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H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson  
Chairman Arctic Circle; President of Iceland 1996-  
2018

## Holding of the “Arctic Circle Japan Forum”

From March 4 (Sat.) to March 6 (Mon.), the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF) held the “Arctic Circle Japan Forum” jointly with the Arctic Circle<sup>1</sup> based in Iceland and The Nippon Foundation. The forum was attended by approx. 300 participants comprising Arctic Council officers, government personnel, researchers, business people, and NPO representatives from approx. 20 countries and regions. Speakers representing the Japanese Government included H.E. Ms. Keiko Nagaoka, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; H.E. Mr. Akihiko Nishimura, Minister of the Environment; and H.E. Mr. Shunichi Suzuki, Minister of Finance. From overseas, speakers included H.E. Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Chairman of Arctic Circle and former President of Iceland; and H.E. Mr. Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate of Iceland. The theme for this year’s forum was “ASIA IN THE FUTURE OF THE ARCTIC: Science - Geopolitics - Economy - Oceans - Climate - Technology”, and proactive discussions were conducted regarding participating countries’ Arctic policies and international cooperation from an Asian perspective.

Against the background of sea ice decreasing in recent years due to global warming, interest in the Arctic has been increasing both within Japan and in other countries. In particular, a switch to full commercial use of the Northern Sea Route connecting Europe and Asia is anticipated in the future for around 60% of



ships sailing southern routes via the Suez Canal and the Malacca Straits. Moreover, the Arctic holds a multitude of mineral resources as well as undiscovered oil and gas reserves, so efforts to develop these resources are becoming increasingly active in various regions. Thus when considering Japan’s future development, the Arctic is expected to become more and more important moving forward. However, the fact that the sea ice is decreasing does not change the fact that the Arctic continues to be a special environment where it is difficult to conduct economic activities due to the harsh natural environment, insufficient infrastructure, and fragile ecosystem. Accordingly, accurate information, knowledge and skills, and international cooperation are all necessary for protecting the Arctic environment appropriately.

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation has been focusing on Arctic Ocean dynamics since very early on. For more than 30 years, it has been implementing various related projects. One of those projects, the International Northern Sea Route Development Plan (INSROP), was jointly carried out - from 1993 to 1999 - by



H.E. Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson

<sup>1</sup> Arctic Circle is the largest network of international dialogue and cooperation on the future of the Arctic and our Planet. The organization’s annual Assembly, held each October in Iceland, and regional forums held irregularly together with national governments, NGOs, and other organizations interested in the Arctic are events where representatives of the governments of not only Arctic countries but countries throughout the world, indigenous Arctic groups, private companies, NGOs, research institutions, researchers, and other Arctic stakeholders can come together in one place to discuss Arctic issues. Held in March, the Japan Forum is one of Arctic Circle’s regional forums.

Russian and Norwegian research organizations, with the support of The Nippon Foundation. The purpose of the project was to explore the possibility of a Northern Sea Route traversing the Arctic, which had been impervious to navigation since the dawn of time. Through various studies and actual navigation testing, the project determined that it is technologically possible to operate ships in the Arctic Ocean all year round and received high praise worldwide. In opening speech of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, he also touched on the foundations's contribution to the Arctic.



(The following is an excerpt from Chairman Sasakawa's speech.)

Thirty years ago, developing a northern sea route was thought to be impossible. However, I felt a sense of romance regarding the Arctic Circle, which was unknown territory for humankind. Together with Professor Emeritus Hiromitsu Kitagawa and Mr. Eisuke Kudo, we attempted to realize the "Dream Shipping Route". One of these projects was the International Northern Sea Route Development Plan (INSROP), which was jointly conducted over a 10-year period by Norway's Fridtjof Nansen Institute and Russia's Central Marine Research & Design Institute (CNIIMF). We also implemented an equivalent but independent Japanese project, the JANSROP (Japan Northern Sea Route Programme). The results of these initiatives received high praise among the international community and were even taken up by the Arctic Council. Today, the "Dream Route" that I romanticized and approached as a challenge into the unknown has become a reality, with the number of ships using the Northern Sea Route rapidly increasing worldwide.

The oceans, including the Arctic Ocean, are in crisis. There are many and myriad issues related to the Arctic Circle, including changes to the natural environment of the Arctic Ocean caused by global warming, the impact on ecosystems and indigenous peoples, and the danger to island countries caused by rising sea levels due to melting ice, and realization of my long-held romantic dream of the Arctic Circle is being threatened. SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER states that "Healthy oceans and seas are essential to our existence." Accordingly, a threat to the oceans, including the Arctic Ocean, is a threat to human existence. Up until now, however, Japan and other countries have unfortunately had no clear vision of how they should be involved in Arctic Ocean issues. Now is surely the time when we need to peacefully and in an orderly manner work to sustainability maintain and

manage the Arctic Ocean under the philosophy that "The oceans are a common asset of humankind."

In the past, the Arctic States<sup>2</sup> have maintained discussions even during international emergency. Utilizing the platform of the Arctic Council, they have been continuously endeavoring to resolve various issues facing the Arctic. However, following drastic changes of international situation in 2021, sparking a war that continues to this day, the Arctic Council's functions were completely suspended, with the result that dialogue as well as joint research and observations have also been suspended, creating a crisis situation. In May 2023, chairship of the Arctic Council was smoothly transferred from Russia to Norway, but the future of the Council is difficult to foresee.

However, as Chairman Sasakawa mentioned in his speech, the environmental changes occurring in the Arctic are becoming more and more serious as each day passes, and we need to urgently take measures to prevent these changes. One outcome of the Forum was the opportunity for discussing Arctic matters with the active participation of not only government representatives, but also scientists and indigenous peoples. In the session on "Dialogue on the Arctic: Japan, China and Korea", the Japanese, Chinese and Korean Ambassadors for Arctic Affairs held fruitful discussion. The importance of having Asian States continuing to tackle Arctic issues was particularly emphasized. Furthermore, in the session on "Global Consequences of Melting Ice", discussions were held between H.E. Mr. Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson and Mr. Hiroyuki Enomoto, Deputy Director of Japan's National Institute of Polar Research, and a strong message was issued stating the importance of raising awareness in the region through cooperation in order to protect against damage caused by global warming.

Environmental changes in the Arctic are progressing at a rapid pace with no regard to international situation, with glacier melting impacting the entire world. Isn't it time that we all come together under the philosophy of "One Ocean, One Future" and think about Arctic issues?



<sup>2</sup> Formed in 1996 by the eight states within the Arctic Circle with territory north of latitude 66°33' N (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the USA), the Arctic Council is a forum where high-level government representatives gather to discuss common Arctic issues.

# The Most Robust Sector in the Maritime Industry: In-Water Cleaning of Ship Hulls

- Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and Global Efforts to Save Our Environment



**Mr. Yusik Kim**  
CEO, TAS GLOBAL Co., Ltd.  
Member of the Global Industry Alliance  
for Marine Biosafety

Robotic In-Water Cleaning (IWC) is one of the fastest growing and developing sectors in the maritime industry. Driven by IMO's greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) convention and the GloFouling Partnerships Project, it aims to preserve aquatic biodiversity. IWC is the best way to maintain a ship's energy efficiency; thus, the robotic IWC system, with its capture and water treatment capabilities, is needed for keeping off aquatic invasive species from the hulls of ships. Evidently, IWC demand is soaring, and the supply paradigm is transforming from divers to robots with capture and water treatment. Let me elaborate on the reasons these robotic IWC technologies are needed and what fascinating technologies will be arriving soon.

## Why Do We Need IWC?

Biofoulings are biofilms - or simply, slime, algae, sea grass, barnacles, etc., and yes, they normally build up in this order. Biofouling increases surface roughness of hulls, reducing the speed of the vessels. Antifouling coatings work well, but not 100% perfectly. Transparent partial biofilms and barnacles can reduce speeds of vessels down to 1.7% and 15%, respectively. This implies that 5% to 62% extra fuel is needed to recoup the speed loss. Speed and fuel consumption have an exponential relationship; greenhouse gas emissions are directly proportional to fuel consumption. Altogether, biofouling is responsible for an extra \$10~20 billion USD in fuel cost, and 0.30%~0.6% in extra CO2 emissions to the world total of CO2 emissions annually. For shipping companies, it means millions to billions in extra fuel cost. **IWC is therefore financially beneficial and necessary to reduce ships' GHG emissions.**

## GHG Reduction Convention

From 2023, ships of 5,000 gross tonnage and above will be rated A, B, C, D, E, according to the Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII). If ships are rated D for three consecutive years or rated E even once, these ships must submit a corrective action plan to illustrate how a rating C or above will be obtained in a given period. These companies must clean the ships or most likely, speed down. As of 2019, about 48% of global fleets are rated D or E. As this CII rating gets tougher each year, IWC would provide one of the best ways to act on the CII convention. Some bulk carriers and tankers are even increasing their IWC frequency to five times higher than before.

## The GloFouling Partnerships Project

As a sister project of the GloBallast Partnerships Project, the GloFouling Partnerships Project addresses the transfer of harmful aquatic species through biofouling on the hulls of vessels. The revised guidelines from 2011 are to pass in 2023 and are not a convention yet; however, many countries are abiding by the guideline-based regulations. The guidelines, in short, specify that ships should maintain at most biofilm level, and when the ship is being cleaned at different



levels of fouling, biofouling needs to be captured at a certain rate and treated at a certain level.

IWC is done in terminals, anchorage and ships are up to 400 m long, 65 m wide, 20 m deep, total wetted area can be well above 20,000m<sup>2</sup>, and these biofouling don't come off easily. Visual range can be 20 cm and shorter, less than 1 m tight area between the wall, sea bottom from the hull, and in complete darkness. In anchorages, there are strong currents and waves. Even without biofouling capture and water treatment, this is not a job for human, because then the divers have to drag 10cm in diameter, at least 100m long capture hose and cables.

These IWC robots are also called Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV), and there are about a dozen ROVs at present, but their locomotive technologies are only based on 3 methods: magnetic belts, thrusters, and magnetic wheels. The performance of these ROVs vary significantly in efficiency (sometimes 10 times), capture rate, water treatment, and location flexibility. No system is alike. No system has been authenticated and certified at global level, in all aspects, when this is written. There might be one that passes Global Industry Standard, made by Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), solving the identified major obstacle raised by IMO's 2nd GloFouling Partnership Task Force meeting in April 2022.



Other than the ROVs, more technologies are coming, artificial intelligence hull inspection has reached above 96 % accuracy on finding fouling, 99.6% on species recognition. Early biofouling warning system based on deep learning, latest generation of hull performance analysis and prediction based on deep learning, multi and fully autonomous ROVs. In addition, in the very near future, these ROVs will have robotic arms to clean niche areas and repair ships under water. Lastly, another major obstacle, capture test method, is being developed using semi bio and artificial biofouling.

This new generation of robotic IWC industry is exciting, as it not only saves our atmosphere but also ocean pollution, reducing fuel cost of ships. The industry is growing very fast and still much to learn about the robotic IWC. I hope readers find this article inspiring however you're involved; as users, authorities or perhaps, the industry itself.

# Approaching Industry 5.0

Knowledge — Collaboration — Innovation



**Jillian Carson-Jackson, M.Ed., FNI, FRIN**  
President, The Nautical Institute  
Managing Director, JCJ Consulting

What does it mean to be human in an increasingly digital world? Even as I promote digitalisation, teaching the use of decision support tools with integrated artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), I am continually questioning and asking myself; What does it mean to be 'me', to be human, while using digital tools? Working with technology, rather than working for technology?

We have spent the past century inventing and refining norms for organisations, leadership and collaboration—norms that suited the problems and technology of 100 years ago. But we are now facing new challenges: adapting to a post pandemic world, dealing with the implications of climate change, working towards a sustainable environment which calls for us to evolve, to find new solutions.



Humans and Machines Collaborating  
(Image created using AI)

This societal shift means we need to evolve our skillsets, developing a new mindset for work, and teamwork. We need to ensure equal, and equitable, access to digital skills, addressing the digital divide.

According to The World Economic Forum (WEF), by 2025 technology advances will result in machines and humans spending equal amounts of time solving tasks. We are beginning to see this in the recent developments in AI, and the speed of change is increasing. The

consequence of this means that over 85 million jobs will change in just five years, creating new roles that we can't even imagine yet.

This means we need to navigate an uncertain and rapidly changing global ecosystem. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Learning Compass 2030 has been created to provide a framework that supports a future vision for learning, education and development. Building on the existing educational concepts of Knowledge (creating value); Skills (taking responsibility) and Attitudes (recognising and adapting competencies) the OECD learning compass now includes Values (reconciling tensions and dilemmas).

## Knowledge

Information and Knowledge: The digital age has revolutionized access to information and knowledge with vast repositories of data,



OECD Compass (ref: <https://www.oecd.org/education/2030-project/>) Shared under Creative Commons Licence)

instant communication, and unprecedented connectivity. Being human in this context means being able to navigate and critically evaluate the abundance of information, distinguish between reliable sources, and use technology to enhance our learning and understanding.

Digital Intelligence, Identity and Presence: In today's digital world, we need an understanding of what the digital tools can, and should, be able to 'do'. As individuals we have an online presence through social media, digital profiles, and governmental online platforms. Our digital identities are extensions of ourselves, presenting opportunities for self-expression, networking, and engagement. However, it is essential to remember that our digital personas are curated representations and may not capture the entirety of our human experience.

## Skills

Adaptability and Lifelong Learning: The digital landscape evolves rapidly, requiring individuals to adapt and acquire new skills continually. Being human in a digital world involves embracing a growth mindset, being open to learning, and developing skills to navigate emerging technologies effectively. It also means recognizing the importance of human qualities such as creativity and emotional intelligence, that complement technological advancements.

Critical Thinking: As we encounter an increasingly fast pace of change, we cannot 'learn' what we need in the traditional sense. We can, however, develop our own ability to think critically – analysing what is presented, using our knowledge and digital intelligence to work effectively with the different, and evolving, digital tools available to us.

