

NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU 81

One World, One Family

JAPAN

December 2022



A True Gathering at Last

In-person events became a scarce occurrence for the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program after a certain virus embarked on a worldwide rampage. Even as WMU resumed normal operations, the Japan side – the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat side - preferred to err on the side of caution, settling for onscreen appearances in lieu of traditional annual events. On September 23, 2022, however, these digital get-togethers would finally come to a happy end. On this day, Sasakawa Fellowship students from the Classes of 2022 and 2023 convened at the Sasakawa Auditorium for the first face-to-face Gathering Orientation since 2019.

Ko Taguchi (Japan, 2022) served as the honorable MC for the affair. After welcoming the audience, he yielded the floor to Keiichiro Yamada, a Program Director of SPF, for the welcome address. The speech went into the important role of the Gathering Orientation: to act as a catalyst for building relationships between the two graduating classes. Some knew of each other's faces. Some of them have already been acquainted. However, many of them haven't met, and considering the short two months of overlap within the respective academic years, this was a precious opportunity to get to know one another.

The Gathering Orientation also serves a different purpose. As the first official Sasakawa Fellowship Program event of the year, the entering class learns about the program itself and what it means to be a part of the Sasakawa Fellows family. Kana Matsuda from the Secretariat gave a PowerPoint crash course on the background leading up to the creation of the scholarship, as well as the differences between the Nippon Foundation and SPF. (A refresher for those who don't remember: one is the sponsor, one is the operator.) The presentation also featured a recent video of Chairman Yohei Sasakawa who, at the ripe age of 83, climbed Mt. Fuji as part of a campaign to bring increased awareness to leprosy. Upon reaching the peak, he unveiled a banner emblazoned with the message "Don't Forget Leprosy," a moment that received warm applause from the audience.

The formal portion of the event ended with each of the students giving a brief self-introduction. And brief they were: there was still extra time remaining before the reception portion was scheduled to begin! That being said, the capable World Bistro was already prepared to welcome the students, as well as special guests including WMU staff and faculty.



With a glass in one hand, and likely a smartphone in the other, everyone listened attentively to opening remarks from Kwadwo Forson-Adaboh (Ghana, 2022) and Daiki Maeno (Japan, 2023), who volunteered as representatives from each class. Then, it was time to dig into the eclectic spread of hors d'oeuvres and mingle.

The atmosphere of the reception was lively and contagious. The air was buzzing with spirited talk and movement of nearly 80 people convening outside and inside. It was fun getting to know everyone, learning about WMU

and Sweden, and hearing about their families and work. As the operator of the program, it was an honor being able to take part in conversations personally with the students and guests.

Soon the backdrop transitioned from dusk to night. People were still eating and talking, but it was time to end the program. After a final toast, students and guests bid farewell, having enjoyed a very satisfying Gathering Orientation.

There were several great memories of this day, but what really struck me was the friendly and supportive atmosphere at WMU, staff and students included. It's never easy planning an event from overseas, but we were very, very happy with how things went that day. From handling communications to guiding participants to the venue, their cooperation ensured that the event would be a success even after the pandemic-induced hiatus. It is the Secretariat's hope that this day marks the first of many collaborative in-person events to come - and hopefully, one of the final times that there is any mention of COVID-19 on the front cover of the Newsletter.

Kana Matsuda
Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat



A Congratulatory Send-off from Yohei Sasakawa

Kwadwo Forson-Adaboh (Ghana, 2022)

Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat

The 31 Sasakawa Fellowship Students in the Class of 2022 were extremely elated to get the opportunity to join an online meeting with Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation (NF) on October 17, 2022. Also in attendance were the 30 Sasakawa Fellowship Students of the Class of 2023, as well as some esteemed WMU faculty and staff. Students who were physically present at WMU participated from the Sasakawa Auditorium, as did President Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry and MC Lyndell Lundahl. The remaining members joined in on their computers from their respective locations.

