



The Japan Field Study Trip

2013

May 12-19, 2013

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Date	Visiting Places
May 13	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)
May 14	Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd. Courtesy Visit on The Nippon Foundation
May 15	Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.
May 16	Nissan Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd. Yasukawa Electric Corporation
May 17	Furuno Electric Co. Ltd. - Miki Factory Marine Technical College
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May 13, 2013

Visiting

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



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

Mr. EUGENE THOMAS, Ngong Amaazee

The above mentioned visit was scheduled for the 13th of May 2013 and shortly before 3 o'clock pm we were there at the Ministry of Lands, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism whereby we were given a warm reception by the entire officials and members of this ministry. Shortly thereafter, we were conveyed to the conference room wherein our scheduled visit/meeting with the maritime bureau was scheduled to take place.

There we were welcomed by Mr MASATO MORI, the Director General of Maritime Bureau, who was most delighted to have us not only as WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY students visiting his institution but also as Sasakawa fellowship students under the auspices of the NIPPON FOUNDATION which they have had collaboration over the years.

Proceeding to the business of the day we were given an elaborate presentation by the first speaker in the person of TOMOTSUGU NOMA of the safety standards Division, Maritime Bureau of the MLIT and also by Mr Takahiro KIJIMA, the Director for International Environmental Standards, Safety Standards Division of the Maritime Bureau. The entire information that was disclosed to us during this visit was two folds, that is facts about Japan and functional information about the MLIT.

With regards to facts about Japan, a comprehensive presentation was given to us about the Geo-Political and economic situation of Japan Vis-à-vis the maritime industry. Population wise, we were made to understand that Japan has the 10th largest population in the world, with the 60th largest land surface area in the world, with its forest area covering 66 percent of land, an extensive coastline slightly longer than that of Australia with the sixth largest Exclusive Economic Zone in the World, alongside its being an island and internally archipelagic which accounts for its being a major player in the Maritime domain and the imperative and urgent need to constantly develop the maritime/shipping sector.

Progressively we were equally educated about the economic aspect of the maritime sector. Here, we were made to understand that internationally, Japan owns about 2,800 merchant fleet in the overseas shipping industry. With regards to the Shipbuilding Industry Japan plays a very great role globally as it accounts for about 19 percent of newly constructed ships which reflects how important the maritime domain is internationally to Japan. Domestically about 40 percent of freight within Japan is being transported by ship hence the need for more attention to be paid to this sector. As to how success and continuity is achieved we were made to understand that success is enhanced via a tripartite cooperation framework between the entire Shipping industry, Ship machinery Industry and Shipbuilding Industry otherwise termed as the Japanese Maritime Cluster

Furthermore an insight of the meaning, objectives and organogram of the MLIT was equally made available to us. Created in 2001 its principal role inter alia includes the implementation of transportation policies and the maintenance of marine safety and security. We equally got to know that the Maritime Bureau is one out of 14 Bureaus of the MLIT with ten Divisions which covers responsibilities in internal and international maritime and shipping aspects.

At this juncture, a question and answer session followed the end of presentation. A host of questions were posed and very satisfactory and explicit responses were received and some

questions posed that did not fall within the specialties of the presenters were placed for father consultations and the responses were brought to us shortly thereafter. For example I posed a question in relation to the functioning of the ISPS Code in Japan and was promised a response later and same was in a very satisfactory manner provided to me courtesy of Mr KUDO

In view of the foregoing, I can say on a personal note that the site visit to MLIT was a success and will always have an indelible mark in my memory not only In my visiting Japan but also my academic and professional life considering the fact that I am a student of Maritime Law and Policy.

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

Ms.VIGGIANO, Analia Soledad

In our second day in Japan (Tokyo) on 13 May 2013, we (23 Sasakawa Fellows of Class 2013) visited the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) headquarters at 15.00 hours. We were received for Mr. Masato MORI, Director General of Maritime Bureau, who gave us a kindly welcome to this important organization and also an introductory speech regarding the main functions of the Maritime Bureau. After that we received two interesting lectures more. First one was given by Mr. Tomotsugu NOMA (Safety Standards Division Maritime Bureau, MLIT) and the second one was given by Mr. Takahiro KIJIMA (Director for International Environmental Standards, Safety Standards Division Maritime Bureau).

Those presentations were fully related with our studies because the presenters had discussed the implementation of safety and environmental standards, which are two of the fundamental basis of our careers. Also, they gave us the opportunity to make some questions, which allowed us to go deep in some particular issues.

In this regard, we learnt that the MLIT was created in 2001 composed by fourteen Bureaus (Maritime, Port and Harbors, Road Transport, among others) and four External organs (Japan Tourism Agency, Meteorological Agency, Transport Safety Board and Japan Coast Guard).

In addition, Maritime Bureau, which is the ones that deals with maritime policies in this country, is composed by ten Divisions: General Affairs; Safety and Environment Policy; Maritime Human Resources Policy; International Shipping; Coastal Shipping; Safety Management and Seafarers Labour; Shipbuilding and Ship Machinery; Safety Standards; Inspections and Measurement and Seafarers License and Education Division.

Furthermore, each of these Divisions contributes to the Maritime Bureau's target, which is "be responsible for international and internal maritime transportation, shipbuilding and ship machinery industries and safety and security in the maritime sector. The Bureau is also in charge of issues regarding the maritime and global environment related to ships and ship operations. It covers moreover matters of seafarers and human resources related to maritime industries and activities."