## Attitudes

Physical and Biological Existence: Despite digital advancements, humans remain biological beings with physical bodies and basic needs. The integration of digital technologies into our lives should not overshadow the importance of maintaining our physical health, well-being, and human connections. Our attitudes towards ourselves, and towards others, and celebrating our differences is key to our future strength in a human/machine collaborative environment.

Social Interactions and Relationships: Human connection and social interactions are fundamental. In the digital world, these connections can take place through social media, video calls, online communities, and virtual reality. While digital interactions offer convenience and enable global connectivity while reducing emissions, it is important to provide balance with meaningful and personal connections, interactions and face-to-face relationships.

## Values

Ethical Considerations: As technology increasingly integrates into our lives, ethical questions arise. We need to grapple with moral dilemmas related to data privacy, surveillance, algorithmic biases, and the impact of automation on employment. We need to consider the ethical implications of our digital choices and advocate for responsible and inclusive technology development.

Striking a Balance: Being human in an increasingly digital world necessitates finding a balance between the benefits of technology and the preservation of our humanity. It entails using digital tools and platforms to enhance our lives, work, and relationships while being mindful of the potential pitfalls such as digital addiction, information overload, and social disconnection.

In summary, being human in an increasingly digital world entails embracing the opportunities and challenges presented by technology while remaining grounded in our physical existence, maintaining meaningful connections, nurturing our ethical compass, and continually adapting to a changing landscape.





# 8th Our Ocean Conference in Panama

## Working Together Towards Achieving a Sustainable Ocean

**Masanori Kobayashi,**  
Senior Research Fellow,  
Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

The 8th Our Ocean Conference (OOC) was held in Panama City from 2 – 3 March 2023. It is an initiative originally launched by then US State Secretary John Kerry in 2014 to engage government leaders and high-level stakeholder representatives to develop partnership to protect the ocean from pollution and marine resource depletion and to promote a sustainable ocean and sustainable marine resource management. Delegates pledged 341 commitments – planned activities worth \$20 billion in total. H.E. Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, President, Republic of Panama addressed the Conference together with Foreign Minister, Environment Minister, US Presidential Envoy for Climate, President of Palau, Prime Minister of Fiji and so many leaders and other prominent experts. The participants discussed (i) marine protected areas, (ii) marine pollution, (iii) climate change, (iv) sustainable fisheries, (v) blue economy, and (vi) maritime security. Reference was also made to sustainable tourism, marine plastic pollution and ecological connectivity.

3 persons from OPRI-SPF attended the Conference. OPRI-SPF organized a side event on sustainable blue economies in island and low-lying countries. OPRI-SPF sponsored 12 students to attend the Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit held from 27 February – 1 March 2023 and OOC. I moderated the Youth Session on Day 2. A youth delegate articulated the adverse impacts of sargassum (brown colored seaweed/algae) outbreak in the Caribbean presumably due to the eutrophication caused by the discharge of fertilizers in the continental countries. He learned the method from a German expert who came to a university in Trinidad and Tobago and experimented the conversion of sargassum to bioenergy. The recording can be viewed at YouTube (@minrexpanama).



After spectacular cultural performance, Foreign Minister Janaina Tewaney Mencomo of Panama welcomed the participants. Mr. Juan Monterrey, Director of Geoversity's School of Biocultural Leadership advocated to eliminate subsidies to fisheries, rid subsidies to fossil fuels, and enact a global moratorium on deep sea mining. Environment Minister Milciades Concepción of Panama followed to articulate the Panama's ocean conservation policies and programs. President



The author (left)

Laurentino Cortizo Cohen of Panama underlined the significance of the Conference and the Panama's initiative for a sustainable ocean. At the Conference, leadership spoke about their policies eloquently. Experts spoke and interacted vibrantly at thematic panels. Representatives made 1 minute statement on their commitment of actions to achieve a sustainable ocean. The Conference was very intense, informative, and inspiring.

Panama is positioned to be very special on ocean issues. The Panama Canal connects the Pacific and the Atlantic. Over 14,200 ships passed through the Panama Canal in 2022. The revenue from the toll reaches \$4.2 billion with the assumption that about 40% of the proceeds goes to the Panama's General Treasury and could constitute about 3 per cent of its GDP. Having the revenue from the Canal gives an advantage and self-reliance in promoting the sustainable management of the Panama's natural resources. While EU and Japan targets to achieve a net zero greenhouse gases (GHGs) emission by 2050, Panama has achieved the net zero and now goes beyond it by promoting carbon sequestration in vast forest covers. Panama, Bhutan and Suriname are members of the Alliance of Carbon Negative Countries. Panama also joined Ecuador, Colombia and Costa Rica in expanding marine protected areas in the Eastern Pacific in 2021 called "Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR)". Panama hosted the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP19) in November 2022 and spearheaded the adoption of conservation measures including the listing of 54 sharks species in Appendix II to regulate their trade.



The Panama Canal is a landmark to visit. The Panama City Fish Market is a lively place to see diverse local fish and cheerful retailers. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supported its construction in 1995. Panama offers a lot more to see. I encourage you to see vibrant blue economy efforts there if you have a chance to visit Panama.

# Alarm Bells for Ocean Acidification

- Please Visit Friends of WMU, Japan Website for Full Contents -

On February 2nd, the Nippon Foundation hosted an international symposium titled, Ocean Acidification: A Crisis in the Making, as part of the Back to Blue initiative with The Economist Group in Tokyo, Japan. In his opening remarks, Chairman Sasakawa called for urgent action to tackle this crisis by thinking and acting together in order to pass on “Mother Ocean” to future generations for thousands of years and beyond.

UK Plymouth Marine Laboratory Science Director and co-chair of the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network,



Prof. Steve Widdicombe

Prof. Steve Widdicombe, who has been researching the biological effects of ocean acidification for about 20 years, stated, “The health of the marine ecosystem is threatened by global warming, deoxygenation, and acidification.”

The full text of his manuscript,



which was written in an easy-to-understand format for this newsletter, is posted on Friends of WMU, Japan website. We would like all of our Fellows to read the contents – as professionals working closely with the ocean, this matter is sure to be highly relevant.

Please visit following link for the full text:

<https://www.wmujapan.net/global-data/20230626144609473.pdf>

## WMU Viet Nam Alumni Chapter Organized the Celebration of World Maritime University's 40th Anniversary



**Dat Viet Hai Tran**  
(Viet Nam, 2017)



To commemorate the World Maritime University’s (WMU) awakening achievements in the 40 years since its foundation, 56 Vietnamese alumni showed outstanding solidarity by organizing a ceremony on 12 May, 2023.

Mr. Kitack Lim, the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and a 1991 alumnus, attended the ceremony as a guest of honor.

Participants were shown a video of WMU history and the image of all Vietnamese students since 1991, and looked back fondly on beautiful memories of the campus. In his opening remark, Mr. Dao Dinh Tien, Chairman of the WMU Viet Nam Alumni Chapter proudly stated the historical development of WMU, the significant role played by the institution in shaping the careers of alumni in Viet Nam and meaningful activities of Viet Nam Alumni Chapter over the years. He also highlighted skills imparted by WMU have enabled the alumni to contribute greatly to the development of Viet Nam’s maritime industry and transportation sector.

In his keynote speech, Mr. Kitack Lim referenced the WMU’s legacy and its excellence in maritime education,

research and capacity building over the past 40 years, serving the IMO mission by offering stakeholders unparalleled access to a global network of experts, knowledge, and expertise to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. He also mentioned that his visits to various maritime related destinations in Viet Nam impressed him with the rapid development of Viet Nam’s maritime industry, and made a promise to support Viet Nam’s maritime industry in the future.

Mr. Nguyen Hoang, Deputy Director of Maritime Administration of Viet Nam who is also a WMU fellow expressed his sincere gratitude to Mr. Kitack Lim for IMO’s contribution to the global maritime community, especially ensuring safety, security and sustainability of the maritime industry.

The meeting concluded with the singing of the WMU song, a beautiful tradition, together with Mr. Kitack Lim.

The WMU Viet Nam Alumni Chapter intends to organize the celebration of 20 years anniversary in the end of 2023 for the purpose of further strengthening the relationship between the WMU Viet Nam Alumni.

# WMU Alumni Finds Each Other at JICA's Alluring Training Program



**Mai Thanh Truc Nguyen**  
(WMU 2019, Viet Nam)

I was fortunate enough to attend the Sustainable Port Development course in Japan. The program was organized by JICA, OCIDI, and other affiliated organizations. During the two months duration of this program, I had a chance to visit numerous ports in Japan where I was exposed to cutting-edge cargo handling, automated systems, and eco-friendly port practices (Green port). Witnessing these advancements firsthand instilled me a deeper understanding of the significance of sustainable port development – a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation.



During the training, I could reconnect with my WMU classmate who are now residing in Japan. The reunion was a moving and gratifying event and she broadened my knowledge in maritime policies, sustainable port development. I

am eager to apply my newfound knowledge and skills to contribute to our maritime industry's growth.

Overall, the trip was an exceptional experience that broadened my horizons, enhanced my knowledge, and facilitated valuable connections with industry peers. It emphasized the importance of encouraging global cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and friendship among maritime professionals worldwide.



**Mirana Rabarijaona**  
(WMU 2017, Madagascar)

The theoretical part of the studies was conducted online, started in September 2022 and the visit to Japan mostly consisted of visiting ports and infrastructures in the context of field studies. Through the program, the member of JICA in collaboration with partner organizations, led us on tours to the majestic ports of Osaka, Kobe, Hakata, Fukuoka, and Shimonoseki, each of which displayed its own attributes, characteristics, and resilience. We also visited some of Japan's infrastructural wonders, including the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge and Tokyo Skytree while being welcomed by businesses which produce port-related materials and equipments such as Shibata Industrial Co.,Ltd. and Fudo Tetra Corporation.



I met Mai-san, who enrolled in the same program. When we realized both of us attended WMU, we joyfully hugged each other as though we found a long-lost relative. She introduced me to Mr. E.Kudo as well as Ms. Y.Suzuki (2003) and Mr.K.Taguchi (2022), both WMU Sasakawa Fellows. The program culminated with the individual presentation of our action plans which we are to bring back to our respective countries for the purpose of sustainable development. A ceremony was conducted to officially close the program and for us participant to be awarded our completion certificates.



The overall experience was amazing, and I will always treasure the souvenirs of each day I spent in Japan.



JICA provides a variety of learning opportunities for people who engage in maritime affairs. Many Sasakawa fellows have participated in the past and returned to their home country with new knowledge and connections with world wide maritime peers and global industry. These programs are provided mainly for government officials from countries designated by JICA each fiscal year. Please note that all the candidates for a training program should be officially recommended by their government. Please contact your government's relevant department to apply for a course.

For details, please visit:

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/faq/faq.html#02>

FY2023 Course	
1	Sustainable Port Development and Planning (for Port Engineer)
2	Hydrography for Charting and Disaster Management (Internationally Accredited Category B)
3	Strategic Port Administration and Management
4	Capacity Development for Port Facility Security
5	Port Maintenance Planning
6	Strengthening Surveys and Inspections for Ship Safety
7	Maritime Law Enforcement
8	Maritime Search and Rescue, Maritime Disaster Prevention, and Marine Environment Protection for Coast Guard Officials
9	Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program

## Reunion with My Little Son "Kavinu"

**Kelum Prasanga JALATH MUNASINGHE**

(Sri Lanka, 2022)

I'm excited to share my thoughts and experiences on my son, who was one month old when I arrived in Malmö to attend WMU as a Sasakawa family member.

My life was totally changed after the son "Kavinu" came to our world on August 4, 2021. The happiest day of my life served as a turning point that has changed the person I am. Being a father is an emotion that cannot be adequately articulated in words. When I make the decision to travel to Malmö, the adorable smile and cries of little Kavinu put me in a tough situation of choosing whether to leave the home.

I was able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to study in Malmö thanks to The Nippon Foundation and SPF. One of the greatest achievements of my life would have been completing my master's degree in maritime affairs with the help of friends in WMU, faculty, and staff. On the other side, I had to leave my wife and son alone in the house, which made this difficult for me.

Now I am back with my child and wife and spending happiest day of my life. Tiny Kavinu can now utter a few words and go around the house playing with the toys that his mother



has bought for him. He always waits for me to get home from work before coming over and giving me a hug.

The opportunity, I had in life to study at the World Maritime University and receive a fellowship from the Sasakawa Foundation, was extraordinary, unanticipated and remarkable. One of the best opportunities I've ever had will be this one. I have been able to scar my child's beautiful smile for a year, but now that I am recalling that experience I had in Sweden with a proud and well satisfied mind. I'm thrilled to be able to share it with my child as a proud parent to motivate him in life as he grows up.

### Editor's note

The Northern and Southern Hemispheres have different seasons, and in Japan we have already welcomed spring, with the cherry blossoms heralding spring's advent flowering and the amount of sunlight increasing each day, bringing warmth. The trees are lushly approaching abundance, and their trunks have firmly added a new growth ring. The Friends of WMU, Japan also continues to expand, adding a

new growth ring each year. By continuously adding new members under the philosophy of "One World, One Family", we are creating a bountiful forest. Currently there are some 760 Friends of WMU throughout the world. The Friends of WMU, Japan Newsletter is continuing its efforts to provide the soil for conveying information about this forest, so please make sure you have taken root firmly in the forest floor.



**Dr. Koji Murai**

Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology



Cherry blossom in TUMSAT





Welcome Reception

## A WONDERFUL WEEK IN JAPAN

The COVID-19 pandemic affected many things. Amongst these was the annual Field Studies arranged by the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) of the Sakasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), which had to be cancelled in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Fortunately for the Class of 2023 and myself, the Field Studies were resumed this year. A group of 30 Sasakawa-funded students, as well as Professor Max Mejia and myself, headed to Tokyo on 6 May 2023. What a great week lay ahead of us.

Despite pouring rain the day we arrived, the welcome was truly warm. We were met at the airport by Ms. Emi Shimada from the OPRI, and tour guide Ms. Miyo Wada, who expertly shepherded us to our bus. The skill of “expert shepherding” was one that we observed so many times during the week: no-one left behind!

