel ELISANTE SWAI
 Legal Officer, Legal Service Unit
 Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC)

Words cannot express the depth of my gratitude to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Nippon Foundation. WMU is a center of excellence for maritime leaders, and with the knowledge I acquire I can contribute to the growth of the maritime industry in my country and the world at large.

Tanzania
MLP



Leidy IBANEZ
 Associate Attorney, Prosecutor Office 94 with Full Competence
 Public Ministry of Venezuela

I feel honored and grateful to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for this opportunity to grow academically and professionally. With my specialization, the SPF is not giving this opportunity just to a Venezuelan woman, because my mission afterwards will be to share the knowledge that I obtain here with my country.

Venezuela
MLP

- MET** (Maritime Education & Training)
- MEM** (Maritime Energy Management)
- MLP** (Maritime Law & Policy)
- MSEA** (Maritime Safety & Environmental Administration)
- OSGM** (Ocean Sustainability, Governance & Management)
- PM** (Port Management)
- SML** (Shipping Management & Logistics)

Sasakawa Fellows Gathering Orientation 2021

Paulina Patino Montano,
(Ecuador, 2022)



31 professionals in the maritime industry came to WMU driven by the same thoughts: gratitude, dedication, and a desire to become the industry's new leaders. We all wanted to thank the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for its financial support. And so we did! At the first Sasakawa Fellows meeting, conducted via Zoom on September 25, 2021.

Every year, SPF organizes a meeting of all the current Sasakawa Fellows at WMU, allowing us to get to know each other and encouraging closer relationships between us, built on trust and companionship. Another purpose of the meeting was for the Fellows of the Class of 2021 and the new class to share knowledge and valuable information.

Early on the day of September 25, all Sasakawa Fellows sat ready in front of their computers, eager for the online event to start. Mr. Junya Otani

(MLP 2021) was the host and started the meeting by greeting everyone before handing over to SPF.

SPF Senior Advisor, Mr. Eisuke Kudo, and Mr. Takeshi Mizunari greeted and conveyed their best wishes to all the Fellows. They highlighted the importance of learning about future developmental projects in Japan and keeping this community of people dreaming, expanding, and working together with common goals.

In addition, Mr. Mizunari presented a video illustrating how Japan regards the new era of digitalization in the maritime industry as an opportunity for social and economic development. In relation to this, the Nippon Foundation is conducting a project regarding unmanned ships in Japan called MEGURI 2040.

Next, each of the Sasakawa Fellows had the opportunity to give a short self-introduction.

Many expressed excitement about starting the master's program and their eagerness to acquire new knowledge, and some also expressed the hope that we can all complete the master's program smoothly. Most of us expressed our gratitude to SPF, thanking Dr. Yohei Sasakawa for supporting further learning for maritime professionals each year.

Every new beginning comes with some difficulty. We must look at all the roads we have traveled to get to where we now are, the people who have given us their support, the changes we have made, and how much we have to learn and contribute to this world. Let us stay grateful every day, work hard, and dream big. Let us use our studies for the benefit of the maritime industry and our oceans. This is just the beginning!

Thoughts from the Secretariat on the Importance of the Gathering Orientation

Takeshi Mizunari
Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat

Perhaps one of the most important responsibilities that we have as the Secretariat is ensuring that incoming Sasakawa Fellows understand the journey besides the journey of obtaining a master's degree at WMU. Yes, indeed—The Sasakawa Fellowship Program is a journey in and of itself, one that lasts long after graduation. This is why we set the stage during the short time allotted to us within the Gathering Orientation. We take a brief dive into the history of the Program, what unique opportunities await, and most importantly, what it means to be a Sasakawa Fellow.