Considering that in Japan, the maritime industry is indispensable for its economy, since that more than 99% of all imports and exports cargos are carried by ships. As well as the importance of the shipbuilding and ship machinery industries, that produces about 35% of ships and equipment in the world. In my personal opinion, one of the aspects that I would like to highlight is the efficiency and efficacy which this organization is working based on "Control Management Quality", looking the industry and the system as a whole and given high value to people relationship and the know-how. I think that those are key issues to be successful and to achieve the organizational as well as individual goals.

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

Mr. ISLAM, Md. Nazrul

We have the opportunity to visit Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan on 13th May. Director General of Maritime Bureau of MLIT welcomed us at MLIT. MLIT is a very big ministry which was created in 2001 combining four different agencies and ministries. The ministry consists of fourteen bureaus including four external organizations. Maritime Bureau, port authority and coast guard are the three organizations under MLIT that are responsible for all maritime affairs including ship building and policy formulation in Japan. Government pays very high attention to their shipping industry and that's why made a huge ministry to integrate enterprises. Besides international transport one-fourth of national transport are being done by shipping in Japan. They are leading maritime nation for last fifty years. Still 20 percent of world ship buildings are done in Japan though China and Korea surpassed them in recent years. Enhance relationship between people, workers participation in development and quality control help Japan to continue as a leading maritime nation.

Japan consists of over three thousands of Islands including four major Islands. Japanese population is about 127 million which 10th largest in the world and land area 377947 square kilometers. About 250977 sq. kilometer area is forest which is about 66% of total land area. As an Island nation, Japan has a long coast line 29751 kilometer. So, their exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is very big.

Around 2800 Japanese merchant ships are engaged in international shipping. Ship building & ship machinery industry is big and work together as a cluster. About 99% export and import cargo of Japan are transport by sea. Maritime Bureau has 10 divisions that are responsible for policy issues administration of all maritime affairs including Safety & security, environmental protection, labor issues both national and international. Maritime Bureau of Japan encourages development of ship building & m/c industry in japan.

Maritime sector is very important in japan for three main reason such as Japan is an island nation, export import of the country is totally dependent on shipping, Japan maintain big merchant fleet. Current volume of Japanese merchant fleet is 179 million dead weight tonnages (dwt). In 1975, japan became first in ship building industry surpassing European countries and remained first for 35 years. Due to global economic down turn, order in Japan ship building industry decrease in 2008 but increased in 2012. In 1974, 278000 Japanese people were engaged in sea fearing; now only 67000 Japanese are doing their job as sea fearer. Now, Japan employs sea fearer from Vietnam, Taiwan, Philippines and other Asian nations. Major Maritime stake holders in Japan are shippers, ship building industry, ship building machinery industry, classification society. There are very big mutual connections with these stakeholders. Japanese shippers use around 70% of Japanese dead weight tonnage while Japanese shipping company accounts for around 75% of Japanese ship building order book. Maritime Bureau encourages these mutual connections between maritime stake holders. Japan is one of the leading maritime nations of the world for the following three reasons. 1) Japanese shipping companies are some of leading companies in the world, 2) Japan has 3rd biggest ship building industry in the world, 3) Japan maritime sector have high level of technology & financial power.

Being a leading maritime nation, Japan not only manages its maritime sector but also help international community and IMO in policy formulations. Japan maritime bureau is active

participating in present hot issue in Maritime Safety Committee of IMO such as passenger ship safety, damage stability, evacuation analysis, navigational issues. After accident of Costa Concordia in Italy in 2012, IMO took initiative to amend chapter 3 of SOLAS convention for proper safety of passenger ships. Japan is actively participating in amendment of SOLAS convention.

Maritime Bureau also working in MEPC of IMO for reducing environmental pollution including CO₂, Nox, Sox, green recycling of ships, is working for implementing Hong Kong convention 2009 and preventing oil pollution. Maritime Bureau contributes in every IMO convention and helps in policy formulations, marine pollution prevention, and safety standards etc. in addition to formulating national policies. On the other hand, IMO rules and guidelines are implemented in domestic rules. Proposals are given on high technology and innovation, Inspection & survey based on IMO rules and local rules are performed by Maritime Bureau. Japan also helps other countries in maritime sector as usual like other sectors. They are now providing offshore development assistance and technical assistance to Indonesia, maintenance service in Dubai, Ship recycling infrastructure development in India, domestic ship & search rescue project in Philippines among many other projects.

So, Maritime Bureau is not only working for Japan but also for global maritime industry. So, Work volume of Maritime Bureau is very vast and so is MLIT. It is a very unique lesson to me how they formulate policies both for national and international arena and administers the whole maritime sector. It is meaningful to produce big ministry like MLIT because they can integrate the projects taken in land transport, sea transport sector, tourism sector and make proper sustainable use of both land and sea.

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

Mr. MOHAMED IBRAHIM, Amr Mohamed Monir Anwar

On 13th of May 2013, the Sasakawa Fellows paid a courtesy visit to Maritime Bureau; Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). This was the first official courtesy visit in our unforgettable trip to the beloved Japan. What first took my attention was that officials from the ministry was waiting for us by the ministry entrance, this was my first encounter with the Japanese traditional hospitality, of course I have heard a lot about the Japanese hospitality but this just came above my expectations.

The meeting started with a word from Mr Masato MORI, head of Maritime Bureau translated through an instant translator , he expressed his deep welcome and happiness for our visit, despite his responsibilities, his excellency came down to meet us with great modesty. He described the nature of his work and the work of the ministry, he also added an illustration of how the Ministry is divided and where is the Maritime Administration positioned in the governmental ministerial system.

