

## Reunion in Tunisia



A regional meeting of 24 Sasakawa Fellows<sup>1</sup>, hailing from 12 African countries, was held in Tunis, Tunisia on August 26–29, 2022. This was the 5th regional meeting, and the first in four years since the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting held in London in January 2018.

The event was planned in a hurry to coincide with the holding of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)<sup>2</sup> - which, after having been postponed repeatedly because of the COVID-19 pandemic, had just been officially scheduled to take place in summer.

As with previous regional meetings, the Secretariat created a program draft, the main purpose of which was to enhance and expand the Sasakawa Fellows Network. All participants prepared materials in advance despite the short time allotted before the regional meeting took place. In the pages onwards, you will find a summary of the incredible occasion that took place.

### Preparatory Meeting (August 26, Afternoon)

Many, many Fellows faced difficulties obtaining a visa in the short amount of time available, so unfortunately, not all invitees were able to attend. On this day, the WMU President, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, was in attendance to see the participants introduce themselves. Many of the Fellows had never met each other before this! Participants used PowerPoint presentations in their self-introductions, and everyone could see how the Fellows have each been leading fulfilling lives since their respective graduations.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the structure of the sessions and working groups scheduled to begin the following day, as well as who to elect as chairs for each session. Ultimately, Mr. Nabil ANWARI was elected as chair for the overall event, with Mr. Houcem Eddine CHERNI and Ms. Maureen Kanini KITHEKA as vice-chairs. Ms. Stella Joshua KATONDO was selected as the chair for Session 3 to discuss ways to strengthen and expand alumni networks. It was decided that the chairs for each of the working groups in Session 2, in which various maritime issues would be discussed, would be decided by the working group members themselves.

At the end of the preparatory meeting, Capt. Yusuke MORI, who was participating as a representative of the Japanese Sasakawa Fellows and as Deputy Executive Director of the International Association of Maritime University (IAMU), gave an overview of IAMU's important roles and activities.

With that, the preparatory meeting was over. Everyone headed on to the evening welcome party where they were joined by Dr. Hide Sakaguchi (President of the Ocean Policy Research Institute, SPF) and his staff from TICAD. WMU graduates from Tunisia made special guest appearances, and all attendees enjoyed a friendly and fun reception which lasted until late at night.

### Day 1 (August 27)

#### (1) Opening Ceremony

After an opening address by Dr. Sakaguchi, a video message from Chairman Sasakawa was shown. This was followed by a congratulatory address by Dr. Doumbia-Henry, who celebrated the regional meeting's occurrence and spoke of the importance of alumni activities. Lastly, Ms. Thouraya Khelil of the OMMP (Office of Merchant Marine and Ports), co-organizers of the regional meeting, gave a warm welcoming address to the audience.

Following the opening ceremony, Chairman Sasakawa - who was participating in TICAD - took time out of his packed schedule to make an appearance at the meeting. Overjoyed, the Sasakawa Fellows welcomed his visit by singing WMU's university song. Chairman Sasakawa nodded as they each told him about their current activities and responded warmly to their questions. This long-awaited meeting was concluded with group photos with Chairman Sasakawa, as well as several Sasakawa Fellows who had arrived in the nick of time after overcoming flight and visa issues.

#### (2) Session 1: Maritime Review of Each Country

Participants explained how their countries were doing regarding maritime affairs and current issues they were facing. Each presentation was followed by questions from the enthusiastic and curious Sasakawa Fellows. Their thirst for learning clearly didn't end with graduation!



## Day 2 (August 28)

### (1) Session 2: Working Group Discussions

Participants were separated into working groups based on 4 different themes: (a) Maritime Transport and Port/Harbor Issues, (b) Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection, (c) Maritime/Ocean Education (including Human Capacity Development), and (d) Ocean Governance. They selected specific topics and fervently carried out discussions aimed at resolving future issues.

Each working group spent some time before and after lunch to put together a summary based on what they had discussed, and finally, presented their conclusions to all the meeting participants that afternoon. As they took the floor, the presenters passionately exchanged questions and answers with members from the other working groups.