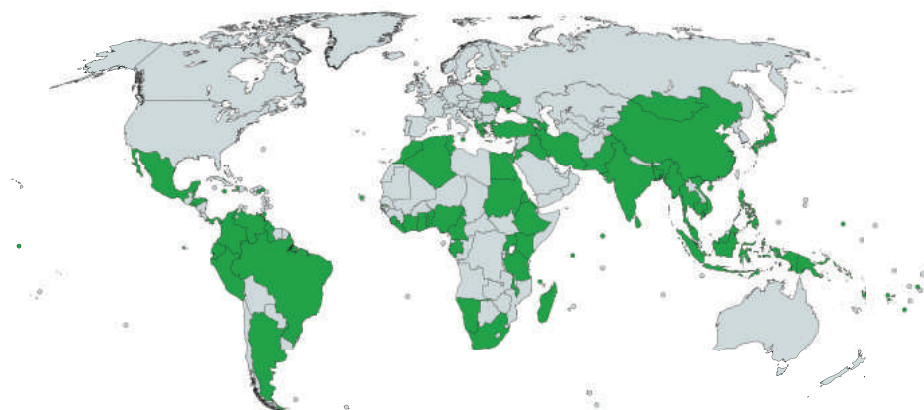
The online event started with an introduction to the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program. Firstly, Mr. Kudo told students about the "soul" of our program. His speech reminded everyone of why they were here, and how they could contribute to our ocean as maritime leaders.

Next it was my turn to talk about the program in detail. I mentioned the background behind the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network, The Nippon Foundation, and, of course, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Here, I talked about the many

scholarships and fellowships dedicated to global ocean issues that are sponsored by the NF. I also touched upon differences between the NF and the SPF, how the scholarship is funded, and ways the program is maintained under the SPF. Finally, I talked about what we have planned for our annual events, namely, the Japan Field Study Trip and the Awards Ceremony for Sasakawa Fellows.

It was challenging for me to say all these things in those very short minutes allotted to me, and I appreciate the Sasakawa Fellows' kind

understanding and attentive ears. In the very understandable excitement that comes with studying abroad at the beautiful, life-changing WMU, we hope you will keep the Sasakawa journey close to your hearts. This can be through your everyday thoughts and efforts, or handwritten letters to Chairman Sasakawa. Whatever the future holds, it is our sincere hope that Sasakawa Fellows never forget the program—the family—they have become a part of.



A world map showing the home countries of over 700 Sasakawa Fellows.

The Growth of Coast Guard Agencies Worldwide and the Current Situation on Their Cooperation



Shuichi Iwanami
Former Commandant,
Japan Coast Guard

Background to the Expansion of Coast Guard Agencies

The oceans are not only a border for coastal countries but also a place for various activities. Therefore, ensuring maritime safety and security and preserving marine environments is fundamental to the peace, stability, and development of coastal countries, regions and the international community. In the past, these duties were often performed by various pre-existing agencies in each country, such as navies, border guard agencies, and police agencies. However, there has been a rapid increase in the number of countries that have established coast guard agencies in recent years. These agencies carry out maritime operations such as maritime safety/security and environmental protection in either a comprehensive manner or a dedicated manner in specific areas. It has also become more common that these operations are referred to as coast guard functions.

The following factors may have led coast guard agencies to expand and become more universal in recent years:

- (1) The expansion of coastal states' jurisdiction over a wider area of the sea under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- (2) An increase in maritime activities due to the expansion of economic activities and globalization.
- (3) Expansions in maritime safety and security issues such as maritime terrorism, piracy, and large-scale accidents.
- (4) Frequent disputes and conflicts among nations over maritime domains and interests.

In fact, the establishment of coast guard agencies has become more noticeable since the 1970s when considerations surrounding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea commenced. This trend towards establishing coast guards has accelerated since the 2000s when the maritime safety and security situation changed significantly. Existing coast guard agencies are also being strengthened.

Diversity and Standardization of Coast Guard Agencies

The history of coast guard systems is relatively short, and their organizational forms vary from country to country. In November 2019, the Japan Coast Guard and the Nippon Foundation co-hosted the second Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in Tokyo. Alongside independent



Group photo of the Second Coast Guard Global Summit

organizations dedicated to coast guard duties, there were various types of organizations, including military, border guard, security, and police agencies that are either dedicated to coast guard duties, have agencies under their umbrella dedicated to coast guard duties or are agencies that coordinate the coast guard duties of domestic agencies (see references below).

The way these agencies were formed is as diverse as their organizational structures. Globally, it appears as though coast guard systems are still changing.

However, standardization for coast guard agencies is progressing. Increasingly, agencies dedicated to coast guard operations are using the English title of "Coast Guard" to refer to themselves. Additionally, many vessels owned by coast guard agencies of various countries have diagonal paint on the front of their hulls. In addition to external standards, there has been a gradual standardization of maritime law enforcement methods.