This was followed a group picture of all the fellows with Mr Masato MORI, then we went back to listen to further illustration from deferent officials on the maritime sector in the country. They told us about the Japanese ports and ship yards, the Japanese fleet, the economic condition of the sector, followed by a Q & A session. We had a lot of new information and interesting facts. I think this visit had a special importance to everybody interested in Maritime, for they will understand how the Maritime Bureau work in one of the most developed countries in Maritime affairs

At the end of the interesting and informative visit, again the Japanese tradition was shown when officials came down with us all the way to the bus and waived us goodbye till we went out of sight.

May 14, 2013

Visiting
Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd.
Courtesy Visit on The Nippon Foundation



Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd.

The Nippon Foundation



Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd.

Mr. GHEBREMARIAM, Jenay Ghebregherghish

Students from the World Maritime University had travelled to Japan on 11 May 2013 for purpose of field study. As part of their visit on 14 May 2013 they visited an industrial plant well known on manufacturing known as Niigata Power systems co. Ltd.

Niigata made its fresh start in 2003 as IHI group business enterprise located in Ohta land area 151,561 m square and building area 412,99 m square. It is located about 2 hour drive from Tokyo. It offers diesel engines, power generation products, and gas engines. The company also provides gas turbines, including emergency, solar, and micro gas turbines. In addition, it offers marine diesel engines, such as medium speed, medium speed 17AHX, low speed, and high speed marine diesel engines; and generator/marine equipment. Further, the company provides parts, including couplings, fuel injection pumps, fuel injection valves, and high-frequency induction furnaces. Niigata Power Systems Co.,Ltd. was founded in 2003 and is based in Tokyo, Japan with additional offices in Gunma and Niigata. Niigata Power Systems Co.,Ltd. operates as a subsidiary of IHI Corporation.

During the students visit to the company, a power point lecture was given then later all students were guided by an experts to observe the manufacturing process. They have visited to the machine work shop that is composed of 7 manufacturing lines and heat treatment shops. Each shop is so arranged towards assembly tact line.

Here they use integrated computerized numerical controlled machines to grid the cranks shafts, pistons, connecting rods as well as many other machine parts. The Next part was the assembly shop the after the test operation shop. In the test operation shop 37 engines can be tested at the same time.

Cooling water lubricant, compressed air, and fuel are supplied through the feeding system.

And among many products the Z-Peller is one of the unique and specialized designs that only belong to Niigata. Z-peller is a propulsion system with strong thrust that can rotate 360 which is manoeuvrable and good to apply on tugboats and supply boats.

The company have 960 employees and 15 domestic sales offices. And students were guided to visit the manufacturing site of the company while explanation was given by experts. Students especially those who had good technical background in engineering and hard science had asked a lot of question for further briefing on the different range of products. Finally the company had gave gifts to the students and the students had boarded on bus where the Japanese where waiving their hands to say good bye and the students also reply by waiving until they go far distance. Generally, the visit to Niigata had been very beneficial for the students.

Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd.

Mr. AYEKPLE, Timothy Kwami

We were arrived at the precincts of the company on time and were received and welcomed by the Executive Officer and General Manager, Mr. Koji Sato. After the exchange of greetings from our leaders and the Registrar with the company officers, we were given an introduction to the factory through a film show.

The film showed the history of the plant and the areas in which the variety of Niigata Diesel engine products were being used. It was shown that although they were basically specialize in the design, building and testing of Marine engines of high quality, they also deal in Diesel engines for both Marine and land based applications. They also talked about their future plans and developmental goals.

They also talks about how they are so interested in the education and development of their staffs, how they run safety courses for them and operate as a team but not individuals. They saw it as a solution for any problem.

We then had a group picture outside and were divided into two groups and toured the factory floor, we were shown round the preparatory stages of the crank shafts for the marine engines, cutting and polishing to the precise shape, size and dimensions. We then proceeded to the assembly section where the various parts were assembled to the required standards and designs and then tested for a period of time to determine its reliability. Each and every engine is tested after building. Other parts seen being produced and tested was fixed pitched propellers.

The factory environment was well kept and the production floor was well kept devoid of debris and oil, safety was of paramount as all workers were observing safety precaution against noise and falling objects and therefore had goggles, hard hat helmets and earplugs. After the tour of the factory floor of the two groups, we came back to ask questions and expertly answers were given by the managers to the satisfaction of all. Some questions bothered on safety and others on recycling of the various waste that is generated in the production of the engines parts and engines, another set of questions bothered on training of staff and technical students from institutions in Japan.

There was exchange of gifts between the officers and the Registrar of WMU, Mr. Tom Smaal and some few minutes after midday, we left the facility. The visit was so educative and entertainer as we saw at close proximity the building of marine engines.

We are grateful to the organizers and the managers and officers of Niigata Power Systems for the wonderful exposure and we shall forever remember all that we learnt.

Thank you

Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd.

Mr. KYAW WANNA

On 14th May 2013, 23 students from World Maritime University, on Sasakawa Fellowship visited to the Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd which offers and extensive range of products and services from diesel engines, Z- peller, gas engines, gas turbines and casting as well as their designing, manufacture, marketing and consultant service accompanied by Mr. Ton Smaal, the academic registrar (World Maritime University), Eisuke Kudo, Shinichi Ichikawa from OPRF and Miyoko Wada, the tour guide.