### (2) Session 3: Discussions on Alumni Networks in Africa

Representatives talked about their country's alumni activities (or lack thereof) and an energetic and passionate discussion was held to create ideas for expanding the alumni network moving forward. Some common issues were brought up: the lack of alumni per country, the lack of responsive members and a means for reaching out to alumni, and the lack of alumni leaders who can take the initiative to organize events. The talks culminated in the solution: establishing a strongly bonded group once and for all at this very moment, leading to the Resolution.

### (3) Farewell Reception

For about an hour at the beginning, participants intensely discussed the meeting's resolution draft prepared by Mr. Nabil. The timing of the toast was very delayed because of this and there was regrettably less time for socializing. Even so, the party must go on. With music, dancing, laughter, and commemorative speeches, the reception broke up on a very heartwarming note.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the OMMP for their understanding and unwavering cooperation in holding this meeting, especially the port tours. We would also like to thank Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, who kindly took three days out of her busy schedule to participate in this meeting. Lastly, thank you to Tunisian Sasakawa Fellow Houcem CHERNI, for his tireless and passionate work in making this event a huge success.

<sup>1</sup>Attendees at the regional meeting are as follows. (In alphabetical order of country names)

Mr. Yehonou Tchegbenton Fabrice METONWAHO (Benin, 2018), Mr. Etakong TABEYANG (Cameroon, 2018), Mr. Djaiblon Dominique-Yohann KOUAKOU (Côte d'Ivoire, 2021), Capt. Ehab Ibrahim OTHMAN (Egypt, 2004), Capt. Amr Monir IBRAHIM (Egypt, 2013), Capt. Fawzy Fathalla DEKINESH (Egypt, 2018), Mr. Prosper Senyo BEDIAKO (Ghana, 2017), Mr. Marvin Bang-Gesina AYOO (Ghana, 2020), Ms. Synclesia Wenia PWATIRAH (Ghana, 2021), Ms. Elsie Nyabonyi BIKONDO (Kenya, 2012), Ms. Fiona Syovata MBANDI (Kenya, 2013), Mr. Juma Ahmed ALI (Kenya, 2015), Ms. Margaret Wanjiku WACHIRA (Kenya, 2019), Ms. Maureen Kanini KITHEKA (Kenya, 2020), Mr. Nabil ANWARI (Morocco, 2005), Mr. Roland Oladipo IJABIYI (Nigeria, 2019), Capt. Abiodun Abidemi FOLORUNSHO (Nigeria, 2020), Mr. Yakubu ABUBAKAR (Nigeria, 2021), Ms. Stella Joshua KATONDO (Tanzania, 2001), Dr. Tumaini Shabani GURUMO (Tanzania, 2007), Mr. Kwilasa Lushanga NG'WIGULU (Tanzania, 2021), Mr. N'Hoboutoun SANTA (Togo, 2018), Mr. Houcem Eddine CHERNI (Tunisia, 2020), Ms. Bibian TURYAHUMURA (Uganda, 2021), Capt. Yusuke MORI (Japan, 2014)

<sup>2</sup>Established in 1993 at the proposal of Chairman Sasakawa, this international conference brings together the broad knowledge and cooperation of not only African countries but also international organizations, which supports capacity development, private enterprises, and civic society, conducting discussions that lead to true African development. The conference is held roughly every three years in Japan or at an African country.

## Day 3 (August 29)

### (1) Port Visit (Morning)

Thanks to the OMMP's generous support and meticulous preparations, the Fellows had the unique opportunity of boarding a large tugboat from the Port of La Goulette during the port visits. They landed to a cheerful reception at the Port of Radès, where they donned "uniforms." Afterwards, they received detailed tours of the Mediterranean Training Institute for Maritime Professions (IMFMM) and saw their simulators and other facilities firsthand.

### (2) Sightseeing (Afternoon)

The Fellows enjoyed some leisure and shopping time in the blue and white resort area of Sidi Bou Said, which sits in the Mediterranean Sea. Their sightseeing adventure finished with a trip to the distant past – to the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Ancient Carthage ruins.