We met Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Senior Advisor and Mr. Keiichiro Yamada, Program Director to the OPRI at the first lunch. Mr. Kudo’s warmth and enthusiasm is always infectious. We had a great time, despite our travel fatigue. Following an orientation meeting, we had free time for exploring Tokyo in the afternoon and evening. Many students took this opportunity to find their way to Asakusa temple and market or to other iconic tourist sites like Tokyo Tower or the Shibuya shopping area.

Monday 8 May was perhaps the biggest and most important day of the week’s activities. After a very informative visit to Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, the students paid a courtesy visit to the Maritime Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. The Maritime Bureau has consistently supported the field studies arrangements for many years, and Mr. Shinnosuke Hada, Deputy Director of Ocean Development and Environment Policy Division of Maritime Bureau, travelled with us as an advisor to our field studies. Our visit to the Bureau was a good chance to express our gratitude for its kind help.

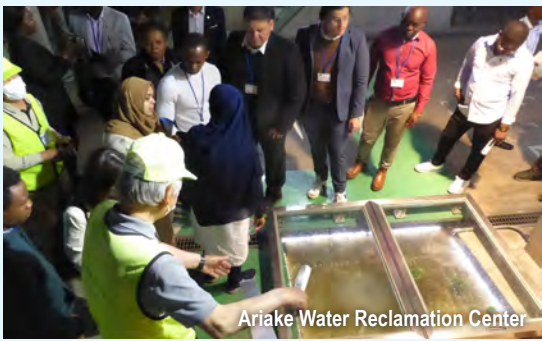
Next was a courtesy visit to The Nippon Foundation where we had the honour of a personal meeting with Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation. The students were each introduced to Dr. Sasakawa and they thanked him for the fellowship support they had received, outlining briefly how their studies at the World Maritime University would benefit the maritime industry in their home countries and regions. The group then sang the WMU Song for Dr. Sasakawa, which he seemed to enjoy, conducting us from his place on the podium. Dr. Sasakawa responded with a warm personal address, and we were then delighted take both group and individual photographs with him. The positive energy Dr. Sasakawa displays is an inspiration to us all.



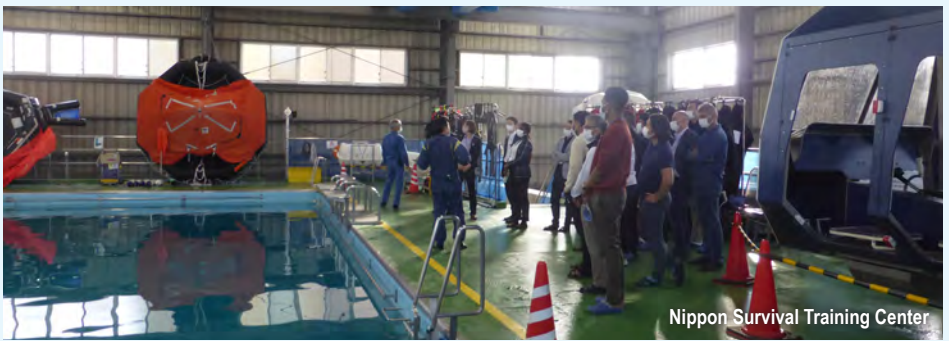
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)



Chairman Sasakawa speaks to the students.



Ariake Water Reclamation Center



Nippon Survival Training Center



Kyokuyo Shipyard Corporation



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Waste Landfill Sites



Kyokuyo Shipyard Corporation

The day was not over yet! The Welcome Reception hosted by the Friends of WMU, Japan that evening was delightful. Welcomed by Dr. Hide Sakaguchi, Executive Director of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the students, Professor Mejia and I enjoyed the chance to chat with senior officers of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, representatives from various maritime institutions, members of the Tokyo Diplomatic Corps and, not least, WMU graduates who were able to join us. The delicious buffet meal made sure we all in good spirits. The students and WMU graduates sang the WMU Song, to the delight of the audience.

The following days were a wonderfully-organized tour of the maritime industry in Japan. On Tuesday 9 May we continued our stay in Tokyo, visiting The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Waste Landfill Sites and the Ariake Water Reclamation Center, both of which were extremely interesting for our students to see.

Wednesday saw us depart Tokyo by plane for Fukuoka, a very pleasant smaller city. During our stay in Fukuoka we experienced what for me was one of the highlights of our site-visits, at the Kyokuyo Shipyard Corporation. Luckily, our visit coincided with the launch of a new vessel. We had the chance to tour the ship, and then to see it leave the wharf on its maiden voyage. What an experience! Mr. Kudo asked us to sing the WMU Song as it left and of course, we enjoyed singing the ship off to sea, wishing it many safe voyages while we waved from the wharf. Our next visit was to the Nippon Survival Training Center where we were shown some very

interesting equipment. It was also interesting to note that the Center trains some international groups as well as Japanese course participants.

Thursday saw us visiting the Port of Hakata, where as well as a port tour we were given a boat tour around the harbour area. Hakata, as viewed from the sea, was quite beautiful and I remember a particularly interesting baseball arena shining like bronze in the sunlight. Of greater maritime interest, perhaps, was the unloading of a vessel in port where I had my first opportunity to witness the efficiency of containers shifted from a vessel to waiting transportation on land. One of our group timed the unloading to 51 seconds per container, which was impressive.

Before leaving this area of Japan, we also called at the Kanmon Kaiyō Vessel Traffic Service Centre. The Center provides a radar surveillance service, giving traffic information and control for vessels entering, leaving or navigating through the difficult Kanmon passage. We were very interested to see how this service was provided and I learned about the concept of leading lights in navigation.

Late that day we boarded the Hankyu Ferry at Shinmoji Port, headed for Kobe. Another adventure! Our evening hours were spent in the dining room of the ferry, where our guide Ms. Miyo Wada hosted a traditional Japanese tea ceremony for us to enjoy. This glimpse of Japanese culture was very precious.

We disembarked in Kobe early on Friday morning. Another busy day of site-visits awaited, firstly to the Furuno Electric Co., Ltd. With a history dating back to 1938, Furuno



Port of Hakata



KANMON KAIKYO Vessel Traffic Service Center



Tea ceremony experience on the ferry



Furuno Electric Co., Ltd



HSN-Kikai Kogyo Co., Ltd



From Kobe to Kyoto by bullet train (Shinkansen)



Zen garden at Ryoanji Temple in Kyoto

is now one of the major suppliers of marine radar equipment – and since my return to Sweden I have enjoyed spotting Furuno equipment on boats moored near my home. I know where it came from!

Our second visit that day was to HSN-Kikai Kogyo Co., Ltd. where we saw many functions of this interestingly varied company. Having started out making pumps for mines, HSN-Kikai Kogyo ventured into the production of pumps for vessels and then oil/water separators. The latest innovation being pursued is the hydroponic production of fresh vegetables on board ship – which was absolutely fascinating to see. The Chairman of the company, Mr. Kimio Tomofuji kindly met us at the conclusion of our visit, and we entertained him with the WMU Song. Leaving HSN-Kikai Kogyo, our last site visit, we enjoyed for the last time the “10-minute wave goodbye”, as our new friends there steadfastly stood to wave us off as our bus disappeared into the distance.

Our last day in Japan was devoted to touring the wonderful city of Kyoto. Tour guide Ms. Miyo Wada took us to three temples and a shrine – each of them surrounded by meticulously kept gardens in the Japanese style. The peaceful atmosphere of the green areas complemented the dignity of the traditional buildings so beautifully. Ms. Wada did her best to explain the Zen garden at Ryoanji Temple; I think she gave us food for thought for a long time to come.

We left Japan the next day. At our orientation meeting on the previous Sunday, Mr. Kudo had mentioned two objectives for the field studies: an overview of maritime activities in

Japan, and the development of community feeling in the Sasakawa student group. In my opinion, both these objectives were met well.

What we do now is remember with great warmth the welcome, the experiences, the knowledge and the friendships. Our sincere gratitude for all the kind and thoughtful arrangements made for us goes to the SPF team: Mr. Kudo, Mr. Yamada, Ms. Shimada and Ms. Naito. To our tour guide, Ms. Miyo Wada, our fondest thanks.

Arigato gozaimasu!



Heian Shrine in Kyoto

**Lyndell Lundahl**  
Assistant University Registrar  
(Student Services),  
WMU



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From June 20 to 22, the WMU held an event commemorating the 40th anniversary of the university's establishment, together with the WMU@40 Conference on Maritime and Ocean Sustainability. The commemorative event was attended by approx. 450 participants from around the world who celebrated the WMU and its achievement of forging a 40-year history in grand style. (<https://www.wmu.se/news/wmu-marks-40-year-anniversary>)



Held on the morning of June 20, the Commemorative Ceremony brought together many high-level speakers and guests. The ceremony began with Opening Remarks by HE Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary General and a graduate of the WMU. Interweaving anecdotes from his own student days, he emphasized how WMU graduates are playing important roles within the IMO as well as various countries' maritime sectors, while also reiterating his gratitude to the City of Malmö, which has hosted and supported the university for many years.

Next, WMU President Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry greeted the participants, saying that in looking towards a sustainable future, WMU fellows in particular need to take responsibility.

During the ceremony, The Nippon Foundation was presented with a special award for its scholarship support of the WMU's MSc program over the decades as well as its support in the establishment of the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute and of NF Chairs. In accepting the award on behalf of the foundation, Executive Director Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno expressed high expectations for the future activities of WMU graduates.

The WMU@40 Conference on Maritime and Ocean Sustainability was held on the afternoon of June 20 and on June

21. During the conference, panelists comprising mainly WMU professors and graduates presented panel discussions on six themes: 1. Zero Emission Shipping; 2. Healthy, Safer & Secure Working Conditions; 3. Collaboration Among Stakeholders; 4. Rewarding Sustainable Performance & Fostering Innovation; 5. Creating a Level Playing Field; and 6. Protecting the Oceans.

Four of the panelists were Sasakawa Fellows, and they played a role in deepening the discussions by bringing up issues and making suggestions related to the various themes. Each of the panels took a broad range of questions and opinions from the audience, and there was lively debate.

On the morning of June 22, the final day of the conference, there was a session centered on presentations by WMU graduates introducing the alumni association activities in two regional groups: 1. Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, and Pacific; and 2. Liberia, Philippines, Kenya, Japan, Arab Alumni, and Hellenic Alumni. A poster session was also held simultaneously, and the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat presented a poster on the Sasakawa Fellowship Program.

Taking the opportunity presented by these events, the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat set up a meet-up place in the World Bistro on the evening of June 21 for Sasakawa students and Sasakawa Fellows to get together.

Although the gathering was short, lasting around an hour, WMU President Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, Prof. Max Mejia, and many other WMU staff also took part. Not only was lively exchange of network information among participants achieved, but also a merry time was had by all.



# 40th Anniversary



**Jesus Antonio  
Menacho Pierola**  
(Peru, 2010)

Last April, I was invited to speak at the WMU@40: Conference on Maritime & Ocean Sustainability in Malmö, Sweden, from 20 to 22 June 2023. It was a privilege for me to actively participate in Panel 2 with the topic “The Role of the Maritime Authority of Peru Promoting Healthy, Safe & Secure working conditions for Seafarers and Fishers”, and prouder being an Alumnus of WMU, Class of 2010.

WMU@40 conference marked an important landmark in the University’s history. It was a prominent success, getting together internationally recognised maritime and ocean experts, many of whom are WMU alumni, to celebrate four decades of outstanding achievements.

I had the opportunity to meet with Professors and WMU Staff, as well as some Classmates and several Sasakawa Fellows, and I was delighted to know their success in the maritime world.

I remember my favourite phrase for every event like this: “The ocean is huge, but the maritime world is little.”



**Victoria Quindara  
Paraggua**  
(Philippines, 2009)

Visiting WMU after 14 years is nostalgic. My heart pounded with excitement while mingling with former and new WMU professors and staff, co-alumni, and Sasakawa fellows. The new WMU building is magnificent, whereas the brick remnant given as remembrance was a great idea. Moreover, the conference topics are timely and informative. Indeed, the WMU@40 celebration was a wonderful encounter, etched to my memory lane. Thank you WMU and The Nippon Foundation!



**Norhasliza Mat Salleh**  
(Malaysia, 2006)

After leaving the World Maritime University back in October 2006, I have been coming back to Malmö a number of times to deliver a number of presentations in WMU as well as private visit. But my most recent visit to WMU in June 2023 to attend the 40th Anniversary of University brings lots of wonderful memories, made me proud, with immense pleasure being part of this top-notch educational institution. There was much reminiscing, there was also a focus on the future, as I was accompanied by my little girl. WMU, Happy 40 years and keep on going strong!



**Altan-Od Bazarragchaa**  
(Mongolia, 2006)

I am from Mongolia and graduate of WMU from 2006 with specialization in Maritime Administration. Had a chance to visit our beloved school and meet our lecturers, professors, classmates 17 years after our graduation. Also had a chance to thank the Sasakawa staff for giving me a big opportunity to receive maritime knowledge, which was very helpful for my career. It was a great pleasure to meet my classmates after such a long time. Taking this opportunity I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of WMU@40 event.



**Deniz Can Serter**  
(Turkey, 2019)

This year is the 40th anniversary of the World Maritime University. By this occasion we, Sasakawa graduates, had a very special opportunity to meet with experienced fellows who became part of the event.

Our conversations focusing on Sasakawa past and present, classmates, the years at WMU, our families, our accomplishments, and our legacies.

Probably we still did not transform the maritime world as we thought we would, but we may have helped make it a better place. I felt very happy to see a different perspective of Sasakawa fellow graduates, our Sasakawa managers and staff as well as WMU faculty.



**Chahrazed Tigha**  
(Algeria, 2022)

Attending the 40th anniversary of World Maritime University was an incredible experience. The focus on maritime and ocean sustainability, along with the shared insights and ongoing project updates, left me in awe. Reconnecting with colleagues both from Sasakawa Fellows and Sasakawa Fellowship Students, added a sense of warmth. Words can’t quite capture the wonderful atmosphere. Being a Sasakawa fellow, the opportunity to present was met with a fantastic reception, thanks to the dedicated fellowship. Gratitude overflows for making this anniversary unforgettable.