The main idea to the Niigata Power System is to learn about the Japanese shipbuilding and Ship machinery industries and the innovation of Japanese maritime industry in terms of propulsion and energy consumption.

The general manager of the factory gave a brief presentation regarding to the Niigata Power System. The presentation was really interesting for me altogether with the information of Niigata Power System. The Products are made for the regular stock and also contribute the power generation plants. They would like to expand their market in specific field.

The layout plan of the factory is really attractive for me by means of U- shape starting at the machine shop to the assembling via factory and testing system. More than that the factory has the sound logistic systems connecting with the other factories because not all the parts for the manufacture are not from the plant and there are different plants for the parts who are supplying the parts needed for the Ohta plant.

The next thing that I realize Japan became the advanced industrialized country by means of providing quality education in different kind of aspects for all staffs. It is an all-round method for the solutions to the problem. Even though the profit of the Niigata Power plant declined in 2008 because of the world financial crisis, it increased gradually after 2008. The profit for the previous year was 2% and this is acceptable when compare with the Toyota Mobile while their profit was 6%. The mission of the Niigata is to meet any needs anywhere is highly evaluated for the whole world by offering an efficient and powerful system of intensive technology to readily.

During the site visit, we had learned the processes of producing the powerful propulsion systems in two ways. The main interesting thing was even though they can produce the shaft in only one place by mean of high technology, they still use the manpower to produce the propulsion system. When we asked about the reason, they want to pass it on their high technology to the new generation as the heritage but they still need to think the human labors and the cost effectiveness. Niigata wants to replace the propulsion systems in place of big engines with the smaller ones but more efficient than the former one.

This visit was a quite treasured opportunity for us to study the producing of Japanese high quality propulsion system with efficiency and speed.

Courtesy Visit on The Nippon Foundation

Mr. PANKAJAKSHA WARRIER, Rajesh

1. The courtesy visit to The Nippon Foundation was one of the core agenda of Japan Field Study Trip for WMU Sasakawa Fellow Students of Class 2013. The visit was one of the most revered one for the Sasakawa Fellow Students as they consider it as an opportunity to have an overview of functioning and activity of the organisation which privileged them for undergoing a Master's degree at World Maritime University.

2. The courtesy visit to the Nippon Foundation was held at 1630 hrs on 14 May 13. The occasion was blessed by Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Executive Director Nippon Foundation with his esteemed presence. Mr. Ton Smaal, the Academic Registrar World Maritime University greeted Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno on his arrival to the meeting hall. Mr. Ton Smaal expressed gratitude to the Nippon Foundation for their whole hearted support for the university. Following the speech of Mr. Ton Smaal each student introduced themselves to Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno.

3. Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno during his welcome speech has intimated that the WMU Sasakawa Fellow students are selected for the grant of fellowship by a high level committee, after an intense scrutiny of their background, ability, work experience and academic qualifications. The selected students are among the few who got this rare privilege. Therefore, the students shall spare no efforts in putting their heart and soul in the studies at World Maritime University. He reminded the students that Sasakawa fellowship will help in developing ties among themselves which in turn will help them in their future endeavours and also in professional areas. The students shall value the bonds and ties of WMU-Sasakawa fellows and try to remain as a close well knitted network. The Nippon Foundation will assist in maintaining the bonds and ties. He concluded his speech by saying that the students may make use of this field study trip for enjoying the Japanese history and culture.

4. On completion of the address by Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Mr. Hussein Wanzu representative of students, thanked Mr. Unno and The Nippon Foundation for providing them with this opportunity to visit Japan. The vote of thanks was followed by a group photography session.

5. The visit to The Nippon Foundation gave an opportunity to understand the deep association of the foundation in developing and supporting the maritime sector around the world. The endeavours of the foundation in educating and transmitting the maritime knowhow to various corners of the world require a special applause. It is the innovative idea of the foundation that helped in developing a close knitted network of Sasakawa Fellows in the maritime field.

Courtesy Visit on The Nippon Foundation

Mr. SANTOS SOLORZANO, Juan Francisco

1.The visit to The Nippon Foundation was one of the first and maybe most important items on the agenda of the WMU Sasakawa Fellow Students of Class 2013. The visit gave the students a chance to see and know the functioning of the organization that sponsored their Master's degree at World Maritime University (WMU).

2.The visit was held at 1630 hrs on the 14th of May. The occasion was witnessed by Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, Mr. Ton Smaal; the Academic Registrar World Maritime University welcomed Mr. Unno on his arrival to the meeting hall; Mr. Ton Smaal expressed gratitude to The Nippon Foundation for their invaluable support for WMU. Following the speech of Mr. Smaal each student introduced themselves to Mr. Unno.

3.Mr. Unno during his welcome speech has explained that the WMU Sasakawa Fellow Students are selected for the grant of fellowship by a high level committee, after an intense process and scrutiny of their background, ability, work experience and academic qualifications. The selected students are among the few who got this special privilege. Consequently, the students shall spare no efforts on their studies at World Maritime University (WMU). He reminded that Sasakawa Fellowships will help in developing ties among themselves which will help them in their future careers. He concluded by saying that Sasakawa Fellows should use this field trip for enjoying Japanese history and culture.

4.After Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno presentation, Mr. Hussein Wanzu representative of students, thanked Mr. Unno and The Nippon Foundation for providing with this unique opportunity to visit Japan. Afterwards group photograph was taken.

May 15, 2013

Visiting
Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.