**Nabil Anwari (Morocco, 2005)**

The WMU Sasakawa Fellows Network Africa Meeting which took place in Tunisia from August 26 to August 29, 2022 has deeply reflected the spirit of brotherhood that has been an intrinsic feature of the WMU community. Actually, bringing fellows from different African countries and varied subgenerations has been an opportunity to set at least for few days a bridge between the past, the present and the future of a WMU family, which is steadily flourishing from year to year.

From a substantive perspective, the gathering which was attended by several distinguished guests such as Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President of WMU, encompassed a set of rewarding sessions on different topics related to ocean governance as a whole. Moreover, one need to underline the memorable moments that have been shared with Mr. Sasakawa, who took time out of his tight schedule and joined the event. This exceptional occurrence was a valuable occasion to grasp some of the inner knowledge and wisdom of Mr Sasakawa.

I am grateful to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and to all those who contributed to this endeavour. I am looking forward to the development of a long lasting platform designed to foster ties between all African Sasakawa fellows.

**Maureen Kanini Kitheka (Kenya, 2020)**

The climax of the meeting was the putting together of the resolution document. This was not an easy affair as participants had diverse ideas which were not only relevant but equally important in the attainment of the WMU Sasakawa Fellows Alumni network agenda. In addition, this was done during the evening cocktail, which was the last networking moment for the fellows before embarking on their journeys back home. In the end, the meeting agreed that the very urgent need was to set the ball rolling, and as such, we narrowed down on the basics to create a strong network of maritime professionals within the Sasakawa Fellows, to address the common problems facing Africa's Maritime Sector. Among the key issues in the resolutions were the objectives of the Alumni, election of substantive office bearers and regular meetings to discuss on the activities of the network. The resolutions adopted forms the maiden steps towards the establishment of a strong Alumni to support Africa's maritime sector.

**Houcem Eddine Cherni (Tunisia, 2020)**

Firstly when I received the news from Mr. Kudo about the possibility of arranging a regional meeting for the Sasakawa fellows from Africa in my country I was very happy and enthusiastic to participate. Nevertheless, I felt the stress of arranging a field study trip and getting invitations to participants from my organization where I work due to time pressure. Luckily, the CEO of the Office of Merchant Marine and Ports of Tunisia, Mr. Fouad OTHMAN has welcomed the idea of arranging a visit of La Goulette and Rades Ports and he ordered to rapidly arrange correspondences to the Ministry of Transport requesting the necessary permissions. Unfortunately, we get the authorization to issue invitations just few days before the event while there were procedures to follow by Ministries of Transport and foreign affairs which take considerable time. Thanks to the efforts made by the SPF staff, we overcame the inconvenience and mostly all participants have made it to attend the event. The meeting was a success where we have been able to exchange information and strengthening our network. Furthermore, I was pleased to meet and discuss with Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, WMU president, all along the event days. I felt also grateful to meet with Dr. Sasakawa for the first time and to discover such a great and humble personality. We had the opportunity during the 3rd day to visit Ports facilities of Rades and La Goulette and it was a pleasure to have a tour onboard a Tug boat. At the end we found the time to visit the beautiful village of SidiBousaid and the attractive ruins of Carthage where we had a good time.

**Stella Joshua Katondo (Tanzania, 2001)**

It was an invaluable event; socially and professionally. It brought together fellows whom I knew and some I've never met before. We easily shared work experiences and learnt from each other with deliberation of having more meetings. As a family, we had an opportunity of having the WMU President and a golden opportunity blended with the blessing of meeting our father Dr. Yohei Sasakawa. Graduating from WMU is a great achievement for WMU Sasakawa Fellows of Africa, which has been done through his facilitation and institution. In addition, it means that there is now a large African family of ocean and maritime field experts. Through our acquaintance and cooperation, we can make efficient and optimal contributions to our countries and the world in general so as to realize H.E. Sasakawa's dreams.