Dr. Doumbia-Henry stated in her opening address, “As the number of Sasakawa Fellows grows worldwide, their influence continues to grow and multiply. They are indeed a global engine of sustainable innovation and development.”

In the Chairman’s speech, he indicated that it is his fervent wish that each Fellow would take advantage of the global Sasakawa Fellows network to join forces and safeguard the ocean, which the maritime industry, as well as humanity, rely on. This will ensure a healthy ocean is bestowed to the next generation of humanity. Furthermore, he inspired the Fellows to work assiduously in line with NF’s “One World, One Family” philosophy of cooperation and solidarity in attaining a better society.

After his keynote address, the Class of 2022, who had been grouped according to country regions, had the chance



to introduce themselves. The Fellows further expressed their immense appreciation for him and NF for funding their studies at the centre of maritime excellence, WMU. In addition, the Fellows were given the opportunity to ask him some questions, which he graciously answered to the Fellows’ delight (see below)*. Chairman Sasakawa also used the occasion to ask five of the Fellows some questions as well to know more about them and their country.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from Mr. Kwadwo Forson-Adaboh (Ghana), President of the Student Council. He assured Chairman Sasakawa that “the Class of 2022 Sasakawa Fellows would endeavor to serve as good ambassadors of NF, to uphold and share the values as well as the mission of NF for social innovation in order to advance a peaceful society as they serve as maritime and ocean leaders for their various countries.”

Though the event lasted only one hour, the atmosphere was warm and the meeting fulfilling.

Q&A with the Chairman

Raga Dicklies Purwanto (Indonesia): I am 31 years old now. What were you doing when you were my age?

Chairman Sasakawa: 31 years old is so long ago, I have almost forgotten what it was like. But back then, I believe I was thinking about how I should better live my life.

Kwadwo Forson-Adaboh: Why do you prefer to wear red socks always?

Sasakawa: That’s a great question. Now that I’m 83 and becoming closer to heaven, I try to wear bright-colored clothing and socks to stay psychologically young. In order to always feel like a young person, it’s important that I put effort towards what I wear.

Mariah Rhoda Williams (Liberia): What is the driving force behind your generosity to humanity?

Sasakawa: People cannot live alone, not without the help of many others in society. The world functions on this mentality of living while supporting each other. However, when you pass on to the other side, you are doing so alone. Therefore,



how do you best live this one life you have? When I think about that, it became an obvious duty to me, as a human being, to have kindness and love towards others.

Benyebka Cherigui (Algeria): What are your tips for your health?

Sasakawa: I think a lot of people already know how to be healthy, though they don’t necessarily continue those habits like exercising regularly. My office is located on the 7th floor of the Nippon Foundation building. For over 20 years since we moved here, I have not once used the elevator; I use the stairs. People spend a lot of money and time at gyms, but my policy is to do these simple exercises free of charge. The most important thing is to do it continuously.

* Normally students would exit the floor as soon as they finish addressing Chairman Sasakawa. We’re very happy we were able to change it this year so that students were able to have a Q&A with him, allowing for more personal interaction.

Class of 2023 WMU Sasakawa



Xavier Perry

Marine Inspector, Technical Department
Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping

I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the Nippon Foundation for affording me such a great opportunity. It is an honor to be a Sasakawa Fellow and I will do my best to make both the foundation and my country proud in all endeavours.

Antigua and Barbuda
MSEA



Mahmud Suleymanli

Mechanical and Piping Engineer, Engineering Department
Baku Shipyard LLC

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to SPF for giving me such an excellent opportunity to study at WMU and build international relationships. Having justified your trust, I will return to my country with the gained knowledge and do my best to further develop the maritime sector.

Azerbaijan
MEM



Abu Md Saful Alam Foisal

Assistant Manager, Ship Repair Department
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

I'm highly honoured to be a Sasakawa Fellow and be a part of the Sasakawa network. I'd like to express my gratitude to Dr. Sasakawa and the Nippon Foundation to entitle me the chance to become an asset for my country and contribute in its future development.