Cooperation among Coast Guard Agencies and Future Challenges

As a result of these expansions, cooperation amongst agencies has been developing at a regional level. Japan has been leading the way in multilateral cooperation among coast guard agencies. The Japan Coast Guard and the Nippon Foundation have cooperated to hold the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) since 2000, the Head of Asia Coast Guard Forum (HACGAM) since 2004, and the Coast Guard Global Summit* since 2017. In response, multilateral meetings by coast guard agencies are now being held in various

regions, such as the "Black Sea Littoral States Border/Coast Guard Agencies Cooperation Forum (BSCF)," the "North Atlantic Coast Guard Forum (NACGF)," the "European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF)," the "Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MCGFF)," and the "Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF)." There has been an increase in international organized crime, piracy, terrorism, and other crimes, influxes of refugees, and illegal fishing operations, as well as the recent increase in maritime activities and concerns about large-scale disasters at sea due to environmental changes such as climate change. Thus, it is becoming increasingly important to strengthen cooperation and dialogue among the world's coast guard agencies, transcending regional frameworks to address these worldwide challenges. Coordination and cooperation among coast guard agencies that conduct maritime law enforcement activities under national and international laws will act as a foundation for regional and global peace and stability based on the rule of law at sea. Having said that, cooperation among coast guard agencies has just started and is still a new concept. It is hoped that coordination and cooperation among coast guard agencies will be further developed at both the regional level and a worldwide level through the Coast Guard Global Summit. (End)

*See "Hosting of the Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)—Towards the Maintenance of International Maritime Order—" by Kentaro Furuya, in issue No. 416. https://www.spf.org/opri/newsletter/416_2.html

Reference: "Research on the Current State of the Coast Guard Agencies of the World," Japan Coast Guard Foundation (March 2021), URL: <https://www.jcga.or.jp/pdf/wcgr.pdf>



Top row, from left: Argentine Coast Guard, Djibouti Coast Guard (Source: JICA's ODA Visualization Website), Indian Coast Guard, Italian Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, Japan Coast Guard

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A New Chapter of My Life at the IMO

Naohiro Saito
(Japan, 2018)

It has been more than 3 years since I graduated from the WMU in 2018. Time passes very quickly, but I still clearly remember what I learned at WMU and my daily school life spent with my fellow students. This experience was incredibly valuable and crucial for my work at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan dealing with maritime environment and safety issues.

My new life at IMO just started in July this year amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I was appointed as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) in IMO's Maritime Safety Division (MSD) for a two-year term. Within the MSD, there are two sub-divisions that are responsible for providing technical information and advice on operational safety, maritime training, and human element-related issues (OSHE) as well as maritime cargoes and technologies (MTC). I belong to both subdivisions, being mainly in charge of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship (MASS) and Goal-based Standards (GBS). However, I will be given tasks relevant to not only these issues, but also other safety-related issues, such as considering the safety aspects of hydrogen and ammonia as marine fuels, which have recently drawn global attention as a solution for GHG reduction. For me, this is very challenging since I have never

had the experience of dealing with these tasks internationally, but I will try to tackle them to the best of my ability.

My colleagues at IMO commenced working in the office in September after the tough restrictions imposed by the UK government were lifted and began a flexible work style comprising two days at the office and three days at home, which enables us to work safely and efficiently using internet tools such as virtual meetings. Regular Committees and Sub-Committees at IMO are still being held remotely, but everyone here expects to begin having physical meetings in spring next year, depending on the COVID-19 situation in the UK.

It was a great pleasure to meet my colleague from Malaysia, Mr. Mohd Nazwan Hafeez Bin Hashim, who graduated from WMU in 2010 and was appointed as a JPO in 2019. He sat beside me in the office and patiently taught me everything from how to set up life in London, to work-related matters, to ways of spending time at IMO based on his experiences over the past two years. Unfortunately, we could only spend three months working together as he returned to Malaysia in November; however, even in that short time, we had a great time talking and having lunch together, and even going to a stadium to watch football. (We really like football © He is a big fan of Manchester United, but the game was not...) I would like to thank him for all his kind support, and wish him great success in the future.