MIURA Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

Ms. ADITIRTA, Efa Rosida Dwi

The fourth day of our visit in Japan, we had a chance to visit Miura Shipbuilding Co. Ltd., located in Saiki City, Oita. This shipyard can be categorized as medium-sized shipyard in Japan. They build approximately 12 ships per annum. The ships are including Oil/ Chemical Tanker, Cement Carrier, LPG Carrier, Container Ship, General Cargo Ship, Cargo Ferry, etc. They have 3 factories to build ship, Main, Kaizaki and Nooka factory. All blocks of ship are built in Kaizaki Factory and the pipes and outfitting are manufactured in Nooka Factory. Those parts of ship will be delivered to Main Factory by barge.

Miura Shipbuilding has floating dock that can be used to inspect ship as a part of complete servicing after delivery vessels. The complete servicing includes the guarantee docking at one year after delivery new vessel, periodical survey docking and necessary repairs if requested. Having the floating dock facilities makes Miura Shipbuilding able to comply with their customers needs completely from new building to the repairs in the future. Informative data obtained from such repairs will be fed back for new building, supporting them to build more reliable and highly value added vessels.

In the design of ships, Miura Shipbuilding has their own Naval architects team. They produce design by using advanced software such as AutoCad, Maxsurf, etc. In order to test their design, Miura Shipbuilding has cooperation with a dedicated company to conduct ship model test in towing test and another test required to build a better ship.

The hard work of all team in Miura Shipbuilding was paid in 2011 by getting award of Ship of the Year 2011 for 749 G/T General Cargo Ship, Yone-Maru, in Japan – Domestic cargo vessel category. The speed of this ship can reach 17 knots. In general, the vessel speed in the same category is 13 – 14 knots. It made Yone-Maru stands out in general cargo category.

Not only concerns in Shipbuilding, Miura Shipbuilding also concern about environmental matters. They dock house that equipped with solar photovoltaic unit and their forestland has contributed in CO2 reduction.

Considering their achievement so far, it was good choice made by OPRF to send us to this shipyard. We got a lot of knowledge during our visit in Miura Shipbuilding because we could see how the ships are built by close-up tour. The staffs of Miura Shipbuilding were cooperative to answer any question we gave. Our interaction made us easily to get information we wanted to know. We all felt thankful to Miura Shipbuilding to give us a chance to visit their shipyard, to give warmed-welcome to us.

We hope Miura Shipbuilding can be success in years to come, so that another WMU Sasakawa Fellowship in the future can have the same opportunity as we had to visit Miura Shipbuilding.

MIURA Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

Ms. FUKASAWA, Azusa

On 15th May 2013, the Sasakawa Fellow students Class of 2013 visited Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. The day was started by taking bus leaving the hotel at 8 am, sending us to Haneda Airport for the domestic flight to Oita Prefecture. Compare to the gorgeous city Tokyo, Oita is a kind of countryside, full of nature, relaxed mood, and Onsen (hot-spring) with Yukata (Japanese summer wear). The students were able to be experienced many characteristics of Japan.

About two-hour drive from the airport took us to the destination, and we were welcomed by Mr. Tadahide Miura, the President of Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. After his kind welcome speech, Mr. Shuji Furuta from the General affairs section announced a presentation of the overview on the company and showed fifteen-minute video which was taken and aired by the local broadcasting station.

Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. has three shipyards and is producing various types of vessels. There were six ships on the lines, and one of them was waiting for the launching ceremony in two days.

The students were divided into small groups for the close and effective approach to the factory, and my group's tour started from the Design section. I was so surprised and pleased that they invited us to the Heart of the company; and usually it's a top secret, as I've worked with naval architects at previous position and been taught how they treat ship's design so importantly.

It was introduced that Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. sends model ship to the institute to carry out test on every new design to develop the most optimized hull form. In addition, owing to the tremendous efforts on these tests searching good shapes from the hull to the bulbous bow and stern fin, Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. has built "Yone-Maru", one of the Ship(s) of the year in Japan, which generates incredible high speed of seventeen (17) knots as a general cargo ship with excellent capability for freight forwarding.

At the Hull Structure workshop, we saw the workers bending steel plate into beautiful curve with heat and water. I am proud of those Japanese techniques which make hard steel into the same shape of the drawing as planned. We walked along well arranged process line including the blasting/painting facility which satisfies new regulation for Performance Standard for Protective Coatings (PSPC). It impressed me that not only the person who escorted us but also every employee we met during the tour, greeted us with a smile and the words "GoAnzen-ni" which mean "Be safety", the policy of the company.

Finally we got back to the meeting room and had some discussion about future threaten of the decreasing young workers which Japanese industries are meeting these days; however, we are sure that Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. will overcome this fear according to their efforts on continuous challenges.

MIURA Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

Mr. RATHNAYAKE WANNIARACHCHIGE, Ajith Rathnayake

WMU students were warmly welcome to the Miura Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. Oita in Japan.

Miura Shipbuilding Company is one of the leading shipbuilding companies in Japan which owns 12 domestic ship yards. It has two main sub-factories called Kaizaki and Nooka. While all blocks are being built in Kaizaki factory Nooka factory manufactures all the pipes and outfitting for new buildings. Therefore, some of the spaces in Nooka factory services as Oita Prefecture Shipbuilding Technical Center. The head office of the Miura shipbuilding Co., Ltd is located in Oita prefecture that established on 01.11.1960. There are about 43 employers are working in head office and another 340 employees are working in 12 domestic sub-yards.