Bangladesh
MEM



Suraya Yeasmin Jui

Terminal Officer, Traffic Department
Chittagong Port Authority

I am honored to have been awarded the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship award. This award is very meaningful not only financially, but emotionally. I will use the gained knowledge from this MSc program in the best possible way for the welfare of my country.

Bangladesh
PM



Rathanakvuth Sourm

Supervisor of Planning Office, Department of Planning and Marketing
Phnom Penh Autonomous Port

It is an honor to be a part of the Sasakawa Fellowship and study at WMU. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Sasakawa and SPF for providing me this great opportunity, which help me fulfill my career path and also contribute to my nation for a better future in the maritime industry.

Cambodia
PM



Daniela Jimena Andrade Tamayo

Lieutenant, Coast Guard
Ecuador Navy

I am beyond grateful for the opportunity given through the Sasakawa Fellowship. Being part of WMU is not only a dream come true, but the chance to gain knowledge and expertise, and also build a strong network that will enhance my work toward seeing Ecuador become a maritime nation.

Ecuador
MLP



Ahmed Ismail

Captain / Marine Lecturer, Maritime Safety Institute
Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport

Since I firmly believe in the mission of the Nippon Foundation to spread knowledge to the benefit of all humankind, I am grateful for the opportunity to act as an ambassador for the Sasakawa Fellowship Program and the Nippon Foundation.

Egypt
MEM



Adama Jatta

Operations and Logistics Superintendent, Traffic
Gambia Ports Authority

My main goal is to develop the maritime system of my country and to transform the import, export, and transit operations at the Port of Banjul into a totally paperless port system. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation has become a vessel which will transport this dream into a reality.

The Gambia
SML



Teona Khabeishvili

Auditor, Quality Assurance and Information Security Systems
Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia - Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

I am beyond honored to receive this life-changing opportunity from SPF and be part of the huge family. You help change lives through education, which will always be the foundation for future generations. I am grateful and will use this opportunity to develop Georgia's maritime sector through the knowledge I gain at WMU.

Georgia
MSEA



Salahudeen Abdallah Mustapha

Assistant Fish Health, Post-harvest Manager, Post-Harvest Unit
Fisheries Commission - Ghana

I am very grateful to be part of the Sasakawa family and would like to thank SPF and Nippon Foundation for this great opportunity to study at WMU, one of the best maritime universities. The knowledge acquired in maritime affairs will make a great impact on me, my country, and the world.

Ghana
OSGM



Rahul Lodhi

Deputy Director (International Cooperation), Directorate of Operations
Indian Coast Guard

I am proud to be a member of the expanding family of Sasakawa Fellows. I hope that after my MSc, I will be able to provide better services towards the sustainable use of our ocean and add value to the Sasakawa Fellows Network.

India
MLP



Abbas Aldwyah

Legal Advisor, Planning Department, International Cooperation Division
General Company for Ports of Iraq

I am grateful to SPF for this marvelous opportunity to develop my academic studies at WMU, one of the most important universities in maritime affairs. It will let me go back to my country with unique knowledge in maritime law and policy to help develop the Iraq maritime industry.

Iraq
MLP



Daiki Maeno

Officer, Education and Training Division
Japan Coast Guard

I sincerely thank the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for giving me this wonderful opportunity to receive such a great academic and professional education. I will cherish the time I have with the future maritime leaders at WMU and will build relationships that will last a lifetime.

Japan
MLP



Takanori Uzumaki

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

It is a great honor to be a member of the Sasakawa Fellows and study at the global center of excellence. I believe that the acquired learnings and achievements at WMU will contribute to the international maritime society in settling global issues.