On this occasion, I extend my special thanks to Mr. Kudo, Mr. Emi, and Ms. Shimada. It was a delight to see them; it felt like we’ve known each other for a long time. I’m truly grateful to Dr. Yohei Sasakawa and The Nippon Foundation for making this transformative experience possible, changing my life for the better.



**Roland Oladipo Ijabiye**  
(Nigeria, 2019)

As I stepped into the warm embrace of the breezy Malmö summer, I was overwhelmed by the nostalgia of golden memories created on the hallowed grounds of WMU premises over 4 years ago.

The WMU@40 event was a star-studded festival of maritime accomplishments, innovative exploits and visionary discourse that illuminated the future of our oceans, ships and ports.

It was the perfect opportunity to banter with old classmates, particularly my Sasakawa tribesmen and women, esteemed members of WMU faculty, and an inspiring array of maritime changemakers.

So, here’s to many more decades of WMU and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation lofty achievements – may the lighthouse guiding us to new maritime frontiers and sustainable oceans, never cease to shine!

Let the adventure continue!

# Taking WMU Pictures for 32 Years



HM The King Carl XVI Gustaf  
with Mr. Efthymios Mitropoulos

**Mr. Allan Olofsson**  
(Rtd. Photographer)

As a boy, I lived in Hörby, a small town in central Skåne in the south of Sweden. My interest in taking photographs started when I was quite a youngster, only about 13 years old. After finishing my military service, photography became my choice of profession and I was lucky to become employed as a professional photographer at first in the city of Lund, and then later in Malmö.

I had many contracts for photography work, such as with the Swedish Television studio in Malmö, but the one I found most rewarding in my career was my work for the World Maritime University.

Like many things in life, my first contact with WMU was by chance. A colleague of mine had been asked to work as the photographer for the 1989 WMU Graduation, and he was unable to accept the job. He recommended me and... that was it! From then on, it was Graduation each year, then student and staff ID photography and group photography for the WMU Yearbook. This was a job that gave me the opportunity to meet thousands of students and staff from all corners of the world, for 32 happy and interesting years.

In 1991 and in 1994 I took ID photographs of 2 students who later became very famous. I photographed the current Secretary-General of IMO, Mr. Kitack Lim, and the new President of the World Maritime University, Professor Max Mejia! Of course, we did not know at the time how these ID photographs of young, ambitious students would “go down in history”.

When you work as a photographer, you are always standing behind the camera, not in front of it. Sometimes this is frustrating. When WMU celebrated its 25th anniversary, the King of Sweden

attended the celebration. I took many photographs of him with various dignitaries – and then I got to shake his hand myself. But no-one took a photograph of me!

I have nice memories of the old WMU building that no longer exists. When we started using colour photography for the yearbook, we would take the group photographs for the Yearbook in the park across the road from the University building. The students, all dressed in graduation gowns, would file across the road. Traffic stopped and often drivers blew their horns to salute the students. It was fun.

Many things have changed during the years I have worked for WMU. Until digital photography took over, working at Graduation was so stressful. I had to have an assistant with me changing film into a second camera so I didn't miss a shot as the students walked across the stage. And after the big event, I had to work in the dark room all night to make sure the photographs were available at the University the next morning. In those days, most students would leave Sweden within a couple of days after Graduation, and of course they wanted to be able to take their photographs with them. Nowadays, being able to send a link to a digital photograph makes things much easier.

Stress or no stress, I always enjoyed the WMU Graduation ceremony and still attend it each year. The choir singing the WMU Song is very meaningful: “*We live in harmony, sharing knowledge and experience like a big family*”. What WMU has given me is the knowledge that while distance and culture may make us seem different, we all smile in the same way. Thank you for 32 wonderful years.

# First Position in Essay Competition by Rashtriya Raksha University



**Alysious Forbie**  
(Sierra Leone, 2023)

The School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies (SICMSS) at Rashtriya Raksha University, organized an essay competition focusing on marine environment pollution and States Parties' obligations under UNCLOS. The competition aimed to encourage practitioners, faculty, and students to contribute their expertise and knowledge to address critical issues related to marine pollution, climate change, and sea-level rise. Participants were required to support their arguments with references to relevant international laws, state practices, doctrines, and case-law while highlighting regional perspectives from different parts of the world, including African, Asian, Small Island States, and Land-Locked States. The ultimate goal was to raise awareness and find effective solutions for safeguarding the marine environment amidst the challenges posed by climate change.

My essay presented a comprehensive overview of marine environment pollution, climate change, and sea-level rise, exploring their connection with UNCLOS. The significance of UNCLOS in establishing regulations for sustainable ocean resource use and addressing emerging concerns was emphasized. It highlighted the obligation of states to take measures to prevent, mitigate, and manage marine pollution from various sources and enforce these measures consistently. The essay also discussed different types of pollution addressed under UNCLOS, including land-based, ship-related, seabed exploration, and marine facility pollution.

Moreover, the essay emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and national-level initiatives in effectively protecting the marine environment and its living resources. It suggested fostering partnerships among coastal states, evaluating marine research institutions, and promoting regional collaboration to tackle marine pollution and conservation challenges. The efforts of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its subsidiary bodies, such as the Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), in addressing marine pollution and promoting environmental protection within the maritime sector were outlined.

The essay stressed the urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard sensitive marine ecosystems including coral reefs and sea grass beds in relation to climate change. It covered the relevance of sustainable fishing methods, climate adaptation, and aquatic meals in addition to how they might improve nutrition while minimizing environmental damage. The essay also emphasized the importance of international cooperation and the function of organizations like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in addressing climate change and marine pollution. The importance of teamwork in protecting marine biodiversity and guaranteeing the long-term viability of marine ecosystems was underlined.

In conclusion, the pivotal role of global treaties, regional partnerships, and national endeavors in addressing the urgent issues of marine pollution and climate change is emphasized in the essay. These collective endeavors are indispensable in lessening the adverse impacts on the fragile marine environment. To safeguard our oceans for future generations, the essay highlighted the significance of ongoing research, promoting innovation, and adopting sustainable practices. By actively participating in continuous research, identifying creative solutions, and implementing sustainable measures, we can take decisive actions to safeguard marine biodiversity, protect vulnerable ecosystems like coral reefs and sea grasses, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our oceans. It is only through coordinated action and a shared commitment to responsible environmental stewardship that we can effectively confront the challenges faced by the marine world and secure its resilience in the face of climate change.

Please visit the following link to read the full essay.

<https://www.wmujapan.net/global-data/20230913135338954.pdf?20230913135346>



## The Malta's Ministerial Declaration Reaffirmed Political Commitment to the WestMED Initiative



**Nabil Anwari**  
(Morocco, 2005)

Since its inception in 2017, the WestMED Initiative has sought to develop a sustainable and resilient blue economy within the Western Mediterranean region, involving Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, and Tunisia. This far-reaching initiative, which benefits from the support of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the European Commission (EC), has touched upon various fields such as aquaculture, shipping, marine spatial planning, maritime safety and security, blue skills, and marine renewable energies.

During the first phase, which ended in 2022, the Initiative proved to be a useful intergovernmental platform for promoting a sustainable blue economy and supporting member countries in developing project proposals. Being nominated as a member of the steering committee since 2022, I have been tasked with representing my country in the sessions of the governing bodies organized in Malta from June 21 to June 23, 2023.

On June 21, the inauguration took place in the historical Villa Arrigo in Valetta, where the members of the steering committee met to examine a number of items, particularly the final version of the Ministerial Declaration.

On June 22, The historical villa welcomed a number of experts from

the region, coming from the realms of the public sector, private sector, NGOs, and academia. The task force had the duty to review the various innovative projects carried out in domains such as green maritime transport, maritime clusters, sustainable aquaculture, and marine spatial planning.

The concluding step was achieved on June 23, when ministers and high-level representatives from the 10 WestMED countries, the European Commission, and the Union for the Mediterranean gathered inside Spazju Kreattiv, Malta's Centre for Creativity, in Valletta to reiterate the willingness of all partners to endeavor towards attaining the outlined objectives pursuant to the priorities enshrined in the newly adopted Ministerial Declaration.

More information about the WestMED Initiative and the substance of the Malta Declaration can be found at: <https://westmed-initiative.eu.europa.eu/>.



# New WMU President Max Mejia Visits Japan

New WMU President Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr. visited Japan from July 4 to 8 as his first courtesy calls abroad since his appointment on June 29.

During his visit, Dr. Mejia held discussions regarding the present and future cooperative alliances with leaders of Japan's maritime sector, including the Maritime Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Japan Coast Guard; Nippon Kaiji Kyokai; Japan agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers; Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology; and Japanese Shipowners' Association.

On the final evening of his stay in Tokyo, Dr. Mejia was surrounded by Japanese Sasakawa Fellows who were sharing their recent activities with him.



Japan Coast Guard



Maritime Bureau



## The Apple of My Eye

Tomotsugu Noma (Japan, 2016)

Hello. I am Tomotsugu Noma from S16. This is my first appearance in this newsletter since my wedding announcement, and I am back because I have happy news to share. Last year our family welcomed a new member with the birth of a bouncing baby boy. I had been warned in advance, but taking care of a baby really is hard, and I am eternally grateful to my wife. However,

my son's cuteness is many times greater than any hardship, and just looking at his sleeping face soothes me, even when I come home late at night from work. In Japanese there is a saying "It doesn't hurt even if you put it in your eye" (= "The apple of my eye"), and this is so true. Every day I think to myself, I must put even more effort into my work for my child as well.

## Please update Directory information

As usual, the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat will send seasonal greetings to everyone who has registered home address in the Directory.

To ensure everyone receives one, please visit our directory (<https://www.wmujapan.net/directory/>) before the end of

October to check your home address is updated.

Last year, more than 100 letters were returned due to unknown addresses, so we kindly request your cooperation in preventing it from happening again this year!

### Editor's note

## Your Signatures are My Treasure

"Mr. Kudo!" a beautiful lady called my name at the exit of London Heathrow Airport. I wasn't expecting to meet anyone there, but it was the Sasakawa fellow from Ukraine who happened to be at the airport and noticed me. I kindly forced her to sign her signature as usual. I received signatures from 160 Sasakawa Fellows who attended the Tokyo Network meeting in 2001. Since then, it has become my regular practice to get signatures from the Fellows every time I meet with them. The number of Sasakawa Fellows is currently 850, but the number of signatures has exceeded 1,000.

The COVID-19 outbreak has somehow subsided and the Japan Field Trip has resumed. From now on, there will be more opportunities for Fellows to meet each other at home and abroad without worrying about the fatal infection. I wish that the Fellows will be able to speak to each other in a friendly, "naked" way in their feelings towards the resolution of maritime issues. It is my unfulfilled dream to hold an international conference in Japan while soaking in a hot spring.

Since April, we have welcomed Ms. Yasko Suzuki (Japan, 2003) as a member of the editorial board. I look forward to her editorial proposals that reflect the WMU graduates' perspective.



Eisuke Kudo (Senior Advisor, SPF)



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An Interview with  
**Prof. Maximo Q. Mejia Jr.**  
President of World Maritime University

## Navigating Seas of Knowledge for People, Peace and Prosperity

### Before My WMU Days

#### When did you become intrigued by the marine world?

My entry into the marine world came by way of a desire to join the army while I was in my late teens. While I was a cadet at the Philippine Military Academy, I was offered the opportunity to join the United States Naval Academy, which I accepted. I flew to Annapolis and joined as a Midshipman. I am glad to say that the four years at the Naval Academy formed my passion for the sea.



Because my initial intention was to join the army, deciding to join the US Naval Academy was kind of a leap of faith. However, I became very happily convinced that I made the right decision. I focused on international relations at the Academy and my research actually revolved around the Spratly Islands. It is very relevant today because of the geopolitical tensions in the South China Sea. However, it has had no direct use in my subsequent research since my WMU research focus has been on technical issues.

#### What motivated you to getting involved with WMU?

After the Naval Academy, I attended the Fletcher School in Massachusetts, USA, for graduate studies in international law and diplomacy, and took an excellent course on the law of the sea. After returning to the Philippine Navy and Coast Guard, I learned about the World Maritime University. It looked like an excellent opportunity to



receive advanced knowledge and education in maritime affairs. Studying at WMU, I had only one thing in mind as far as the ocean was concerned — to work for the separation of the Philippine Coast Guard, because our ships and seas needed an independent

and professional maritime safety agency to promote safety and environmental protection.

**After graduating from WMU in 1994, you returned to PCG once and taught at WMU from 1998 to 2013. Then, you took up the post of Administrator/Director-General of Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) in the Philippines from 2013 to 2016 during your sabbatical. What was the biggest administrative challenge there?**

The biggest administrative challenge was demonstrating Philippine compliance with the standards of the STCW Convention. I approached the challenge by focusing on building internal MARINA capacity and expertise at short-, medium-, and long-term horizons, instead of subcontracting services to third-party actors. This was made possible by partnering with Congress to enact critical legislation, uniting the different STCW-related government agencies in a common cause, engaging industry, and collaborating closely with the IMO and an international task force that provided technical advice and capacity development.

### The WMU of Today and Tomorrow

#### What is the most significant issue facing WMU today?

The most significant challenge facing WMU remains its financial stability. The University benefits from strongly committed partners and supporters, such as Sweden and The Nippon Foundation. However, assembling the rest of the University's operational budget is still a challenging annual endeavour.

#### What specific goals do you aim to achieve as part of the Academic Agenda WMU@50?

I would like WMU to reach a wider audience of maritime and oceans stakeholders both in terms of the diversity of our programmes and in terms of our educational formats. Interdisciplinary thinking is required to address and resolve contemporary and future local, national,



regional and global problems and challenges in the international maritime and global ocean sectors and such thinking and training will inform the work that we do. In addition, research will continue to inform our curriculum and offerings to allow for comprehensive interrogation of new ideas to inform trends and developments in society.