The winter season is upon us. Winters in



With Mr. Mohd Nazwan Hafeez Bin Hashim

London are characterized by cold and often rainy weather. However, people have smiles on their faces as they enjoy the Christmas season, with light illumination displays throughout the city. I want to enjoy this season in the UK as much as possible, while being careful about the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Nippon Foundation, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and all their staff for providing me with the opportunity to gain invaluable knowledge and experience at WMU, which has broadened and deepened my perspective in the maritime field as well as boosted my confidence in tackling new challenges, including this new voyage at IMO.

I hope this pandemic would be over soon, and that we can meet in London.

Keeping Maritime Workers Safe Onboard Ships



Nguyen Hai Nam
(Viet Nam, 2002)

With a coastline of over 3,260 km, it is natural for Viet Nam to use the maritime sector as a driving force for socioeconomic development. Indeed, the recent contributions from the sea and coastal economic areas are considerable. However, the impact of COVID-19 during these past two years has required the relevant maritime authorities to work out plans, measures, and roadmaps in line with government steering policies in order to protect and sustain development of the maritime sector. On the occasion of The 3rd Community of Practice Forum on Maritime Safety 2021, it was my honor to deliver a presentation on keeping maritime workers safe onboard ships, focusing on measures for providing a safe workplace onboard and what to do next to achieve this.

Vaccination is Key

To provide and maintain a safe workplace onboard, vaccination of crew members and relevant shore-based personnel is a priority. As Head of Maritime Administration of Ho Chi Minh City, I have proactively and closely



worked with the Department of Health and the CDC to organize early vaccinations for a total of 28,041 employees (nearly 100%) of port-related enterprises. In addition, 767 crews from 50 Vietnam-flagged ships were also vaccinated when they arrived at the Port of Ho Chi Minh City. The data shows there are 5,233 seafarers vaccinated in seaports across Vietnam, of which 3,290 have received one dose and 1,943 are fully vaccinated.

The Guidance 5K Rules from the Ministry of Health: Face Masks (Khẩu trang), Disinfection (Khử khuẩn), Distancing (Khoảng cách), No Gathering (Không tập trung), Health Declaration (Khai báo y tế)

Putting the guidance into practice, we undertake many measures, including conducting administrative formalities online through information technology. FSI and PSC inspections

were carried out 100% virtually as per Tokyo MOU and VINAMARINE guidelines.

What to Do Next

The maritime sector is still at risk, and to maintain a safe workplace onboard ships, it is important that we continue to:

1. Cooperate and share experiences across sectors as well as countries to create appropriate safety and prevention procedures.
2. Work closely with relevant authorities to speed up the vaccination process so seafarers are fully vaccinated.
3. Take necessary precautions through broad plans to produce sustainable levels of protection against - as well as safe and flexible adaptation to - COVID-19, while effectively maintaining operations and keeping the workplace onboard ships safe for all.

My Experience as Part of the Argentine CG Post-WMU

Santiago Juan Geymonat
(Argentina, 2019)

My name is Santiago Geymonat, and I serve as an Argentinian Coast Guard officer. I received my master's degree in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration (MSEA) from WMU in 2019, thanks to the invaluable support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's (SPF) Fellowship Program.

The experience and knowledge I gained during my years at WMU allowed me to focus my career on the field of international regulations and move on to activities related to the control and monitoring of foreign vessel fleets as part of Prefectura Naval Argentina functions and mandates. I am also a professor of "Politics and Economics in the Navigation Sector" in the PhD course offered to our officers, and have written a paper on flag state performance indicators for the Journal of Safety Science and Resilience.

In the same year as my graduation from the WMU, I became part of the Interdisciplinary Team for the Control of Maritime Spaces and their Resources (EICEMAR). Our team aims to contribute to the study and improvement of the monitoring of jurisdictional maritime spaces and natural resources

of our country, through a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach aimed at developing tools and strategies to contribute to the decision-making process, promoting interagency cooperation.

One of our team's achievements involved WMU. In June 2021, thanks to close coordination between the two institutions, the Argentine CG delivered a lecture to the MSEA students (Class 2021) on the topic, "Argentinian CG Efforts to Mitigate Illegal Fishing in Our Jurisdiction." The lecture described the evolution of the fight against IUU fishing in our country, especially through interagency cooperation and the use of technology, focusing in particular on our dedicated internally developed system called GUARDACOSTAS, which is a comprehensive platform that displays the positions of every vessel navigating within Argentina's jurisdictional waters in real time.