**Ehab Ibrahim Othman (Egypt, 2004)**

WMU Sasakawa fellow's network meeting of Africa was held in Tunis on the 26th of August 2022. A group of 26 fellows from 12 African countries, the fellows were very lucky to meet with the respected Master Mr. Yohei Sasakawa on the 2nd day of the meeting. His excellency shared with fellows his experience in serving humans in different fields, specially his work in leprosy elimination program and the great success he has achieved in that field.

The WMU Sasakawa scholarship is very unique since many other scholarships around the world end when the student graduates. Thanks to the respected Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Special thanks and gratitude to the Mr. Yohei Sasakawa for everything he and his respected organizations did to make all of us more effective members of the international maritime community.

**Bibian Turyahumura (Uganda, 2021)**

I wish to express my heart felt thank you to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Kudo-san, Kana-san, Kato-san, Yusuke-san and everyone else who made this event successful. Thank you for working tirelessly to enable us to meet as WMU Sasakawa family. I deeply appreciate giving my country Uganda, a chance to be part of the impactful maritime discussions. The meeting was very enriching and full of great ideas that enlightened me to go back to my country and share the knowledge gained in relation to maritime issues and solve them joined globally and sustainably. More to that I had a warm stay, made new network of great friends in Tunis, I really had a good time!

**Synclesia Wenia Pwatirah (Ghana, 2021)**

This network meeting has truly re-emphasized that we are indeed one family. Most of us met for the first time and it was as if we had known each other for long. I feel lucky to be part of this family and I am delighted to have attended the meeting. Firstly, I met Dr. Sasakawa in person for the first time, I met new people, made new friends and created lasting connections. Most especially, the knowledge I gained in the maritime affairs of participating countries was immeasurable.

**Tumaini Shabani Gurumo (Tanzania, 2007)**

The WMU Sasakawa Fellows Meeting in the African Region – Tunis 2022 provided four beautiful days of family reunion where maritime experiences were shared and possible ways to overcome sector challenges were discussed. It was a moment of reconsidering my responsibility as a human being, a maritime professional and a WMU Sasakawa Fellow. I came out encouraged to NEVER GIVE UP!

**Djaiblon Dominique-Yohann Kouakou (Cote d'Ivoire, 2021)**

This year's network meeting in the African region was a rewarding experience. The SPF has been providing to all fellows a tremendous support for so many years. Meeting Dr. Sasakawa in person gave me the opportunity to express him my profound gratitude. I look forward to engage with this family who gets bigger and bigger through the years.



*Resolution*

We, the participants of the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting for the African Region (hereby referred to as **THE WMU SASAKAWA FELLOWS AFRICA** meeting held in Tunisia from 26th to 29th August 2022, attended by 26 fellows from 12 Countries (Attached is the list of participants).

Mindful of the fact that the African Fellows have been dormant with minimal communication and interaction;

RECOGNISING the need to create WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network in the African Region for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a constant link among Country and Regional Fellows for mutual cooperation and exchange of beneficial information; and

CONSIDERING the availability of human resources and the maximum utilization of current information and communication technologies and tools.

DO agree;

To ADOPT an ACTION PLAN to fulfill the objectives of the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network and its future expansion as follows:

1. To elect an Executive Committee and a secretariat to coordinate the affairs of the Network. In the meantime, the meeting appointed interim office bearers; Tunisia – as Chair and Kenya as Secretariat to manage the affairs of the network for a period of one (1) year during which, substantive office bearers shall be elected;
2. To enhance the Friends of WMU, Japan Website by making more effective and meaningful communication among fellows and for the promotion of the Network to benefit the maritime sectors of our various Countries;
3. To regularly update the Fellows' directory in a bid to keep it alive and relevant;
4. To improve our participation by contributing to the Newsletter of Friends of WMU Japan, through articles touching on current maritime issues and challenges within our region;
5. To utilize our respective maritime knowledge, skills, expertise and experiences, for the development of Africa and the global maritime sectors;
6. To hold quarterly meetings to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this network's resolution; and
7. To make active use of this network as an effective tool for solving various issues and for promoting sustainable development of maritime and ocean sectors.