Japan
OSGM



Tawfiq Alataywi

Planning and Cost Control Specialist, Port Development and Construction
Aqaba Development Corporation

On behalf of my corporation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to SPF for this fellowship to study for my MSc at WMU. This opportunity will be a great addition to my educational competencies and work experience. Moreover, it is a pleasure to be a member of the Sasakawa Network.

Jordan
MEM




Aziza Swazuri

Assistant Monitoring Officer, Maritime Trade and Development
Kenya Maritime Authority

I am honored to receive the Sasakawa Fellowship. It has granted me the privilege to enrich my skills and knowledge and assist me in serving my organization, country, and the world at large. It is indeed a life changer; transformative and rewarding. I remain forever grateful.

Kenya
OSGM


Sasakawa Fellowship Students



Mark Mikely
Environmental Officer, Inspection Division
Environmental Protection Agency

I am grateful for the opportunity to have been selected among many others by SPF and NF. It is a dream come true opportunity for furthering my studies here at WMU. I promise to go back home and improve my country in the maritime sector. Many thanks to Dr. Sasakawa and both foundations.


Liberia
OSGM



Kla-Edward Toomey II
Research Analyst, Legislative Information Service, Liberian Legislature
Liberian Senate

I am deeply grateful to the Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Fellowship for affording me the opportunity to realize my dream of becoming a professional maritime lawyer. This opportunity would be maximized to transform my country and the world at large.


Liberia
MLP



Minna Rasheed
Deputy Rection Head / Superintendent, Post and Express Consignment
Maldives Customs Service

I am forever in debt to the chairman and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for giving me the opportunity to study at WMU. I look forward to contributing directly to SPF in achieving its global vision after my studies, and improving my service to the government, and the regional and global maritime sector.


Maldives
MLP



Yara Hortense Alberto Tembe
Maritime Representative / Maritime Delegate at Bilene District,
Maritime Administration of Gaza Province
National Maritime Institute - INAMAR

It is an honor and a privilege to be part of the Sasakawa Family and being awarded such a prestigious scholarship at WMU. In return to my country, I expect to apply the knowledge I am acquiring and make contributions towards Its development. Thank you for this opportunity.


Mozambique
MSEA



Joseph Shoro Diwanga
Senior Administrative Officer, Directorate of Maritime Affairs
Ministry of Works and Transport

Thank you Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Nippon Foundation for breathing life into our dreams. I am not here to practice until I get it right, but I am here to practice until I can't get it wrong.


Namibia
MLP



Jorge Gomez
Commander,
Nicaraguan Navy

It is a great honor to have been selected to receive a scholarship from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. I deeply thank Dr. Yohei Sasakawa for giving me this great opportunity for professional and personal improvement, and I thank him on behalf of my family and government.


Nicaragua
MLP



Beauty Ebiere Maghoromi
Senior Protocol Officer, Protocol Unit
Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency

Thank you Dr. Yohei Sasakawa and SPF for providing me this opportunity to study at the esteemed WMU. I believe the knowledge I would receive from the programme would award me with the required drive to make my career path successful and be a catalyst not only for my agency, but the maritime sector.


Nigeria
MET



Elgene Gregorio
Commander, Coast Guard Procurement Service
Philippine Coast Guard

I'd like to express my gratitude to Dr. Sasakawa, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and the Nippon Foundation for the opportunity they have given me to study at this prestigious institution. I am deeply honored and privileged to be part of the Sasakawa family.


Philippines
MET



Alysious Forbie
Quality Assurance and Compliance Supervisor,
Quality Assurance and Compliance Department
Sierra Leone Maritime Administration

I am heartfully honoured to have been chosen as a recipient of the Sasakawa Fellowship. The knowledge and skills acquired have highly motivated me and made me realize that my dream is achievable. Long live Dr. Sasakawa and SPF.


Sierra Leone
MLP



Kevin Providence
Coast Guard Officer, Ministry of National Security
SVG Coast Guard Service

As a proud Sasakawa Fellow and WMU student, I am appreciative of the opportunity afforded to me to enhance my learning of maritime affairs. As a maritime environmental officer upon my return to my country, the knowledge and family bonds formed will build a stronger and more sustainable maritime sector for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.