**DX, IOT, and AI are examples of rapidly progressing ocean-related technologies.**

As a university, we need to harness and master the potentials of advanced technology. They are important tools in conducting research that will lead to developing novel solutions to maritime and oceans issues. Changes should therefore be made to both curriculum and facilities. Students must be kept abreast of the latest maritime and oceans applications of technology. WMU must also upgrade its classroom and laboratory facilities; advanced technologies are key to continued development in WMU's e-learning programmes, and reach to a wider global audience.

**What steps should be taken to gain global recognition, including in developed countries?**

We need to gain global recognition by highlighting how important WMU's work is to promoting world trade and sustainability of the oceans. In this regard, WMU will be positioning itself as a thought leader and a global forum for the exchange of ideas. WMU will engage in research that will create more new knowledge that can be shared not only in the classroom but also in international fora and conferences. Through the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, WMU has extended its scope to broader themes of ocean governance and therefore reach an even wider audience.

The fact that we are one ocean and one planet, and that the efforts of developed countries to save our seas will be futile unless they are matched by similar implementation efforts in the rest of the world. By highlighting the impact our graduates have in their respective maritime and oceans sectors, WMU can gain global recognition even among developed countries.

**Please share your perspective on university management for the next 10 years.**

University management should be inclusive and inspirational. I place a strong emphasis on the empowerment of colleagues by identifying and recognising their talent and expertise, and allowing latitude in the performance of tasks, while at the same time holding them accountable for their deliverables. I would like to cultivate an environment at WMU where the hallmarks will be diversity, inclusivity, cooperation, consensus, discussion, open communication, and positive reinforcement.

**Alumni Association Activities**

**What do you expect from alumni in order to make them even more active in the future?**

WMU has an Alumni Office, whose functions will be further enhanced in the months to come. I would like to see alumni

continue to be proud of WMU and show confidence in their abilities. We have seen how small groups of alumni have been involved in many of the maritime policy enhancement and reform programmes in their countries. The impact could even greater if more alumni pool their collective knowledge and talents, and in an organised manner make a contribution to their local and regional maritime sectors. Alumni should maintain contact and keep themselves updated with developments at WMU. This way, they can identify opportunities to continue to contribute to the work of WMU. Many alumni occupy senior positions in their countries and should organise mentorship programmes and structured activities for knowledge sharing.

**Anything that the Friends of WMU, Japan can contribute?**

The Friends of WMU, Japan is the most highly organised WMU alumni network. Its many activities keep this network active, relevant, and a strong force for positive change in many countries around the world.

The Friends of WMU, Japan can strengthen the spirit of lifelong learning after the graduates have returned to their home countries. Their contribution to creating new knowledge will contribute to global efforts to solve conundrums and challenges in the maritime and oceans areas.

**Is there any way for graduates to utilize and incorporate WMU as part of their lifelong education?**

Lifelong learning is the essence of the WMU experience. By living together, working together, traveling to see places together, and learning together, each WMU graduate develops a desire to continue to stay updated with the latest developments in maritime affairs. Alumni should visit the WMU website occasionally to read about resources and opportunities for continuous learning and education.

WMU provides publications, research, dissertations, and other reference materials for free download in the maritime commons (<https://commons.wmu.se/>). The University also regularly organises webinars, conferences, and workshops.

**Prof. Mejia Behind the Scenes**

**Will you tell us a little about your personal interests?**

My first choice is to spend free time with my family and friends. The arrival of grandchildren has added an extra special dimension to family gatherings.

Whenever I travel abroad, I try experiencing local cultural diversions.

In terms of music, opera and jazz are two of my favourites. Outdoors, my favourite sports are skiing, golf, and practical shooting.





# Planting the Seeds for the Network

Gathering Orientation 2023 took place on a sunny evening on September 15th, where Sasakawa Fellowship Students from the Classes of 2023 and 2024 met for the first time.

The orientation session, led by Takanori Uzumaki (Japan, 2023) and Daiki Maeno (Japan, 2023), was held in the Sasakawa Auditorium after the taking of group photos outside the entrance of the WMU building, which evokes a sense of both history and modernity, under the beautiful autumn sky.

Following warm words by Mr. Uzumaki, Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Senior Advisor to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, delivered a humorous self-introduction and explained the purpose of this orientation during his opening remarks. At the end of his remarks, he also introduced the motto of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation and Chairman of Friends of WMU, Japan, “One World, One Family,” and expressed his hope that the friendships built at WMU will continue forever.

The orientation began with Ms. Emi Shimada from the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat explaining the content of the Sasakawa Scholarship Program, the role of the secretariat, the relationship between The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and what is expected of the students.



Subsequently, there were presentations introducing each specialization from the Class of 2023. These were given by senior students from the Class of 2023 in a humorous manner, with the students saying, “My major is the best!” They also shared valuable information with the Class of 2024, including insights into field studies, assignments, and tips not found in brochures. The Class of 2024 members paid close attention to the presentations, occasionally breaking into laughter in the welcoming atmosphere fostered by the seniors of the Class of 2023.

Following that, the students each introduced themselves and had a 30-minute conversation about enhancing the Sasakawa Fellows Network, with facilitation by Mr. Uzumaki. Concrete ideas were generated, such as the use of social media and the formation of groups within either the same nation or organization. The discussion



was initiated by the Class of 2023, but the Class of 2024 also actively contributed, which resulted in a lively discussion.

After the official program ended, the group moved to the World Bistro, which everyone loves. President Max Mejia’s toast with MC Jorge Alfonso Gómez Prado (Nicaragua, 2023) set the tone for a lively reception that saw many WMU faculty and staff participate.

The students enjoyed delicious food and free-flowing conversation. At the end of the reception, Francesco Leonardo Castiglione Escontrela (Venezuela, 2023), representative of the Class of 2023, and Carlos Manuel Mosquera Athanasiadis (Panama, 2024), representative of the Class of 2024, delivered closing remarks, and the students were encouraged to join the Sasakawa Fellows Network.

We hope that the seeds of the Sasakawa Fellows Network that were planted today will grow into big trees that bear beautiful fruits.

## Specialization Courses Introductions

MET : Beauty Ebiere Maghloromi (Nigeria, 2023)

MLP : Rahul Lodhi (India, 2023)

MSEA : Xavier Stephen Roger Perry (Antigua and Barbuda, 2023)

OSGM : Aziza Mohammed Swazuri (Kenya, 2023)

PM : Suraya Yeasmin Jui (Bangladesh, 2023)

SML: Adama Jatta (The Gambia, 2023)



# Class of 2024 WMU Sasaka



## Brandon Ralph Potter

Trainee Manager of Operations, Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority

I will complete my studies and return home to contribute to my country, and the international maritime community. I hope to make the best of this opportunity, and be sure to be an exponent of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and The Nippon Foundation, wherever and whenever possible, as a Sasakawa Fellow.

Antigua and Barbuda  
PM



## Aji Keway Bangura

Assistant Manager of Traffic Dept (Rating Office)  
Gambia Ports Authority

To make the best use of this unique opportunity in furthering my personal development and improvement of my knowledge of the maritime sector, empowering fellow women into participating more in the maritime sector and working towards a sustainable global maritime environment.

The Gambia  
PM



## Akbar Akbarov

Chief Specialist of Legal and International Relations Dept  
State Maritime and Port Agency under the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport

I am very grateful to SPF and The Nippon Foundation for creating such an opportunity to study at the World Maritime University. I hope that the invaluable experience that I will gain here will help me contribute to the development of maritime transport in my country.

Azerbaijan  
MLP



## Tiffany Andrea Skinner

Port Engineer of Port & Harbours  
Maritime Administration Department

It is with great pleasure that I extend sincere gratitude to Sasakawa Peace Foundation and The Nippon Foundation for this tremendous opportunity to foster an MSc in Maritime Affairs at the World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden. This opportunity will contribute to sustainable development of Guyana's Maritime Sector.

Guyana  
PM



## Md Al Hasnat

Hydrographer  
Chittagong Port Authority

I feel privileged to have received a prestigious fellowship from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. It's instrumental in pursuing my dream of studying Ocean Sustainability Governance and Management. I aim to enhance my country's ocean governance system using the knowledge gained. Thanks to SPF and all supporters.

Bangladesh  
OSGM



## Simranjeet Singh

Commandant, Indian Coast Guard

I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me to make a positive difference in the maritime field. I will do best to uphold the values and standards of The Nippon Foundation, and I am committed to being an ambassador of the goodwill and generosity for which your foundation is renowned.

India  
MLP



## Md. Rasel Pradania

Assistant General Manager of Cargo Supervision & Operation Dept  
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

It was my long cherished dream to meet people of different nations. I express my deepest respect and gratitude to Sasakawa Peace Foundation and its associates to let my dream come true through fellowship to study at WMU. I believe my specialized knowledge will enrich my organization and the country.

Bangladesh  
SML



## Ryo Hiwatashi

Associate Professor and First Officer  
Japan Agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers (JMETS)

My heartfelt gratitude to Sasakawa Peace Foundation for giving me the opportunity to study at WMU with excellent fellows. After graduating, I would like to contribute to the improvement of maritime education and training internationally as well as domestically by utilizing the experience and the knowledge gained from WMU.

Japan  
MET



## Jasmine Deneen Bellini

Lieutenant Commander  
Belize Coast Guard

When preparation meets opportunity, it's a unique moment, not by luck but by destiny. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation has given hundreds of transformational minds the opportunity to create meaningful change in the world. I am proud to represent Belize and to be part of this growing family.

Belize  
MET



## Miki Shirakabe

International Affairs Office of General Affairs Division  
Japan Transportation Safety Board

I am honored to have been given this wonderful opportunity through the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. I would like to make efforts to become a person who can contribute to maritime safety and development after completing my studies by using my experience at WMU and the network I will gain here.

Japan  
MSEA



## Da Ly

Officer of Port Administration Dept  
Ministry of Public Works and Transport

I would like to be thankful Dr. Sasakawa for giving me this wonderful opportunity being a part of Sasakawa fellowship and study at WMU. I believe that my academic achievements at WMU will contribute to develop my country for a better future of the maritime sector.

Cambodia  
PM



## Andrew Lumbasi Barasa

Environment Officer of Health, Safety and Environment Dept  
Kenya Ports Authority

The Sasakawa scholarship is one of my dream-come-true cases. With the large bucket of knowledge at WMU, I am certain that at the end of my studies, I will have a lot of maritime ingredients to take back to my country. Thank you Dr. Yohei Sasakawa and the Sasakawa fraternity.

Kenya  
OSGM



## Sovisal Srey

Deputy Chief of Bureau, Africa-Middle East Dept  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

As Friend of WMU, I am looking forward to interact closely with my fellow Sasakawa Fellowship to expand our networking of Maritime Professional.

Cambodia  
MLP



## Lucy Garmai Varnie

Environmental Compliance Officer of Environmental Safety Dept  
Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia

It is with great honor to be one of the beneficiary of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and The Nippon Foundation. Appreciate goes to Dr. Sasakawa for giving me such a life changing opportunity to acquire skills in the Maritime field. I am proud to be selected and to part of this foundation.

Liberia  
OSGM



## José Miguel Jaramillo Mendoza

Officer  
Ecuadorian Navy

The impact that the Foundation has is beyond what I expected, which is why I would like to contribute to accomplish its mission. My resolution is to keep strengthening links between members from different countries and make sure to be a positive influence back home as a Sasakawa Fellow.

Ecuador  
MSEA



## Stephen Yekeson Kamara

Head of Training Dept  
Ministry of Defense

I am thankful to the SPF for the confidence imposed in me with an award of Sasakawa Fellowship at WMU. I am confident to return home and serve better in my country Maritime Space on issues concerning maritime policy formulation, implementation and make follow-up nationally and internationally. Thanks!!!