*Done in Tunis, on 28th day of August, 2022.*



## The World Maritime University: Empowering Women for Science, Policy and the Blue Economy in the Ocean Decade and Beyond



**Sarah Mahadeo**  
Research Fellow,  
WMU-Sasakawa Global  
Ocean Institute

The United Nations Ocean Conference 2022 (UNOC 2022) was held in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July. The long-awaited event follows the inaugural conference held in 2017, which sought to mobilise action for the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources. The overarching theme of the conference was “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”.

More than 6000 members of the global ocean community assembled at UNOC 2022. The WMU- Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (GOI) was well represented and together with several partner organisations collaborated for the delivery of three side events. Two of these were focused on the theme of women’s empowerment.

### Empowering Women for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

On 27 June, the first of the two side events focused on empowering women showcased the work of WMU PhD researchers Renis Ojawala and Ellen Johannesen as well as Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Mariamalia Rodriguez-Chaves. They each presented compelling new research highlighting gender disparities in academic organisations, including the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and higher-education institutions in Kenya. Their research is part of the GOI’s Empowering Women for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Empowering Women Programme) that is endorsed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (IOC-UNESCO) as a Decade Action of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Principal Investigator, Associate Professor Zhen Sun, introduced the programme which seeks to promote ocean governance and maritime activities, taking into account gender equality and the empowerment of women for sustainable management of the global ocean.

Following the presentations, a round-table discussion was chaired by Professor Patricia Galvão Telles (Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and featured a panel of ocean experts including Helen Ågren (Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Dr. Hide Sagaguchi (Sasakawa Peace Foundation), Dr. Naomi Harada (University of Tokyo), Dr. Jacqueline Uku (Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute), Captain Ariel Troisi (IOC-UNESCO) and Peggy Kalas (High Seas Alliance). Among the issues discussed were the rights of women to work and shape society; creating enabling conditions for women in the workplace; ending gender-based violence; mentoring and leadership skills training for women; and laws and policies addressing these issues.

The event closed with an inspiring speech by WMU President, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, who shared her personal experience navigating the maritime professional world as a woman coming from Dominica, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Eastern Caribbean. President Doumbia-Henry also officially launched the Global Stakeholder Consultative Forum, a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange and co-development of good practice to promote women’s empowerment under the Ocean Decade.

### Empowering Women: An Ocean of Opportunities in Science, Policy and Blue Economy

The second side event was held on 28 June and was aimed at facilitating dialogue on the interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14, Life Below Water and Goal 5, Achieve Gender

Equality and Empower all Women and Girls. The session was moderated by Professor Ronan Long, Director of the GOI. High-level panelists included Maria Damanaki (Women for the Ocean), H.E. Kitack Lim (International Maritime Organization), H.E. Michael Lodge (International Seabed Authority), Minako Iue (Sailors for the Sea Japan) and the Honourable Athill Dean Jonas (Government of Antigua and Barbuda). Speaker interventions and the subsequent discussion focused on the added value of women’s representation in sustainability and ocean issues as well as the need for partnerships to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of our ocean and its resources. At the close of the event, President Doumbia-Henry reiterated the importance of the newly launched Global Stakeholder Consultative Forum. Next on the agenda for this initiative is developing an action plan and identifying relevant stakeholders for collaboration and partnerships.

### Looking Ahead

As a woman from Trinidad and Tobago, a Caribbean SIDS, working in the field of Marine Spatial Planning, I am inspired by the work that my colleagues are undertaking in the Empowering Women Programme. We are well aware of the gender disparities in our workplaces. Further research into understanding the multiple and varied dimensions of these issues and why they exist are fundamental to effecting change.

Over the course of the conference, many voluntary commitments and pledges were made and on 1 July all 198 members of the United Nations unanimously adopted the Lisbon Declaration. We look forward to continuing with this impetus in the coming months, mobilising partnerships through the Global Stakeholder Consultative Forum and to more contributions to the Ocean Decade and other collaborations to sustain the momentum gained in Lisbon.