St. Vincent and the Grenadines
OSGM



Dani Daniel Chunga
Environment Management Officer,
Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Department
Shinyanga District Council Office

I acknowledge Sasakawa for this fellowship I'm doing for my MSc at WMU. I'm sure that after my studies I will bring positive changes to my country as well as to the whole world for future generations in maritime industry policies. Thank you again.


Tanzania
OSGM



Francesco Castiglione
Internal Advisor, Office of the National Fleet General Manager
National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA)

Being chosen as a Sasakawa Fellow is a life-changing opportunity. It creates an exceptional and great responsibility, to honor and represent WMU and SPF with our actions and achievements. To this responsibility we owe ourselves. And to this goal I will strive in my professional career.


Venezuela
MLP



Quang Hieu Nguyen
Officer, Marine Works
Vietnam Maritime Administration

From the bottom of my heart, it is my honor and pride to be a part of the Sasakawa Fellows' network at WMU. Sincere thanks to SPF for giving us the opportunity to gain knowledge and friendships across the world so that we can contribute to our country specifically as well as the maritime industry in general.

Viet Nam
MLP



Hai Vuong
Maritime Safety and Security Officer, Maritime Safety and Security Department
Maritime Administration of Ho Chi Minh City

WMU and the Sasakawa Fellowship Program will be springboards for my future career. The support from the University and SPF will greatly contribute towards my studies and research in maritime safety and security, marine environment protection, and the human element. My highest appreciations are due to WMU and SPF.

Viet Nam
MSEA

Specialization

- **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)

Maritime Innovation



Nobuyuki Takahashi

Director, Coordination of Ship Recycling Policies,
Ocean Development and Environment Policy Division,
Maritime Bureau,
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
(Former(2019-2022): Director, Japan Ship Centre(JETRO London))



I have been involved in Japan's maritime administration at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). Throughout these years, I have been engaged in making policies supporting the Japanese shipbuilding industry and promoting R&D in the maritime sector. Currently, as a member of the Japanese delegation, I participate in international rulemaking regarding maritime protection at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). From 2019 to 2022, I had the opportunity to work at the Japan Ship Centre, which is a joint office of the Cooperative Association of Japan Shipbuilders (CAJS) and JETRO London, with the support from the Nippon Foundation. This short article is mainly based on my experience in London.

Looking back on my three years in London, it is true that I had to work from home due to the pandemic, but fortunately I had the opportunity to talk with passionate people in the maritime industry, including shipping companies, shipbuilders and maritime equipment manufacturers, and visit their sites. This experience made me realise that whilst the oceans have not changed since the ancient times including its importance to human beings, the surrounding maritime industries have in fact continued to evolve.

Shipping is the best example of a traditional maritime industry, which has played a central role in global logistics since the 16th century. The role of shipping remains the same today, but in fact related shipping and shipbuilding technologies have evolved to an amazing degree. I was lucky to have the opportunity to visit the construction site of large cruise ships at one shipyard in Europe. I was impressed to see the construction process of large cruise ships for the first time but was also surprised to learn the extent of automation already in place. With the introduction of logistics management systems and welding robots, steel materials were brought in and out automatically and welding was done

unmanned. Although it seemed that the level of automation was already high, it was surprising to hear that the goal was to make production similar to that of an automobile factory, meaning that further automation was to be achieved. This is a successful case that shows the importance of creating innovation to boost productivity. A contrasting example is the shipbuilding industry in the UK. In the UK where I lived at the time, the shipbuilding industry boasted the world's largest shipbuilding output in the 1950s, thanks to its strong ties with the country's shipping industry. In Glasgow and Newcastle, for example, remnants of the once thriving shipbuilding industry such as the sites of former shipyards could be observed. Unfortunately, the industry could not survive since it lacked successful innovation.