Liberia  
MLP

# Sasakawa Fellowship Students

 Malaysia MSEA	<b>Nadarajan Perumal</b> Assitant Secretary of Maritime Division (Safety Unit) Ministry of Transport Malaysia I hope completing my Master's at WMU will give me a deeper understanding of the maritime industry, especially the conventions, regulations, and emerging issues. I aim to build connections with fellow students at WMU, exchanging valuable experiences and discussing potential future work opportunities. I am committed to studying with dedication and maintain consistent focus and discipline to achieve academic excellence.	 Sri Lanka PM	<b>Prasanna Kumara Rajapaksha</b> Superintendent Mechanical Engineer of Mechanical Plant Engineering Division Sri Lanka Ports Authority To be an inspiring manager with essential management skills and knowledge required for ever growing maritime industry.
 Mongolia MSEA	<b>Dashbalbar Oyungerel</b> Officer in charge of Foreign Affairs of Administration and Management Dept Mongolia Maritime Administration I would like to contribute to the global partnership and collaboration, supporting the participation of landlocked states into the maritime activity and marine environment protection. Eager to learn experiences on innovation and technology advancements as well as collaborative leadership.	 Sri Lanka OSGM	<b>Thirunavukkarasu Shripathy</b> Assistant Manager Northern and Eastern Province Marine Environment Protection Agency After completion of my specialization, mainly I will share this important knowledge with my colleagues in the country. I will take the effort become the party to the IMO convention specially MARPOL annex VI to Sri Lanka. Preparation of regulation on removal of bio fouling procedure in Sri Lanka is the focus of my research work at WMU.
 Nigeria OSGM	<b>Peter Tamarakro Orubebe</b> Principal Administrative Officer, RC&SM/BE Unit The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) I resolve to be a worthy fellow of the Sasakawa Fellows' Network, working assiduously to contribute my quota in seeing to the expansion and implementation of the Fellowship's ideals and objectives in furtherance of the most sterling works of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa.	 Thailand MLP	<b>Tanapit Petchmune</b> Transport Technical Officer of International Affairs Division, Planning Bureau Marine Department of Thailand To be a part of connecting global tools for cleaner ocean to national implementation, I am interested to study on the development of policy and legislation related to marine environmental protection, particularly GHG reduction. I aimed to assist my country toward the accession of MARPOL Annex VI.
 Nigeria MSEA	<b>Adetayo Yusuf Adesokan</b> Commander in Nigerian Navy Navigator (Executive Branch) To acquire maximum benefit from the WMU experience in learning and networking to enable me give back to my country in the best possible way, particularly in the governance of the maritime domain by using the tools of knowledge, network and Sasakawa Fellowship gained while on the course.	 Thailand PM	<b>Anusorn Orachorn</b> Accountant and Financial Management Staff of Collection Section, Financial Management Dept Port Authority of Thailand Being one of essential part to develop my organization and my country's logistic system.
 Panama MSEA	<b>Carlos Manuel Mosquera Athanasiadis</b> Technical Engineer of Segumar Dept Panama Maritime Authority My primary goal is to obtain all the knowledge and expertise possible here at WMU, so I can apply them in a sound and friendly manner without disrupting the three pillars of sustainability that WMU has sowed in me. Additionally, to keep a long-term relationship with Sasakawa Peace Foundation.	 Tonga MLP	<b>Sikini Falesiva</b> Donors Relations Officer of Marine & Ports Division Ministry of Infrastructure I am deeply honored of the opportunity given by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa and SPF to be one of WMU's students. The knowledge and skills I have gained will undoubtedly contribute to the promotion and enhancement of the maritime industries in my country and on a global scale. Therefore, Malo 'Aupito!
 Philippines MLP	<b>Livia Endozo</b> Deputy Chief of Training Staff for Human Resource Management and Records, T-1 Philippine Coast Guard As a woman Coast Guardian, I intend to promote gender and development programs through education and training as this is an "invisible" but palpable gap dominated.	 Trinidad and Tobago OSGM	<b>Kathy Ann Young</b> Managing Director Reef Conservation My resolution is to strengthen collaborations and partnerships to advance solutions for healthy oceans and a sustainable planet. As a fellow, I will actively disseminate my work, to foster knowledge exchange through conferences, workshops, and publications and share insights to promote ocean science for sustainable development and societal understanding.
 Philippines MLP	<b>Patrick John Cabasag</b> Officer of Department of Transportation Philippine Coast Guard My Heartfelt gratitude to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for bridging us to this transformative phase of our lives. As an officer in the Philippine Coast Guard, I will carry forward the wisdom and learning experience gained in World Maritime University (WMU) to contribute meaningfully as future maritime leaders in our country.	 Tuvalu MSEA	<b>Asela Penueta</b> Assistant Secretary Ministry of Transport Energy and Tourism I would like to thank Sasakawa Peace Foundation for the opportunity given to me to study at World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden. My primary goal is to make use of my studies to ensure I can be an asset to my country in the future on completion of my studies, especially in the maritime sector.
 Sierra Leone MLP	<b>Jattu Bridget Koroma</b> Logistic Officer of Administrative Dept Sierra Leone Maritime Administration After graduating at WMU, I will go back home to support my Administration with addressing maritime policy challenges and implement the importance of National Legislation for IMO instruments. Also, I will help in promoting programmes Sasakawa is aimed at and contribute to the furtherance of world peace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> <b>MET</b> (Maritime Education &amp; Training)</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">■</span> <b>MEM</b> (Maritime Energy Management)</li> <li><span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <b>MLP</b> (Maritime Law &amp; Policy)</li> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> <b>MSEA</b> (Maritime Safety &amp; Environmental Administration)</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">■</span> <b>OSGM</b> (Ocean Sustainability, Governance &amp; Management)</li> <li><span style="color: purple;">■</span> <b>PM</b> (Port Management)</li> <li><span style="color: pink;">■</span> <b>SML</b> (Shipping Management &amp; Logistics)</li> </ul>	



# Career in Training for Marine Aids to Navigation-AtoN and VTS

**Latifa Oumouzoune**  
(Morocco, 2022)

It was upon graduating from World Maritime University in the year of 2022, that I was given the opportunity to take on the position of Education and Training Manager at The International Association of Marine Aids To Navigation And Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) World-Wide Academy (WWA).

IALA is a non-profit, international technical organization. Established in 1957, it brings together maritime aids to navigation authorities, manufacturers, consultants, and scientific and training institutes from all over the world, offering them the opportunity to exchange and compare experiences. IALA aims to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels, through improvement and harmonization of aids to navigation and VTS worldwide and other appropriate means, for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment. In terms of education, training, and capacity building, WWA serves as the vehicle by which IALA delivers its programmes.

IALA is currently in the process of changing its status from an NGO to an IGO. There are currently 25 ratifications/acceptances/ accessions to the IALA Convention as of this date, 20 November 2023. The Convention will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit of the 30th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Acting now as an Education and Training manager at IALA WWA, I am contributing in supporting coastal states worldwide to comply with IALA guidelines in order to harmonize the delivery of marine aids to navigation to ensure the safety of navigation. We are supporting the states through our training programmes and capacity-building actions and events. In my role at the WWA, I am responsible for developing training materials based on the IALA model course, assisting in the accreditation of training organizations, delivering training, and all other activities related to training. It is an excellent opportunity for me to apply the knowledge I gained during my master's studies at WMU.

The current location of my office is Saint Germain En Laye, near Paris, in France, and I am required to travel extensively as part of my duties. I regularly travel to several coastal states for training, seminars, workshops, and conferences. Each time, it serves as an opportunity to

meet WMU graduates as well as Sasakawa Fellows and Family. It has been my pleasure to meet graduates from Japan, Chile, and China, and I have had the opportunity to have correspondence with a number of them regarding AtoN and VTS training.

I was thrilled to meet the Sasakawa Peace Foundation representatives, Dr. Tomonari Akamatsu and Dr. Kotaro Tanaka at the 20th IALA conference held from 27 May to 3 June 2023, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is an associate member of IALA, on this occasion of the IALA Conference, there was a meeting between the IALA WWA team and Sasakawa Peace Foundation representatives to discuss possibilities of collaboration in the future in terms of capacity building.



IALA WWA Team at SPF

While studying at WMU, I did not have the opportunity to visit Japan with my Sasakawa fellow students due to COVID restrictions in 2022. But this year, I was able to visit Tokyo during the IALA conference on financial and general regulations, hosted by the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) from 6 to 10 November 2023. From both a professional and personal perspective, I believe that this trip was a success. Also, IALA WWA team and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation were able to meet to explore possibilities for further collaboration.

I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Sasakawa for providing me with the opportunity to study at WMU, which has opened up opportunities for professional advancement and the ability to help people all around the world.



24 successfully certified IALA Risk Management Toolbox participants, training held from 24-28 July 2023 at IALA HQ



# Navigating Maritime Sustainability: A Voyage through Academia and Practice

Anas Saleh Mohammad Alamoush  
(Jordan, 2016)

Embarking on a scholarly journey post my 2016 studies at World Maritime University (WMU), generously supported by the Sasakawa Fellowship, my trajectory seamlessly merged academia with practical endeavors. Fuelled by an unwavering commitment to delve into the realms of sustainability and decarbonization within the maritime domain, my academic pursuit transitioned into a self-funded Ph.D. program at WMU in 2019.

Navigating the academic waters of a doctoral program while embracing the opportunity to contribute as a research assistant at WMU presented multifaceted challenges and opportunities. Grateful for WMU's unwavering support, this tenure afforded me the privilege to delve into high-level projects such as the Future of Work WMU/ITF initiative and SEANERGY for port decarbonization, serving as instrumental platforms to apply theoretical underpinnings into tangible, impactful solutions.

A testament to my dedication to knowledge dissemination, numerous articles and reports have emerged from my research efforts, illuminating the intricate pathways toward port and shipping decarbonization. Presently, my role as a research associate at WMU revolves around the pivotal nexus between ports and sustainability, channeling expertise and passion into catalyzing change within this critical sector.

Central to my journey has been the invaluable network

of Sasakawa Fellows, a community that extends beyond mere connections. This network facilitated transformative encounters, fostering an environment conducive to mutual learning, collaboration, and the expansion of a global network. From knowledge exchange to aiding in the dissemination of my Ph.D. survey, the camaraderie and support within this network have been immeasurable.

Beyond academia, my commitment extends to serving those in need, locally and internationally, in the unyielding battle against climate change. By championing awareness and action, I endeavor to be a catalyst for change, striving to make a tangible difference in our collective fight for a sustainable future.

As an open invitation, I am eager to engage with fellow WMU Sasakawa Fellows, extending my hand in support, guidance, and collaboration. The dynamic exchange of ideas, queries, and requests enriches our collective pursuit of a sustainable maritime realm.

In conclusion, my academic expedition intertwined with practical engagements embodies an unrelenting passion for fostering sustainability within the maritime industry. This journey, propelled by scholarly rigor, practical application, and a collaborative ethos, continues to chart a course toward a more sustainable and equitable future. Arigato Gozaimasu to all who have contributed to this transformative voyage.

## The Nippon Foundation's International Seminar on Offshore Development

The Nippon Foundation's International Seminar on Offshore Development was held on September 28th, 2023. The seminar used a hybrid in-person and online format and roughly 170 people participated, with presentations by speakers followed by a lively question and answer session.

In 2020, then Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced a target of Japan achieving a carbon-neutral society with zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, set a goal of limiting the global rise in temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and many countries around the world, including Japan, are working toward this goal. This means that a variety of issues, including global warming countermeasures, the use of renewable energy, and finding alternatives to carbon-based fuels need to be addressed in the field of international offshore development.

To contribute to these efforts, The Nippon Foundation has concluded agreements and launched coordinated technological development projects with the U.S.-based DeepStar, a marine technology development consortium in which oil majors from around the world, GCE NODE and NORSE of Norway, and Scottish Enterprise. To date, The Nippon Foundation has assisted 40 projects with subsidies totaling roughly 2.3 billion yen. The seminar featured presentations on the current status of DeepStar's joint technological development and achievements being made in joint technological development in Norway.



In the opening remarks at the seminar, Chairman Dr. Yohei Sasakawa explained the marine projects undertaken by The Nippon Foundation and also touched in the 40 years of human resources development in the maritime field. The full text of Chairman Sasakawa's address can be viewed on the Friends of WMU, Japan website. (<https://www.wmu-japan.net/events/speech/-01.html>)

This was followed by the keynote address by Shakir Shamshy, DeepStar's director, who gave an overview of DeepStar and the project's latest activities, and a presentation titled "Chevron Deepwater Strategy and the Energy Transition". Next, five companies presented updates on ongoing projects under the TNF-DeepStar Joint Ocean Innovation Project.

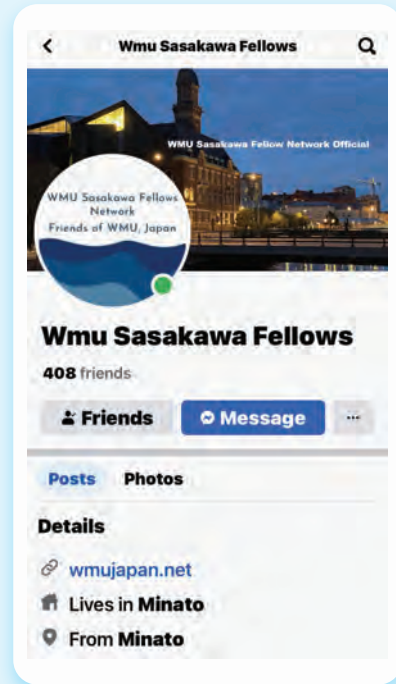
The second part of the seminar featured presentations on the TNF – Norway Joint Ocean Innovation Project. Nabil Belbachir of project partner NORCE gave an overview of the project and presented recent developments, and was followed by an update on ongoing projects by project partner Yokogawa Electric Corp. The seminar concluded with a lively Q&A session with the participants who attended either in-person or online.

# Follow & Friend Us on Facebook!

Did you know that Friends of WMU, Japan has an active Facebook account? While we've been less active due to COVID, we're now considering using Facebook as an additional tool for sharing and receiving information to better connect with you!

On our Facebook page, we'll be posting activities of Sasakawa Fellowship Students and Fellows, as well as sharing news updates from The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. In case we can't reach you via email, Facebook Messenger will be our backup communication tool.

Connecting with us on Facebook is another great way to stay in the loop, alongside our newsletters. Visit our Facebook account, give us a like, hit the follow button, and friend us!



## Welcome, Little One!

**Ud Tuntivejakul** (Thailand, 2016)

Hi I am Ud Tuntivejakul from S16, Thailand. On the 28th of August 2023, I celebrated the joyous and heartwarming occasion of the arrival of my baby girl. Her first name is "Alicha", which means "knowledgeable", and her nickname is "Minna" which we just like the name.

Months ago was a time for family and friends to come together to celebrate this new chapter in our life. My wife and I were so busy cleaning our home, preparing the room with furniture and decorations for her arrival. It's a tough time being parents, however, joy in our hearts.

So, I would like to share these profound and rewarding experiences with The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and colleagues.

I would like to express my gratitude to The Nippon Foundation and the SPF for providing me with the opportunity to share our wonderful news.



### Editor's note

Hi everyone! I'm Yasko Suzuki, a graduate of class 2003 and I joined the editorial board for the second time after 18 years. It's been quite a long time since my student life at WMU and I still clearly remember our International Day celebrating WMU's 20th anniversary in the courtyard of Henrik Smith Residence welcoming many outside guests. This year, WMU celebrates its 40th anniversary! This means 20 years have passed since then, and there might be a lot of changes among us, and I think so do you - all of the readers of this newsletter, no matter the graduation year or how you are involved in the activities of the

Friends of WMU, Japan. Please share some updates on you, your family, job, or any kinds of your life events. We are looking forward to hearing from you!

As for me, I'm currently working in the Niigata, North-Western part of Japan where you can enjoy skiing, rice and rice wine (sake), and Nishiki-goi (Colorful carps). Do not forget to contact me when visiting Niigata and you are always welcome!

Now it's getting cold in Japan towards the winter and we are enjoying forests and mountains changing colours of their tree leaves. I wish you all have chance to come and see these beautiful scenery!