## Inspiration from Dr. Yohei Sasakawa: Family, Leadership, and Achievement

**Nugroho Dwi Priyohadi**  
(Indonesia, 2005)

I graduated from WMU a long time ago, in 2005 - Wow! It was 17 years ago, and I still remember those days living in Malmö, Sweden.

My major was Port Management, and Alhamdulillah, I was fully supported by the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program under The Nippon Foundation, led by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa. I am really thankful.

After graduating, I resumed my career at PT Pelindo III Group, and I was promoted from Assistant Manager to Manager, then to Senior Manager, and now to Senior Vice President, as well as Director of our subsidiary company PT Pelindo III Group.



Me with my colleagues at STIAMAK Barunawati Surabaya (2021)



Me with my wife, sons, and daughter

I am deeply inspired by the leadership of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa under the motto: "One World, One Family." It is leadership that demonstrates the values of togetherness, kinship, and strong leadership, as well as achievement.

As part of my self-improvement process, in 2021, I received awards for Best Presenter at the 5th Management and Business World Conference as well as Best Leadership of Port Management School 2021 due to my role as Chairman of STIAMAK Barunawati Surabaya (October 2018 - October 2021). Also, after the merger of PT Pelindo III with Pelindo I, II, and IV, on 1 October, 2021, I am now Human Capital Director of Dana Pensiun Pelindo, Jakarta.

I believe that these achievements did not come easily. However, it has been a long journey since I studied at World Maritime University in the

Master's degree program, and the Doctoral program in industrial and organizational psychology at Airlangga University, Surabaya.

I also still remember Mr. Eisuke Kudo's message when we met up during a visit by WMU students to Japan in 2004. He said that learning and socialization were equally important, including establishing international relationships through the Nippon Foundation Alumni Family.

For all the things that I gained after finishing my studies in Malmö, I would like to thank you very much for the attention, scholarship assistance, and family atmosphere provided by the Nippon Foundation.

I wish you all—but especially Dr. Yohei Sasakawa—good health and happiness to continue sharing with humanity.



One of my achievements

## A Career Across Countries: From Sweden to Germany, Singapore to France



**Nguyen Khoi Tran**  
(Vietnam, 2006)

It has been 16 years since I joined the prestigious master's program at World Maritime University (WMU), thanks to the Sasakawa scholarship. My time at WMU has paved the way for my academic career. After completing my doctoral research at the University of Bremen (Germany), I joined a research group at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) to do a project on ship emissions. Since February 2019, I have been an assistant professor at EM-Normandie Business School (EMN) in Le Havre (France).

Le Havre is a port city like Malmö and Singapore. The name "Le Havre" means "the harbour." Coincidentally, I visited this city during a field trip in my



A chain of containers - A symbol of the port city Le Havre

master's program. It is located in the Normandy region of northern France and is a leading container port in Europe.

My school, EMN, was founded in 1871 as one of the first French international management schools. In addition to the traditional campus in Le Havre, there are other campuses in Caen and Paris (France), Dublin (Ireland) and Oxford (the UK). Originating from an important port city, EMN has a strong tradition in maritime training and education, primarily via the well-known master's program, International Logistics and Port Management, and other IMO training programs such as Women in Port and Port Exploitation and Management.

I am delighted because my current job allows me to work in maritime education. My main subjects include international trade, shipping business strategy, and sustainable transportation for post-graduate students. Like other colleagues, I am facing growingly active and diversified students as well as a fast-changing world, which require continuous updates and adjustments in my lectures. However, my previous time at WMU provided me with a good background in building teaching activities, especially by using practical case studies in the maritime industry. Experiences in Sweden, Germany, and Singapore are also beneficial for me to deal in a diversified environment with students from France and other countries.

My career has been a long journey of sixteen years



Port of Le Havre - Only 500 metres from my campus

so far. I was very fortunate to have such tremendous support from The Nippon Foundation during the early stages. I will never forget my wonderful time in Malmö, not just because of the exciting lectures and hard-working times, but thanks also to the friendly atmosphere created by students from many countries worldwide.