Representative from Miura Shipbuilding Company mentioned in WMU field visit that it has a complete service including guarantee docking and periodical survey docking with necessary repairs as comply with customers requirements. These docking yards provide docking facilities for about 9,999 GT to 40,000 GT vessels. There are four different type of vessels are built in Miura Shipbuilding Company such as Oil Tankers/LPG carriers, Dry bulk carriers, Container carriers and Ro-Ro carries. Specially, LPG carriers are built to the European and African markets and Containers for domestic used and also working on rebuilding of Japanese domestic vessels. British, Greece and Turkey are the main European customers for the Miura Shipbuilding Company.

Maximization of energy efficiency and minimization of crew level of new building vessels are the main aims of the Miura Shipbuilding Company. To maximize the cost effective and environment protection and achieve more reliable with high value added vessels, the company uses new technology and heavy equipments. For instance, the main two crane's stand in Miura shipbuilding yard show 150T & 95T lifting capacity which used for main engine installation purpose. Moreover, it has two diesel engines with 250kw and equipped with solar photovoltaic units.

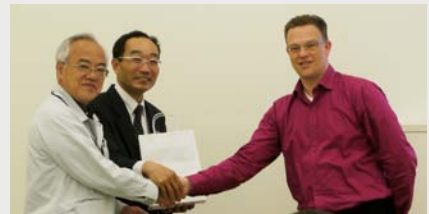
WMU students were warm welcome by the management of this great company and clearly explained their company overall from the production stage. For example, they explained how to bend and cut the steel plates after get them drawn from the design stage up to launching the vessel to the sea. The management was so generous to allow students to have a close look-at all the machineries and work process in the yard. Miura Shipbuilding Company has a high potential to compete with Japanese shipbuilding industry and has already proven their skills of doing it.

May 16, 2013

Visiting
Nissan Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd.
Yasukawa Electric Corporation



Nissan Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd.



Yasukawa Electric Corporation



NISSAN Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd.

Mr. WANNIARACHCHI K., Samantha Gunawardhane

1. INTRODUCTION

We were the group of 24 students from 19 different countries of WNU Sasakawa Fellows started our field study tour from Tokyo, Japan on Sunday 12th May 2013. After visiting many interesting places given in the schedule Wednesday 15th May, 2013 we depart from Haneda airport, Tokyo to Oita airport located in another island in the southern part of Japan. The following day, the Thursday 16th May, 2013 at 0730 hours, we depart from our temporary residence of Beppu Hotel SEIFU, the very traditional, cultural hotel to the site visit of NISSAN Motor Kyushu Plant, Miyako-gun, Fukuoka, Japan and we could possibly reach the destination to the given time around 0900 hours after one and half hours journey by the bus.

2. TIME ARRANGEMENT AND SCHEDULE

0900 to 0915 hrs

Mr. Motomu FUKUDOME, The superintendent Gest Hall of NISSAN Motor Kyushu Plant, cordially welcomes our group and had a friendly discussion at the lobby with his supporting staff to the tour. Then we attended to the familiarization program at the guest hall.

0915 to 1000 hrs

Mr. Motomu FUKUDOME, The superintendent Gest Hall of NISSAN Motor Kyushu Plant educated our group with what exactly doing in the plant and its performance with other aspects in relation to the production.

1000 to 1100 hrs

After the briefing of the activities at the plant we enjoyed our factory visit with the officer in charge and we were given detailed information regarding how the production is done at the plant from bending the iron plate to the complete automobile at the end of the production line with quality control checking and shipment arrangements to the sales points.

1100 to 1130 hrs

Having completed the factory visit we the group returned back to the guest hall and had the Q&A session with the factory officials.

1130 to 1140 hrs

Mr. Ton Smaal, our Administrative officer from WMU gave our warm thanks to the Nissan cooperation and the officials for the every arrangements and made our departure to the next event.

3. PLANT INFORMATION AND PERFORMANCE

NISSAN Motor Corporation, Japan established in 1933.12.26 with the main operational production line with passenger vehicles. Its head office is located in Yokohama Kanagawa prefecture and it poses 02 production plants, 03 unit assembly plants in Japan and operates in 18 countries with 25 plants. The employment density is concerned; the company is equipped with 30718 local employees and 175,700 in overseas operations.

NISSAN Motor Kyushu Plant, Miyako-gun, Fukuoka, established in 1975 and 02 plants completed in 1992. In 2009 car plant operations commenced and it got separate from Nissan Corporation in 2011. Now it has a capacity of 650,000 units and they have set their targets to 1.5 million per year. In this event they are proud about their strategic location with

nearby airports, express roadways and sea logistics for import & export activities. The only barrier in the sea transportation is the shallow water gets only the domestic vessels it requires only 7.5m to the existing depth of about 10m. In this connection they have to run 65 to 70 ships per month according to the current production level. One ship carry 6.4 X 1000 units at a time

Specially this plant is concerned, it has 3509 employees under the leadership of the CEO to the company with five major departments specially the 2498 out of total belong to the manufacturing, 245 to the engineering and minimum of 09 to the quality assurance department.

The total factory premises of 260,000 square meters are divided in to two factories, 01 and 02 which are concentrating on 12 different types of passenger vehicles. The output time of the one product is nearly 01 minute and the rate of production is 190,000 per day I maximum. The whole process is divided in to five steps and the important fact is that the all manufacturing levels like stamping, welding, painting are fully pledged automated by robotics and assembling with quality assurance with supported by the human interface with machines and manual operations. The factory process is 95.5% automated and per day output of this one plant is 4100 vehicles. This has become successful that the reason is in the process modification with 1200 robotics to the plant and they can work under the temperature of 1500 centigrade in manufacturing area. The total assembling is done by manual process and interesting the 100 different colors of 0.1mm thickness in six steps process is completely done by the robotics.