In addition to the traditional role of transporting people and goods, shipping itself is now required to have a new role: to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society. As with other industrial sectors, the shipping industry is committed to tackling climate change. The development and introduction of decarbonisation technologies are in progress in the shipping sector as well. In Norway, I had the opportunity to board a fully battery-powered propulsion ship operating in the fjord. In addition to emitting zero greenhouse gases or air pollutants, the fjord cruise was extremely comfortable with no noise or vibration. Not only was I impressed by the performance of the ship, but I was also amazed by Norway's policy to encourage innovation and to promote the development and introduction of such advanced ships. It is important to provide support through subsidies to overcome the "valley of death" that lurks between technological development and commercialisation. The introduction of alternative fuels tends to fall into the "chicken and egg" problem of whether ships should come first or the fuel supply infrastructure. Norway has in fact succeeded in avoiding this typical problem by steadily introducing battery-propelled ships through public procurement, whilst subsidising the construction of the ships and installation of power supply infrastructure by private companies. These efforts have also resulted in the government showing commitment to battery-propelled ships, and have succeeded in attracting battery manufacturers and system integrators essential to these ships from around the world. In Norway, there is also a platform for the maritime cluster, including private companies, industry associations, research institutes and public organisations that functions as a network for creating innovation. Collaboration



within the maritime cluster is essential for innovation involving new different technologies and diverse stakeholders. In the future, however, technologies in different sectors that are unfamiliar to ships, such as digital technologies for automated ships, will become increasingly important. I believe there is a need to expand the boundaries of the traditional maritime clusters.

In addition to the development of the traditional maritime industry, new maritime industries such as offshore wind power generation have also emerged. I had the opportunity to visit a floating offshore wind farm site and was excited to see how it will expand around the world. The energy potential of the oceans, not only offshore wind power but also tidal and wave power generation, is enormous and is expected to be used more widely in the future. In the next few decades, we may see new



innovation in the maritime sector that we cannot imagine at this time. I believe, therefore, that the people in the maritime administration, including myself, should always keep an open mind and challenge new things. Only then can we fully harness the potential of the oceans.



There's No Place like HSR!

Lisa Piper
Henrik-Smith Residence Supervisor, WMU

My journey with WMU and Henrik Smith Residence in particular started in the midst of the pandemic, it was December 2020 when I sat down at my desk in the office as the new HSR Supervisor. I had previously worked many years in hotels and tourism all over the world, but now – when settled in Sweden – this was a fantastic opportunity to use my working experience in a multi-cultural and global environment but not having to move away.

The first year as Supervisor was difficult in the sense that we were shut out from campus due to restrictions and nothing was “as per normal”. I hardly saw my colleagues and only went up to campus once. But at the same time I got to know HSR very well and especially the students – Class of 2021 – as they spent most of their time here at the residence.

We also experienced the start of the major renovations here at the Residence which was another challenge added to the restrictions of the pandemic. Although with the renovations we know that in the end we will have refreshed and updated rooms for our students to enjoy.



When the restrictions lifted I had been at HSR for over a year. All of a sudden a whole new world opened up with meeting many of my colleagues for the first time and the Residence came to life again. The students were now allowed to gather, travel and most importantly they got to go to campus for face to face classes. It was great to be a part of that!

I am grateful though for the time during the restrictions as I got to know some of the students really well and Class of 2021 will always be special to me, we endured and pulled through the difficult and strange times that it really was during the worst of the pandemic. Now I am comfortable in my role and ready to take on the challenges and to experience the joy of a normal life here at the Residence.

Looking forward I am very excited to be able to take part in my first International Day this year which is an annual event at the Residence where our students dress in national costumes, aromas from food from all the world fills our courtyard and WMU and HSR all come together for a day of celebration. It was previously withheld due to the pandemic but at last we can meet and gather again!