I hope that I will have a chance to visit Malmö and see my friendly classmates as well as people from the Nippon Foundation, especially Mr. Eisuke Kudo and Mr. Shinichi Ichikawa, who have provided me with a lot of help, guidance, and concern.



EMN Campus in Le Havre - Besides a berth of cruise ships

## Major Amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention - Improving Seafarers' Living and Working Conditions -

**Yasuhiro Urano**  
(Japan, 2012)

The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006), was adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on 23 February 2006 (entered into force on 20 August 2013) to create a single and coherent instrument embodying as far as possible all up-to-date standards of existing international maritime labour conventions and recommendations, as well as the fundamental principles to be found in other international labour conventions (the Preamble of the MLC, 2006). The MLC, 2006 prescribes seafarers' rights to decent conditions of work on almost every aspect of their working and living conditions. The Special Tripartite Committee (STC) of the MLC, 2006 was established under Article XIII of the MLC, 2006 to keep the Convention under continuous review through it.

From 5 to 13 May 2022, the fourth meeting



(From the left) Mr. Mark Dickinson, Seafarer Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Urano, Government Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General of the ILO; Ms. Julie Carlton, Chairperson; and Mr. Dirk Max Johns, Shipowner Vice-Chairperson



The Government group meeting, chaired by Mr. Urano

(part II) of the STC was held with over 500 participants. During this session, the STC discussed various proposals from the Seafarers' group, the Shipowners' group and some Government members to amend the MLC, 2006 for the purpose of improving seafarers' living and working conditions, taking into account lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, I was appointed as the Government Vice-Chairperson and chaired the Government group meeting held in advance to plenary session of the Committee everyday, contributing to facilitating negotiations and compromises among Government members.

As a result of extensive discussion, the STC agreed the amendments which ensure that\*:

- seafarers have appropriately-sized personal protective equipment, in particular to suit the increasing number of women seafarers;
- good quality drinking water is available free of charge for seafarers;
- States further facilitate the prompt repatriation of abandoned seafarers;
- States provide medical care for seafarers in need of immediate assistance and facilitate the repatriation of the remains of seafarers who have died on board;
- seafarers are provided with appropriate social connectivity by shipowners and States provide internet access in their ports;
- seafarers are informed of their rights relating to the obligation of recruitment and placement services to compensate seafarers for monetary losses; and
- all deaths of seafarers are recorded and reported annually to the ILO and the relevant data is published.

\*Reference: "Shipping industry adopts amendments to Maritime Labour Convention to improve seafarers' conditions", ILO official website, 16 May 2022

[https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_845144/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_845144/lang-en/index.htm)

These amendments were approved by the 110th session of the International Labour Conference held from 27 May to 11 June 2022 and will enter into force by December 2024. I hope that the MLC, 2006, with these amendments, will further improve the living and working conditions of seafarers, who contribute to sustaining the world economy and protecting our lives as "key workers".

## Through the Eyes of Perpetual Learners: A Meaningful Homage from a Philippine Coast Guard Duo

**Christine Pauline Bergano Diciano**  
(Philippines, 2015)  
**Euphram Jayson Diciano**  
(Philippines, 2022)

Ours was not a typical foregather. In 2005, we were training staff at the Coast Guard Training Center (CGTC), serving at the basic Coastguardsman's Course for PCG non-officers. Our life together evolved along with our respective careers. We have seen how the Philippine Coast Guard has evolved from a lighthouse agency to an emerging multi-mission and humanitarian organization critical to nation-building, regional maritime stability, and long-term international maritime relevance.

In all the years of our lifework, we become perpetual learners so that we can forge the character and legacy we want for the organization and our country. With profound gratitude, it is truly an honor to be the first PCG couple to be awarded the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) scholarship program at the prestigious World Maritime University. This has not only advanced our personal development but also catapulted our professional development in unimaginable ways.