Due to the positive results of this event, our institution was invited to be part of project CAPFISH, whose main objective is to foster capacity-building for professionals in the maritime and ocean fields in developing countries, with the financial support of the Korean Government. This project comprised two workshops involving multiple organizations, including IMO, ILO, and FAO. For the first workshop, which was held October at WMU, I was invited as an expert representing the



Author speaking to the right.

Argentine CG to deliver a lecture on our experience and the challenges in the South Atlantic Ocean.

In addition, I was part of the EICEMAR's most recent and important accomplishment: the development of a regional technological platform where every maritime authority will be able to share useful information about vessels navigating in regional waters and to present a united front against common threats. Undoubtedly, having the chance to be part of these activities and play these roles has given me a better understanding of the tremendous importance of interagency cooperation among different organizations and maritime authorities.

All these professional challenges and achievements in my career would never have been possible without the invaluable support of SPF. Therefore, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you for all your support and encouragement.

IUU Fishing: A New Challenge to Maritime Security



Rajinder Kumar
(India, 2019)

Maritime security in India is multi-structured, with ever-evolving maritime security challenges. Like a beam of light, maritime security appears as a single subject, but when seen through a prism of past incidences we can find different aspects of maritime security.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is generally regarded as an environmental concern, but it is also a potent threat to maritime security. It falls under the category of organised crimes, and is one of the most complex and serious crimes, not only affecting the marine ecosystem, but also posing a detrimental threat to national maritime security. The intrusion of foreign fishing trawlers and crossing of fishing boats into the EEZs of other countries provide opportunities for Anti-National Elements (ANE) to enter coastal states. IUU fishing is interconnected with societal issues such as drug trafficking, piracy, and illegal trade.

The littoral states of India are developing nations with poorly demarcated maritime boundaries. IUU fishing arrests by India and Sri Lanka in the Palk Strait, India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch, and India and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal are quite frequent. IUU fishing in the context of India can be divided into two broad categories: IUU fishing by foreign fishing trawlers in India's EEZ and crossing of Indian boats into the EEZs of other countries. In both situations, maritime security is compromised. As one crime leads to another, organised crime like IUU fishing may lead to maritime security lapses and can be detrimental

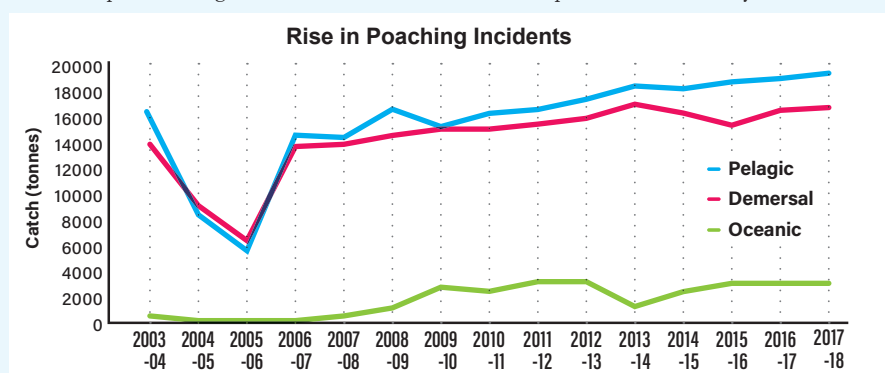
to coastal security. Fishing fleets involved in illegal and unregulated fishing have been accused of pillaging sea resources, which are part of the exclusive economic rights of other countries. They do not comply with the requirements mandated by international regulations.

Illegal wildlife trading to meet the ever-increasing wildlife demands of other countries is robbing India of its valuable flora and fauna. Due to their great worth in the international market, marine species such as sea cucumbers, shellfish, turtles, sea horses, and tuna are poached and illegally sold. Poachers from neighbouring nations have been known to breach the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to steal marine treasures. The increase in poaching activities is shown in the graph below.