**Yasko Suzuki**  
(Japan, 2003)  
Hokuriku Shin'etsu District  
Transport Bureau, MLIT



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## Interview with the IMO Secretary-General

Arsenio Dominguez



### I. History

**1. What did the ocean mean to you when you were an infant and a child? Please tell us about your nostalgic memories and formative experiences with the sea.**

I grew up in Panama so the sea was always there. I was fascinated by the huge ships waiting in the bay before sailing through the Panama Canal – it is difficult not to be inspired to learn more about these majestic floating structures and what they are capable of.

**2. What motivated you to pursue a career in the maritime industry? After majoring in naval architecture, you studied international law. What prompted you to do so?**

The more I learned about the sector, my interest about shipping and trade grew taller when I realized just how important shipping is to the world. So, I wanted to be involved. I was fortunate to be able to study naval architecture in Mexico and put the expertise into practice first at a repair shipyard and later on at IMO. Throughout my career, I was always thirsty to learn more and thus I decided to pursue an MBA and study international law and politics – both in the United Kingdom, to be better prepared for the challenges and opportunities both at IMO and in the maritime sector.

**3. How did you become involved with IMO and its activities? What was your occupation prior to joining IMO?**

I became involved with IMO when I was working for the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA). I began attending meetings at IMO within the Panama delegation back in 1998. In the nearly 20 years I spent with the PMA, I went through several positions, culminating as Ambassador of Panama to IMO. I was honoured to be elected as Chair of several flagship IMO intergovernmental meetings, including: the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), the Technical Committee of the 29th Assembly, and the Maritime Security, Piracy and Armed Robbery Group, as well as a number of Vice-Chair and Board member roles.

In 2017 I joined the IMO Secretariat as an employee: as Chief of Staff, Director of Administrative and then Director of the Marine Environment Division. So, this has been great experience and I always had a clear idea of what this Organization should look like.

**4. Could you please share some memories, such as the challenges you faced during your long-term involvement with IMO?**

I can say that my 25 years of experience working in and for IMO prepared me for the future. I have always been impressed by the willingness of all States and stakeholders to work together and reach consensus – even when that is challenging as countries and stakeholders can have very different viewpoints to start with.

I can recall some late nights working to resolve differences – and great satisfaction when we get a good result for IMO and for shipping safety and for protection of the oceans and planet. From the discussion to protect shipping and seafarers during the height of piracy off the coast of Somalia to the extensive engagements regarding the progressive work of IMO in reducing GHG emissions from international shipping, including keeping the Organization working whilst the world was facing a global pandemic in 2020. I am not short of admiration from the way IMO and its Member States always raise to the challenges.

### II. Appointment as the IMO Secretary General

**1. What are your thoughts on the upcoming issues for the maritime community? Could you elaborate on the role that IMO and its member countries should play?**

IMO has to continue with its core remit to ensure safe shipping; to ensure the safety of life at sea; to support efficient and secure shipping to keep global trade moving; and to protect the oceans and planet from any adverse impacts of shipping.

Current issues and challenges include, of course, the decarbonization of the shipping sector. We have a pathway in the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy and focus is on implementing that strategy as we strive to meet the 2030, 2040 and 2050 goals – towards net-zero emissions.

IMO must continue its other environmental protection work, including ongoing support to those countries that need it for implementation of measures such as pollution response, addressing biofouling; and the Hong Kong Convention on recycling of ships – which is going to enter into force in 2025.

Linked to the decarbonization transition, a key challenge is ensuring that seafarers are fully trained to operate smart ships and those using zero and near zero fuels. Alongside this, seafarers' wellbeing is paramount. The comprehensive review of seafarer training requirements in the STCW

Convention and Code is the focus of current work.

And geopolitical events are having an impact on shipping. Here I am thinking, of course, about attacks on international shipping into the Red Sea. I will continue to reiterate the need to ensure the safety of seafarers; to protect the freedom of navigation; and I will continue to call for de-escalation of tensions.

IMO has a key role to play in all these issues and more. IMO is the prime and global forum for maritime and shipping. The ability to bring all 175 Member States together in one forum is fundamental, to ensure that issues which impact shipping - which is global - are addressed universally and with all States and stakeholders involved in the conversation.

Above all, my personal goal is to raise the profile of the International Maritime Organization, ensuring that global shipping is represented enthusiastically; it must be relied upon to provide an expert opinion, and deal with developments whether crisis management or encouraging innovations.

My experience has proved to be an extremely useful training to enable me to demonstrate that IMO can be understood like never before, and to celebrate the amazing work of its talented staff, with the industry, all other stakeholders, as well as members of the public. In representing IMO, my last few weeks have been spent promoting our work via print, television and social media to bring into stark light the importance that shipping has on consumer goods and the global economy.

### 2. What kind of management do you think is desirable for IMO to continue to play an important role in protecting the marine environment, including climate change, and maritime safety?

We need committed management, with strong conviction about the ability of IMO as an Organization to move forward to support the maritime sector to confront and address the many challenges. An important aspect is to remain proactive and ambitious with our goals in all our areas of work, whilst addressing the concerns and recognizing the additional challenges that some countries may face, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and introducing the mechanisms and partnerships which will allow us to provide such support.

### 3. How was your relationship with WMU in the past? As 40 years have passed since WMU was founded, what are your expectations for the future?

I recall my first visit to WMU back in 1999, whilst visiting the region on holidays and I made Malmo a mandatory stop to visit the University. Sadly, I didn't seem to plan it very well and only managed to see the building from the outside! But it did not stop me from going back several times to lecture, attend the graduations and conferences and even becoming a member of the Board of Governors.

Here I would like to acknowledge the vision of the WMU founders, particularly IMO Secretary-General C.P. Srivastava who saw the need for a global maritime high-level educational institution - and made it happen. Of course, with the amazing support of Sweden and entities like



The Nippon Foundation which have stepped in to provide fellowships to students from all over the world and funding to ensure WMU goes from strength to strength.

I have no doubt that WMU will continue to grow and prosper. WMU expertise is feeding into the IMO regulatory process, through specific studies and research. WMU graduates are embedded in the maritime community all over the world. The WMU "brand" is well-known in the sector and I will do my bit to promote IMO and WMU.

### III. Message to readers

#### 1. What hobby do you enjoy the most? What is your favorite way to spend your free time? Do you have a specific relaxation method?

I enjoy salsa dancing and playing tennis which is my relaxation method! And believe it or not, skiing during the winter, probably unexpected from someone from the tropics.

#### 2. Do you have a motto or favorite quote that you cherish?

You will never know what you can achieve if you do not try.

#### 3. What is your expectation for WMU graduates?

As WMU graduates, you are in a privileged position: you have gained an amazing academic experience and technical knowledge. With this knowledge and experience, you will work for your countries and contribute to their growth and success, by ensuring compliance with IMO's standards. You have been incorporated into an alumni network which is spread all over the world and gives you links into all aspects of maritime affairs.

Those who have gone before you have gained high-level positions in maritime affairs, joined the IMO Secretariat and - my predecessor Kitack Lim - elected as Secretary-General of IMO. So, wherever you go with your knowledge, you can be sure that you are part of a great network.

#### 4. Do you have any message to the readers of the Newsletter (Students and Alumni of WMU under the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program)?

Make the most of your experience and take it with you, wherever you go in your career.





# The World Came to Me

## Lyndell Lundahl

Assistant Registrar (Student Services) 1987~2024  
WMU

When I joined WMU in 1987, it was such a young institution, just finding its feet after four years of operation. There was a lot of pioneering spirit in those early days. I joined the Student Services Office and quickly had to settle in, learning how best to help our students find their way in Sweden. The problem was, Sweden was very new to me as well! I think, however, that having faced the challenges of moving to Sweden from Australia helped me to understand some of the difficulties the students were facing, and we solved things together.

Although my work has always involved a lot of routine administrative duties, what made the job so very interesting was the opportunity to meet people from such a diversity of countries. I remember I had never even heard of Cape Verde before suddenly I met a student from that country! Many times I had to get out the world map to check and improve my knowledge of geography. It was fascinating to meet so many different nationalities and listen to their stories from home. Over the years I met thousands of students from well over 150 countries. I had no need to travel: the world came to me instead.



For many years, one of my tasks was to arrange a series of excursions for each class of students. We had a lot of fun on those bus trips, as I encouraged them to sing songs from their countries and I occasionally taught them songs from Sweden. Many graduates will remember travelling to the countryside on Midsummer's Eve, dancing around the maypole and singing what I called "The Frog Song" – in Swedish "Små Grodorna". My family usually joined those midsummer excursions and my daughters still have warm memories of the picnics we had with the students. That two small Swedish girls had the chance to meet such an international group of students was wonderful.

My involvement in the Graduation ceremony became more intensive after I joined the Registry department in 1995. For example, I was asked to teach the choir the University song each year. Although I have sung in choirs all my life, this was the first time I needed to teach a song. As always, however, the students' cooperation was just great and we had so much fun at the rehearsals. I was always so proud of the choirs at their performance. To see 30 students from almost as many countries sing together is a moving experience.

In 2007, I had such a stroke of good luck – I was asked to accompany the Sasakawa-funded students to Japan on their field studies. I was mindful of the honour and the responsibility of representing the University during that week, so I was very nervous! Fortunately, I was met with such warmth and friendship by Mr. Kudo and his team, so I soon felt at home and somehow managed to fulfil the tasks. I had the pleasure and privilege of going to Japan with the students again in 2010 and 2023. It was a wonderful experience each time, and I am so grateful to The Nippon Foundation for its generosity to me.



To sum up: my 36 years' association with the World Maritime University was a wonderful journey. Professionally, I followed the development of a fledgling University to its current status with properly-accredited programmes – an amazing success. Personally, meeting so many fascinating people taught me so much about the world. I learned how alike we all are. In today's world, that is a valuable lesson.

Thank you, everyone.





# Departure for the New Voyage

## The Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony for WMU Sasakawa Fellows in the Class of 2023 was held on the evening of October 27th.

Although the sky was dark with clouds, the faces of the Class of 2023 students, who were about to hold their graduation ceremony the next day, were bright. The Sasakawa Auditorium was filled with a celebratory atmosphere, welcoming many guests including former President Cleopatra Dumbia-Henry and fellows receiving the Honorary Fellow Award and Outstanding Alumni Award.

Following the opening remarks from Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Senior Advisor of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, WMU President Max Mejia addressed the graduates. President Mejia expressed his gratitude for The Nippon Foundation's support over the years and told the graduates, "You have

learned that currency of a real network is generosity not personal gain... By giving of yourself, your time and your talent, so many people will benefit, just as you will yourself."

Then, Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, gave a speech. Mr. Unno expressed his hope that the graduates will utilize the Sasakawa Fellows' network as a tool to solve complex ocean problems. He urged us to keep thinking in order to find solutions since there are still many things about the ocean that we have yet to understand. The full text of Mr. Unno's message is available on the Friends of WMU, Japan website (<https://www.wmujapan.net/events/speech/-02-1.html>). Afterwards, Mr. Unno gave each graduate a Sasakawa Fellow Certificate before congratulating them in their native language.

The gorgeous reception party was held at World Bistro, with many guests as well as WMU faculty and staff. At the end of the reception, Peter Tamarakro Orubebe (Nigeria) gave a farewell address on behalf of the Class of 2024, followed by Kla-Edward Toomey II (Liberia) on behalf of the Class of 2023, bringing to a close.



## WMU Graduation Ceremony 2023

WMU Graduation Ceremony 2023 was held on October 28th, and 283 students from 71 countries, including 30 Sasakawa Fellows, graduated from WMU. Despite the cloudy weather, the faces of the graduates were bright and overflowing with joy at successfully completing their studies at WMU.



The scene of all the graduates huddling together for a photo in front of WMU's unique designed school building was a stunning and lively sight, and everyone was smiling.

At the graduation ceremony, each student was awarded their diploma in the presence of WMU President Max Mejia, IMO Secretary General HE Kitak Lim, Mayor of Malmö Ms. Carina Nilsson, and Doctor of Science honoris causa recipient Prof. Myron Nordquist. To celebrate the graduates' departure, a chorus group of current students dressed in costumes from each country and performed the song 'WMU, our beloved school'.

Guests at the reception party following the graduation ceremony, such as donors and host families from Malmö, offered warm congratulations to the students on their departure from the voyage.





## The Chancellor's Medal for Academic Excellence

**Rahul Lodhi** (India, 2023)

At the outset let me begin by saying that, I am eternally indebted to Dr. Yōhei Sasakawa for his generosity and goodwill. I am also proud to have been part of Sasakawa Peace Foundation and last but not the least World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden. Receiving the Chancellor's Medal from Mr. Kitack Lim, the then Secretary General of International Maritime Organization for the class of 2023 of WMU during the graduation ceremony held on 28 Oct 2023 was indeed one of the proudest moments of my life. I am very happy that I could bring pride and honor not only to my organization (Indian Coast Guard), my beloved motherland India and my family but also the prestigious Sasakawa Peace Foundation for enabling me to attend World Maritime University in the first place. However, I must add that receiving Chancellor's medal is incidental to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence and holds no value if we do not share the knowledge and experiences gained during our stay at WMU to ensure a better and sustainable world in line with the motto of 'One World One Family'. What we need is perseverance towards our common goal for a better world in ensuring safe and secure sea on clean oceans and contributing towards UN SDGs.



## The Specialization Prizes

**Ahmed Mohamed Ismal Mohamed Ismail** (Egypt, 2023) **Specialization Prize for MEM**

As a Captain and Marine Lecturer, my experience pursuing the Specialization Prize in Maritime Energy Management at WMU has been truly transformative. Through immersive study, I have delved deep into the complexities of decarbonization challenges within the shipping industry.

My gratitude extends to Chairman Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, WMU faculty, and all those who supported me. This accomplishment, achieved through dedication and hard work, marks a significant milestone. Inspired by their encouragement, my mission is clear: to share this knowledge and contribute to shaping a greener shipping future. As I stand at the intersection of academic achievement and professional practice, this marks not an end but the beginning of my commitment to sustainability. With a sense of purpose, I look forward to continuing this journey and fostering positive change in the maritime industry.