Life at HSR is always lots of fun and I appreciate and cherish the connections made here throughout the year, both for my own sake but also seeing students from all over the world come together. I look forward to continue my journey at HSR and for all the new memories to be made here!



A Summer of Bright Skies

Raga Dicklies Purwanto
(Indonesia, 2022)



Saturday, July 30, 2022, was one of the best days of my life - the day I realised that my life would never be the same. It was a day of gratefulness for my wife and me as we introduced our baby boy, Cielo, to the world. Cielo means the “bright sky”, and we pray that he will grow well and do good for his family and surroundings.

He was born in the middle of summer in Lund, which is around 20 km from Malmö. As we know, Swedes love summer and stay outdoors to enjoy activities in parks, fika with family or friends in outdoor cafes, and the beaches with sunset views. For us, the warm and mild daylight on summer days were well worth the wait as Cielo entered the world.

In addition to our families in Indonesia, we also appreciate our friends and WMU faculty and staff in Malmö, who gave us emotional support through their unconditional care and compassion for Cielo from the beginning. We send the utmost gratitude to SPF and Nippon Foundation, who gave us the delightful opportunity to experience this precious moment. We are grateful and will ever be.

A Little Sasakawa Fellow Named Eva Miral Henni Mansour

Chahrazed Tigha
(Algeria, 2022)



I am glad I can share my experience of becoming pregnant while attending WMU as a member of the Sasakawa family. I would like also to share this story with my little Eva, so she will be proud and inspired in her life.

I went through hard times at the beginning of my stay at WMU due to the passing of my beloved mother. I felt fortunate that I became pregnant and have that compensating sensation within me, helping me overcome the death of my mother.

Pursuing a master's in maritime affairs while pregnant was especially difficult since this was my first pregnancy. I became very emotional and found myself suddenly needing to strike a balance between caring for myself and my unborn child and succeeding in my studies. Thankfully, I had the privilege of having my wonderful husband and friends by my side at all times, from the minute I found out I was pregnant to the day the baby was delivered.

Through this emotional experience, I learned that I am a persistent person. I discovered this about myself, as well as through my friends, colleagues, and faculty, to whom I am sincerely grateful for their words of support and encouragement. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to Chairman Sasakawa, the Nippon Foundation, and the SPF.

Being a mother is a blessing, and being a mother to Eva during one of my big life achievements is the ultimate blessing.

A New Secretariat Member Joins the Team



Emi Shimada
Friends of WMU,
Japan Secretariat

Hello, everyone. I am Emi Shimada, the newest member to join the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program.

I first joined the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (the predecessor of the Ocean Policy Research Institute) after graduating from the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT), and supported several maritime-related projects as an assistant. Afterwards, I was transferred to the General Affairs Division and HR Division, where I was in charge of employee education and training.

As for my home life, I am a mother to three kids - two daughters and one boy - and like any working mother, I juggle work and childcare.

I am so glad to be back in the maritime field and am very excited to be involved with the team. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future!



The Current Team Behind the Newsletter

Front row:
Shun Masui, Koji Murai, Eisuke Kudo

Back row:
Daisuke Omi, Kana Matsuda, Keiichiro Yamada, Emi Shimada

Not pictured:
Maki Tominaga

Editor's note

Does your mother language have any unique phrases for expressing “the end of a year”?

As the year 2022 is reaching its end, I get chances to hear such words in Japanese these days, one of which is “toshi-no-se”. “Se (瀬)” is quite a relevant term for waters and ships, and is especially used for Japanese words that describe where tidal currents go fast, such as narrow straits.

“Toshi” means “year”, and hence, that particular word expresses the time of year when we feel that time is going by fast.

Despite the fact that we are busy at the end of the year, it is also the time for family gatherings and celebrate a coming new year. I simply wish you and your family good health and a great year ahead.



Maki Tominaga
(Japan, 2015)
Japan Coast Guard