One persuasive way to deal with IUU fishing is for states to comply with the provisions of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). The Agreement on Port State Measures is the world's first legally binding international treaty aimed at IUU fishing. It establishes a minimum set of standards that Parties must follow when foreign boats request permission to enter or remain in other state ports. The Agreement came into force

in June 2016 after being approved by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). IUU fishing will no longer be a low-risk, high-reward business, but rather a high-risk, low-reward one as more states agree to abide by the treaty and coordinate their port state procedures. Benefits include supporting economic growth by keeping illegally caught fish out of their ports. These market states will prefer to use ports in countries that are parties to the PSMA. The data gathered will help produce more robust stock assessments for developing and enhancing capacity, including monitoring, control, and surveillance in both national and international waters, as well as improve inter-agency cooperation.

In today's world, maritime security is the biggest concern for India. The unchecked movement of massive fishing fleets involved in IUU fishing across maritime borders is a cause of concern. While India is working towards achieving Goal 14 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)—Life Below Water—as a major maritime nation, efforts need to be made at global, regional, and national levels to curb IUU fishing in order to improve maritime security.



An Urgent Reminder about Surveys!

As you may all know, our office sent out a survey on the Friends of WMU, Japan Newsletter via mail (physical) with the 76th issue in September as well as email (digital) around the same time. Most regrettably, however, we only have 53 responses so far – out of the 700 Fellows around the world. Sasakawa Family, we need your participation more than ever! To encourage submissions, the deadline for answering the survey – physically OR digitally- is now extended to **March 31st**. Don't miss out on your chance to support the incredible Sasakawa Network, and create an even more complete Newsletter than before!



The Newsletter of the Fellows,
by the Fellows,
for the Fellows.
Let's work together!

The Birth of My Daughter

Eko Maja Priyanto (Indonesia, 2017)



Greetings from Indonesia to all Sasakawa fellows. On this special occasion, I am pleased to share some good news with you all. All praise be to God, our third daughter was born on 1st July 2021 safely and in healthy condition. The date of birth coincided with my company's 57th birthday, which made it easier to remember and celebrate.

I am really grateful and proud of my wife, who endured this critical situation and brought a beautiful baby into our family. As inspired by the quote, "Honour your children and give them good names", we decided to give her the name,

"Hanna Aafiyah". Hanna is a Swedish girl's name meaning grace, and Aafiyah is an Arabic word which means to be healthy and saved from any affliction or serious illness. We hope that she has a graceful personality and will always be protected from any serious illness or affliction, particularly in this unprecedented situation.

I also pray for all Sasakawa fellows all around the globe; I wish all of you are always in good health, happiness, and attaining extraordinary achievements with every step despite these unusual times.

A Tribute to My Friend, Kyaw Myo Win (SM 2009)

Aung Thein Win (Myanmar, 2009)

I could not believe my ears when I heard the sad news that my friend, Mr. Kyaw Myo Win, passed away from liver failure on October 25. The two of us were Sasakawa Fellows and classmates together at World Maritime University. While we were studying at WMU, I realized that he would never conceal his knowledge; he very willingly explained to me how to calculate accounting ratios and analyze financial statements.

Soon after graduation, he resigned from his job and founded a private training center called the Myanmar Supply Chain College. This was the turning point of his career. As a result of his enthusiasm, perseverance,

and persuasive skills, the training center became very popular within a few years among logistics professionals in Myanmar. He also established connections with universities and institutes abroad. Due to his great efforts, the training center became a Myanmar examination center approved by the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS). This was a milestone in his life.

His death is a great loss for the maritime industry, especially the logistics and supply chain sector in Myanmar. As he was a part of the Sasakawa Fellows and WMU alumni, his memory will always be in our hearts. May his soul rest in peace!



Editor's note

As the late-autumn foliage in Tokyo tells me that we are almost reaching the end of this year, I naturally start recalling this year's events.

I have been working on a project to create new technologies for enhancing the maritime surveillance capabilities of our coast guard. The more aware I become of cutting-edge technologies and moving the project ahead, the more I realize the importance of detailed dialogue among the people involved. Living in the current world where online meetings are no longer something

new, I am becoming increasingly appreciative of the unmissable value of face-to-face communication. Though it seems to go against the times, knocking on doors and having direct conversations instead of communicating through emails or phone calls might bring us unexpected solutions.

It is the time to prepare holiday greeting cards, so how about sending hand-written cards instead of emails? I truly hope your holiday season is full of warmth and joy.



Maki Tominaga
(Japan, 2015)
Japan Coast Guard