**Rahul Lodhi** (India, 2023) **Specialization Prize for MLP**

**Suraya Yeasmin Jui** ( Bangladesh, 2023) **Specialization Prize for PM**

The announcement of my selection as the Best Student in Port Management at the World Maritime University is a thrilling chapter in my educational chronicle. When I began my journey at WMU, my primary focus was absorbing knowledge rather than chasing grades or positions. Whenever I felt confused, I never hesitated to ask questions to our professors. In addition, field studies were not just visits to me but opportunities to dissect and compare port practices internationally and in my home country. This process provided me with valuable insights that made my knowledge more realistic. My MSc in maritime affairs journey unfolded as a riveting exploration, revealing the vast landscape of the global maritime scene.

To me, this 'Best Student' award isn't just a certificate; it's a testament to the transformative power of dedicated learning and a genuine passion for the maritime domain.



## The C P Srivastava Award for International Fellowship

**Teona Khabeishvili** (Georgia, 2023)

I am profoundly grateful for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation Fellowship, the great opportunity that has not only enriched my academic journey in WMU, Sweden but also led to remarkable recognition among maritime professionals, whenever I meet Sasakawa Fellows, I always feel we are the family. The fellowship opened doors to new perspectives, fostering a deepened understanding of global issues and cross-cultural collaboration.

The top of this experience was the receipt of the C P Srivastava Award for International Fellowship at the graduation ceremony in October 2023. This award not only acknowledges the academic achievements during my fellowship but stands out as a testament to the impact of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's support.

The award and graduation ceremony were particularly important as my family, my kids, and my husband, a pillar of unconditional support, were in the audience on my graduation day. Their presence added an emotional layer to the recognition, turning it into a shared triumph for all of us. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation not only invested in my education but also contributed to a moment that transcended individual achievement, creating a core memory of gratitude and shared pride.

The C P Srivastava Award for International Fellowship award represents the culmination of a journey made possible by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's generosity and belief in the power of international fellowship.



## Kalmar Prizes

**Daniela Jimena Andrade Tamayo**  
(Ecuador, 2023)

**Teona Khabeishvili**  
(Georgia, 2023)

**Takanori Uzumaki**  
(Japan, 2023)

# For Peaceful, Beautiful and Bountiful Seas



The largest-ever “The 3rd Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)” was held in Tokyo by the Japan Coast Guard and The Nippon Foundation, with the presence of H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan, on October 31 and November 1, 2023.

The summit was held after the “Regional Conference on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships (2000)” and the “Heads of Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM, 2004-~)”, both of which were proposed by Chairman Yohei Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation, one of the world’s largest platforms for effective coordination and discussion among the world’s coast guard organizations regarding a variety of critical marine issues. This was the third time, following the initial summit ‘the world’s first’ in 2017 and the second, in 2019. Representatives of 96 coast guard authorities and related organizations from 86 countries and 1 region attended, the largest number ever, and discussed a broad range of maritime issues.

The Nippon Foundation’s Chairman Yohei Sasakawa also attended the opening ceremony, and in his speech, he expressed his expectation that this summit will continue to be a place where we can share on-the-ground knowledge and collaborate to address the increasingly diverse and complex marine issues which cannot be resolved in one nation or region.

At the summit, a proposal to revise the meeting guidelines was supported in order to continue the summit sustainably, and a dedicated website was officially launched to share information on each country’s most recent successful activities, experiences, as well as information for human resource development. In addition, advanced case studies and best practices from each country and organization were presented.

The report of the summit can also be viewed on the Japan Coast Guard website below.

([https://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/e/topics\\_archive/article4324.html](https://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/e/topics_archive/article4324.html))

## WMU Vietnam Chapter 20 Years Anniversary



Van Tan NGUYEN  
(Vietnam, 2016)



In a joyous celebration of two decades since its establishment, a total of 60 Vietnam WMU Alumni gathered in Hanoi on December 8, 2023 in a spirit of friendship and closeness. The occasion marked the enduring connections forged during our academic years at WMU. The event, held with great enthusiasm, brought together alumni from various batches to recall our shared experiences and celebrate the achievements during past years. Many alumni have emerged as leaders, policymakers, and experts, significantly contributing to the development of the Vietnamese maritime industry in particular and promoting the international cooperation in general. The event provided an opportunity for graduates across country to strengthen the old bonds and establish new connections.

The event had the pleasure of hosting esteemed guests: Mr. Eisuke Kudo from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Mr. Yuichi Monji (2014), the First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Vietnam, and Ms. Dang Phuong Lan, Trade, Economics, and Education Advisor of the Embassy of Sweden in Vietnam. Their presences added a special touch to the occasion.



The event commenced on a positive note with expressions of gratitude from each honored guest, recognizing the efforts put into organizing the celebration. The focal point

of the event was a workshop centered around the green port plan, which aimed to disseminate knowledge on the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in green port management. Particularly, it emphasized sustainable cargo handling, emission reduction strategies, and eco-friendly port infrastructure.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the presentation of success stories from alumni who have implemented green port initiatives in their respective roles. These narratives served as inspiration, demonstrating that sustainable practices are not only desirable but also achievable within the context of Vietnamese maritime industry.

Then, everyone joined the photo session with absolute joy and friendship. The pictures have become cherished memories, preserving the reunion’s spirit and connecting everyone to the past. They serve as a reminder of the enduring bonds built during our time in Sweden.

The event concluded with dining, the tables became hubs of conversation, story exchanges, recalling everlasting memories. While enjoying delicious food, alumni participated in music performances, creating an atmosphere filled with excitement and laughter.

Marking its 20th anniversary, the WMU Vietnam Alumni Chapter embraced a collective sense of optimism for the future. Discussions centered on potential collaborations, initiatives, and opportunities that inspire recent graduates and ensuring the community continues to thrive and contribute to the broader maritime industry.



# A Transformative Journey: My Experience at the 33rd Assembly of the IMO



**Damrongkiat Kiatopas**  
(Thailand, 2011)

From 27th November to 6th December, 2023, I embarked on an unforgettable journey, participating in the 33rd regular session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at IMO Headquarters in the city of London, United Kingdom. The Assembly is IMO's highest governing body which is responsible for approving the work programme and budget, determining financial arrangements and electing the IMO Council. The Assembly consists of 175 Member States and three Associate Members and meets once every two years. This incredible experience not only allowed me to actively engage in maritime-related cooperation and discussions but also provided me with the opportunity to connect with esteemed maritime professionals, including the distinguished WMU Sasakawa fellows from various countries around the world.

The 33rd regular session of the IMO Assembly proved to be an event of immense significance, serving as an important platform for maritime nations to come together and address the demanding challenges facing the maritime industry. As an active participant, I had the privilege of attending plenary sessions and side events, where I witnessed firsthand the discussions on topics ranging from sustainable shipping to maritime safety and environmental protection. One of the highlights of the Assembly was the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the six-year period 2024 to 2029 covering eight strategic directions namely: ensure implementation of IMO instruments supported by capacity development; integrate new, emerging and advancing technologies in the regulatory framework; respond to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping; continue to engage in ocean governance; enhance global facilitation, supply chain resilience and security of international trade; address the human element; ensure the regulatory effectiveness of international shipping; and ensure organizational effectiveness.

The Assembly approved the appointment of Mr. Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco (Republic of Panama), as a successor of Mr. Kitack Lim (Republic of Korea), to be the tenth elected IMO Secretary-General, for an initial four-year term starting on 1st January 2024. The Assembly also adopted the Organization's budget and work programme as well as elected a new 40-Member IMO Council for the 2024-2025 biennium. The Council, which is the executive body of IMO, is tasked with overseeing the Organization's work under the supervision of the Assembly. Between sessions of the Assembly, the Council performs the functions of the Assembly, except that of making recommendations to Governments on maritime safety and pollution prevention. Moreover, the Assembly adopted a number of resolutions on key aspects of the Organization's work aimed at enhancing multilingualism in the organization, improving navigational safety, promoting environmental protection at sea and strengthening maritime security. These resolutions exemplify the IMO's unwavering commitment to sustainable development, innovation, and collaboration in the maritime sector.

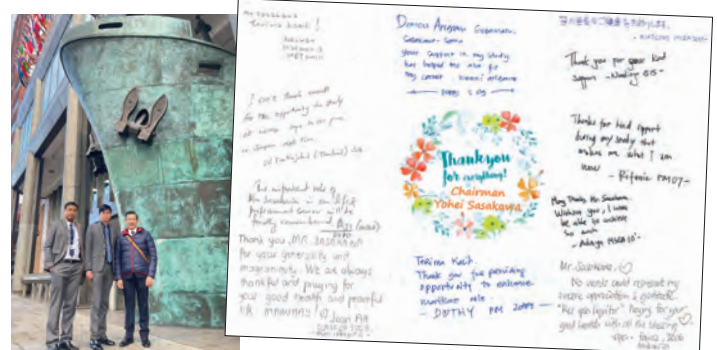
Amidst the busy atmosphere of the Assembly, I had the pleasure of meeting and networking with a diverse group of maritime professionals,

including the esteemed WMU Sasakawa fellows. This global network of maritime experts provided a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the building of lasting relationships. Through various networking events and social gatherings, I engaged in meaningful conversations with fellow participants, learning from their experiences and gaining valuable insights into different aspects of the maritime industry. The WMU Sasakawa fellows, renowned for their expertise and dedication, offered invaluable perspectives on topics such as maritime law, port management, and environmental sustainability. One of the most memorable moments during this time was that many of WMU Sasakawa fellows gathered on the 4th-floor terrace of the IMO building on Wednesday, 29th November 2023 to take group photos and write Yosegaki to our beloved Chairman Sasakawa.

The connections made during this session will undoubtedly prove instrumental in shaping my future endeavours within the maritime sector. It is through these interactions that I realized the true power of collaboration and the importance of building a strong network in driving positive change within the industry.



In conclusion, participating in the 33rd regular session of the IMO Assembly was an immensely rewarding experience. It allowed me to actively contribute to important discussions, witness the adoption of essential resolutions, and connect with esteemed maritime professionals, particularly the WMU Sasakawa fellows. My interactions during this session have not only enriched my understanding of the maritime industry but have also inspired me to continue working towards sustainable development, innovation, and collaboration within the maritime field. The memories and lessons learned during this session will forever remain in my mind, motivating me to play an active role in shaping the future of the maritime industry. The opportunities provided by the IMO Assembly and the connections made with the WMU Sasakawa fellows have certainly set the stage for a transformative journey ahead for me.



19 February 2024

Chairman Yohei Sasakawa  
The Nippon Foundation  
1-2-2 Akasaka Minami  
107-8404 Japan

Dearest Mr. Sasakawa:  
Warmest greetings from Manila.

## Rising to New Heights:

# Congratulations on Your Well-Deserved Promotion!

We are delighted to share the wonderful news conveyed in the letters of jubilation sent by two fellows to Chairman Sasakawa.

### Sonia Bautista Malaluan (Philippines, 1998)

Her letter expresses her pleasure at being appointed by the President as Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority for a term of approximately five years, starting in December 2023. She fondly recalled her initial role as a newly promoted Director within MARINA's Administrative and Finance Service during Chairman Sasakawa's last visit to Manila. Subsequently, she provided a report on her activities as the chief executive of the regional headquarters.

### Antoni Arif Priadi (Indonesia, 2006)

Mr. Priadi currently serves as the Director General of Sea Transportation within the Ministry of Transportation, Indonesia. His responsibilities encompass a wide range of areas including shipping, ports, maritime affairs, seafarers, navigation, and coast guard. He expressed genuine gratitude for being awarded the Sasakawa Fellowship. He continues to communicate with his classmates, reflecting on the joys and sorrows he experienced in Malmö long ago.

## Newborn for my family

**Surasak Changjul**  
(Thailand, 2015)



Greeting from my family to all. I hope that our Sasakawa fellows will always be happy, I have the pleasure to inform you that my family have got the third baby. She was born in November 22nd, 2023. My daughter's name is Chanchao Changjul. Her name means the Moon in Thai language. We hope that she will be a calm and discreet person as same as moonlight. Her nickname is Marine because of my background. Nowadays, we have already two sons and one daughter. My wife and I already plan to use birth control because we are getting old. Moreover, I am the director of Marine Department Chanthaburi Branch Office. So, I need times to do a lot of work and more cooperation between government officers which different departments in Chanthaburi Province. Then, my wife and I can only take good care our two boys and one baby girl. So, our three kids are enough for us. We can pay attention to our children.

My wife and I have adjusted our lifestyles to take good care for our children. We will teach them to be good and fair person.



We will train basic life support for three of them. For example, they must have basic training for swimming, riding the bicycle, speaking English language, understanding for risks of electric shock, etc. Moreover, we will educate them about knowledge of climate change and global warming. Then, our children may try to reduce any environment pollution for their life in the future.

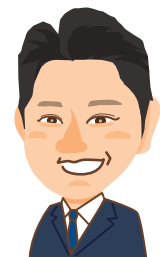
I would like to share my story because my family is Sasakawa Fellows as well. I am also happy when I have read other articles from our friends around the world in "Friends of WMU, newsletter". The Sasakawa fellowship gives my opportunity regarding maritime network. I can contact many fellows and alumni of WMU around the world. As this article, I would like to invite our fellows to contribute an article that we can share our life to all friends. It is great to be Sasakawa Fellows.

### Editor's note

Since November 2023, there have been repeated drone and missile attacks on vessels navigating the Red Sea. This has disrupted global logistics and also increased the risk of rising prices. I strongly hope that such chaos (though that has the positive aspect of higher freight rates for shipping companies,) will soon be resolved. In these chaotic times, I am feeling reminded of the importance and preciousness of solidarity that extends from the Sasakawa Fellowship as a core.

Turning to the topic at hand, the "cherry blossoms,"

one of Japan's national flowers and a symbol of the arrival of spring, are approaching to bloom. Their peak is from late March to early April. Cherry blossoms has an image of meeting and parting because of the shortness of its peak and coincidence with the end and beginning of the Japanese school year. I have been seeing them for almost 40 years, and they are still so beautiful that I am still moved by their beauty, so please come to Japan and enjoy its beauty if you have a chance. With memories of each encounter and parting.



**Shun Masui**  
JSTRA