As far as the product line is concerned it is multi product manufacturing line in single part with well sophisticated computerized system in the total process of manufacturing. For example more than one type of different model of vehicles are being manufacturing in a single production line with many steps completing to a particular five levels of the production. This has a capacity of 25,000 parking spaces to the production units. Daily ship operation of exports and imports in between 0800 hrs to 1500 hrs a day and it was out sourced by the company. The interesting part of parking in the ship is that the clearance of each vehicle is only 10cm distance and how amazing the ability of trained drivers utilized in this regards.

4. SUMMARY OF THE REPORT WITH COMMENTS

One minute –one car is the really unbelievable for us at the beginning of the factory visit with the total of nearly 3500 employees with administration and sales. But it was really amazing that how the process developments are run in the factory and how does this revolution add value to its production process with continuous developments, IT solutions, involvement of robotics with automation in engineering aspects. The other management aspects are concerns it is really important to note that their commitment on company vision, mission goals and the objectives. The leadership is very much prominent in this event to get this success as per the words given by the officials of the company. The other interesting part is the amalgamation of streamline the different components to the total process. For instant that the raw materials handling, manufacturing, sales, export and import, premises management, logistics...etc. were the big challenge for them in early stages but it is not a problem at this event with system modifications and process improvements through the research and development activities to the organization. And the other thing is machine-human interfaces and how it works is really impressed and human involvement of 4.5% to the 95.5% fully pledged automated factory gives me fantastic experience in my life.

5. MY GRATITUDE

It was great pleasure for me to have a live experience in an automated automobile factory in japan with fully equipped facilities and supported IT solutions to the process. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Yohei SASAKAWA the chairman of The Nippon Foundation to make me this kind of invaluable opportunity to enhance my knowledge and experience in this field of my study. Secondly it goes to Mr. Eisuke KUDO & Mr. Shinichi ICHIKAWA with other officials from The Nippon Foundation & OPRF in Japan. And my special thanks to Mr. Yukio Takeda and Mr. Motomu FUKUDOME, The superintendent Gest Hall of NISSAN Motor Kyushu Plant for every arrangements that we were provided at the plant premises.

NISSAN Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd.

Ms. NITILATTHI, Panhathai

The site visit at Nissan Motor Kyushu Plant, the briefing an overview of Nissan Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd. and operating, which is one of World Class Manufacturing in Japan, and most modern automatic production vehicle industry. Under economic pressure and high-wage labor cost was the main background reason for the company look forward in house high-technology to develop the automated production as we can see.

The company allows us to site visiting at the plants and production areas. The main manufacturing process of Nissan vehicle consists of Paint shop, Assembly shop, Inspection shop and test track shop. Automated processes are designed to reduce cost and error by using the robots instead of human working. The forming is the first stage where steel plates was stamp, after body processing then the vehicle move to painting stage where the several shade colors was took place by customers ordering and assembly stage where the long line of robots was fit several parts into the vehicle and they movements like human, that was amazing scene for us to observed them working as a human doing. All processing smooth flows with high efficiency and cost effectiveness which was integrated by high technology and logistics chain system.

Nissan production way is concern in improvement and reform in quality, cost and delivery time to reach the competitive advantage in order to meet customer's need. We observed that to reach the high quality as world class product, the management and operation throughout the supply chain had to demonstrate outstanding performance on productivity and quality.

Many technique and technology has been designed to enable Nissan match the changes in customers' demands and needs. One important element that we would like to note that Japanese had positive attitudes in robot system while European who more sensitive, against and negative attitude. As a result, Japan became developer and leader in automated production by robot in vehicle industry. Evolution of automated production by robot continues developing based on 'no limited on quality' which is the best thing we have learned from Nissan, moreover working as a team and communicate as a key success factor for large scale manufacturing organization.

At the same time, the new visitors was coming when we leaving. The bus school carries many young children to visit the most modern plants, so it's clearly in my mind that's why Japan is one of the most powerful countries in this world. It's not only the technology itself but the knowledge base have been pass on the next generation in practical way.

NISSAN Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd.

Mr. OKAMOTO, Yasunori

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for this company. I did not expect that I could get such opportunity in there.

In terms of maritime activity in this company, there was one and it is advantage. The company owns own port in the factory. Therefore, it does not have to consider empty space in the public port, which is huge advantage for exporting company. On the other hand, the company has to maintain the port facility and usually it cost a lot of money. Of course, it has already analyzed profit and maintenance cost of the port facility for a long span.

Regarding assembly, state-of-art technology was used and I re-recognized how Japanese company has high skill and efficiency. There are five processes; stamping, body assembly, painting, assembly trim line and major component mount. Especially, in the process of body assembly, there are fully automated. Based customer's order, the company starts to assemble. However, the cars which customer ordered are various kinds and they proceed on the assembly line at random order. Assembly robots can recognize each cars and start to assemble parts properly. This system does big contribution for car assembly.

Regarding workers in the factory, I am sorry to say that they are also like robots. In other words, they were very quiet and concentrating on their job and looked like working in efficient way. I had actually one question that how much error happened in the factory because, according to six sigma theory, company seeks for no deficiency. In my opinion, the Nissan Co. Ltd. has less error compared with other foreign factory. I hope if Sasakawa fellow had time to visit this company, they could have the lecture of not assembly but management and quality control.