After graduating from WMU in 2015, Christine was promoted to the rank of CG Captain and had the honor of serving as Commander of Coast Guard Internal Audit (2016-2019), Gender and Development (2019-2020), and the Procurement Service concurrently. She then rose through the ranks to become Deputy



Commander of Coast Guard Logistics Systems Command; Battle Captain for Task Group Resource Management, Logistics, and Administration (TG RMLA) of the "whole-of-nation" approach against COVID-19 (2020-2022); and Head of Logistics Cluster heavily involved

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in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations during the onslaught of typhoons Rolly, Ulysses, and Odette, as well as the eruption of Taal Volcano. Another chapter in her life was written on April 12, 2022, when she was appointed Commander of the Coast Guard Aviation Force (CGAF). It has made strides for women in law enforcement and coast guard operations as the first female and youngest officer to take the helm among law enforcement and military organizations in the country.

Jayson's exposure to MEP, Maritime Security and Law Enforcement, as well as SAR operations, landed him a position as Chief of Staff of Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao. It promoted the safe passage of approximately 17,000 vessels passing through his AOR as Commander of SAR Base Sibutu.

Now that his Masters in Maritime Affairs specializing in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration (MSEA) has been successfully completed this year, he will be taking on greater duties and responsibilities upon his return to the Philippines.

As leaders and managers, we both ensure that the platforms we serve are participatory, empowering, equitable, and sustainable on multiple levels. We learn, standardize, and cascade. And, as we pursue better strategic directions and strive to provide mechanisms for social change, we continue to live by the SPF mantra of understanding today's challenges and forging new paths toward a more harmonious, sustainable, and inclusive future.

Together with our children, we are a family born and made strong by the PCG and SPF. The service we perform on a daily basis, the nation to



which we devote our lives, the international community with which we unite - this life is an exciting odyssey, full of blessings as well as purpose.

Along with the lives that the SPF has enriched and the nations that have flourished, domo arigato gozaimasu our Sasakawa family!

## Introducing a New Editorial Committee Member!



**Shun Masui**  
Japan Ship Technology Research Association

Hello! I am Shun Masui, a newly appointed member to the newsletter's editing committee. I started working at the Japan Ship Technology Research Association in Tokyo this summer, on secondment from my original post at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

I have been involved in various opportunities related to the international maritime community, including the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Technological Cooperation Projects in the field of Marine Environment Protection and Search and Rescue, APEC Workshop on Capacity Building for Preventing Accidents in Maritime Dangerous Goods & Containers Transportation, and a lot of IMO meetings. However, whether it's meeting someone for the first time or after a long time, the situation gradually allows us to physically socialize, which is very exciting!

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to those who contribute to this issue, and hope you and your loved ones stay safe and healthy.

## Editor's note

Over the past two years, there was never an opportunity for the 70 or so Sasakawa students - both new and old - to come together face to face under the roof. However, with the slight loosening of travel restrictions aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, I visited Malmö for the first time in a long while for the purpose of holding a gathering orientation. I was relieved to see that the class attendance system has almost fully returned to how it was pre-pandemic through the efforts of university staff.

Originally, this newsletter issue was to have been published in September, and I apologize for the significant delay. The main reason for the delay is that the Secretariat's power shorted out due to the decision to hold an urgent meeting of African Sasakawa Fellows in August in Tunis following publication of the previous issue, but another reason was a shortage of articles contributions. To my regret, this is the first instance of mismanagement since the newsletter was first issued.

Has anybody noticed that the motto below the title on the front page has changed from "The world is a family, and all humankind are brothers and sisters" - which had been the motto since the inaugural issue - to

"One World, One Family"? The Nippon Foundation supports around 10 human resource training programs counting just those related to maritime and ocean affairs, including the WMU Fellowship Program, with around 1,600 graduates from 150 countries participating in these programs. I firmly believe that these programs are the largest in the world provided by an NPO. The change in motto reflects Chairman Sasakawa's wish for participants in these programs to unite and take action for the future of the oceans - in other words, for the Earth.

I always make the same request in this column, but it is impossible to maintain an alumni newsletter without voluntary article contributions from readers. I would like to share a sense of crisis with you all that if this newsletter ceases publication, "the WMU Sasakawa scholarship system will also die."

**Eisuke Kudo**  
(Advisor, SPF)