In terms of new technology, I could find new pug station for electric car. According to staff's story, they are planning to set up more new plug station rapidly. Considering global environment, environmental friendly technology such as electric car should be developed more.

Finally, today, trade is the seeds of economic, in other words, domestic economic depends on trade. Under the international competition, I believe Japanese companies leads world innovation in terms of new technology. Therefore, we, public administration, need to understand our standing position and international and national trend of economic situation, and have the view point that how the public administration support and boom the companies.

Fortunately, we could get this chance to see this company this time, which was fruitful and good to know how operational unit works, especially working combination between robot and human. However, considering Sasakawa fellow's occupation, I felt instead of learning how operational place is going on (car assembly process), more business itself such as management, quality control was preferable because fellows will work in public administration which improve their country and company after they go back to own countries.

In the end, I would like to appreciate for Nissan Motor Kyushu Co., Ltd. Kyushu Plant and people who engaged in this program especially The Nippon Foundation and OPRF.

YASKAWA Electric Corporation

Mr. WANZU, Hussein

Background

Visited on May 16th 2013 from 15 00 hrs to 16 30 hrs.

The company specializes in motion control, system engineering and robotics.

Motion control includes AC servo motors used in semiconductor manufacturing, chip mounting, machine tools, food packaging machinery and robots are manufactured.

In addition, AC drives used in industrial machinery, conveyers, fans, cranes and elevators are manufactured.

Systems engineering involves industrial electrical products equipment for large plants like the equipment used in blast furnaces of the steel industry.

Facilities used in public works especially water treatment plants, transportation infrastructure for secure and stable operation.

Wind power generation by making electrical products used for large scale wind generation like converter devices.

Robotics especially the MOTOMAN robot that is used for applications like:

Arc welding, LDC handling, spot welding, semi conductor handling and other activities

Lessons learnt

YASKAWA electric was relevant as it gives an insight into the future where populations are aging and robotics is needed to substitute human labor. System engineering is important as it may as well be applied in the maritime industry on ships and port terminals.

The global presence of YASKAWA in 28 different Countries in the Americas, Europe and Asia clearly showed the global stature of Japanese Industries and the need for multinational collaborations with mutual benefits as the case is with Sasakawa fellows.

Much of this technology especially Robotics and systems engineering are presently of much importance and potentially will be needed in the maritime industry especially on Port terminals and ships.

The founding of YASKAWA electrics in 1915 by Mr. Keichiro Yaskawa presented a very inspiring story. Over the years, the company has risen through the ranks to become the global multinational that it is which presented several lessons for the Sasakawa fellows. This therefore means that it takes hard work, commitment and long periods of flexibility to develop such multinationals.

The manufacturing process of some YASKAWA products which involves testing, final production, assembly and showrooms among other processes was a great learning experience of how manufacturing industries are operated.

YASKAWA electrics highlighted the central role played by Robots in many manufacturing Industries in how important they shall be in the future in our day to day lives.

A tour around the manufacturing plant revealed Robots that serve different purposes from taking pictures to playing musical instruments and playing pivotal roles in manufacturing.

On the other hand, a significant proportion of the language used during presentation was technical and thus: a common language between students and presenters was required to effectively grasp the technical ideas.

Conclusion

All in all, YASKAWA electrics was a great learning experience for the Sasakawa fellows especially with regard to Japan's manufacturing Industry. It manifested how Robots are central in manufacturing, the basics of system engineering and facilities used in public works. It

showed the global stature of Japanese industries and their need to create international mutual partnerships, and gave an overview of a classic manufacturing process.

YASKAWA Electric Corporation

Mr. KHUONG, Duy Hiep

On May 16th, all the 23 new 2013 Sasakawa Fellows paid the visit to Yaskawa Electric Corporation – the Head office in Kitakykushu. Before the visit, honestly, I did not have much knowledge on the Corporation in particular and about the robotics area in general. But, the trip did bring to us a lot of excitements and took us from this surprise to another. The one hour visit consisted of a general introduction including video watching about the Corporation and the guided factory tour.

Firstly, the representatives from YASKAWA Electric Corporation said quite a few welcoming words to the Sasakawa Fellows. He kindly showed the warm welcome and hospitality of the Corporation and expressed the wish to invite us to come back in 2015, when there will be a 100 year celebration anniversary of the Corporation. Through the video made for introduction, we were provided lots of information about the Corporation and its vision, mission and status. Just coming up with the idea to solve the problem of low birth rate and high labor cost, YASKAWA Corporation was founded 100 years ago and now becoming one of the leading company in the this technological area. I was quite interested to know that the term “Mechatronics” was created by Mr. Yaskawa in 1969 to encompass electronics, mechanics, and control. More or less 100 years passes, coming to this new era of development, the Group now expands and focuses in 03 main business domains which are: the Robotics Human Assist, the Environmental and Energy and the Mechatronics Solution. Among the 03 business fields of the Corporation, I put my most interest into the robot industry, or other name nowadays – Motoman. Since the first Motoman was introduced in 1977, the Corporation has made a long progress on electric industrial robot in Japan particularly and in the world generally. More than 2000 models have been produced to meet various needs in the domestic as well as global market which helps YASKAWA Group become the No.1 position in that field. It is no doubt to say that: Think about Motoman, think about YASKAWA Group.

After half an hour of sharing knowledge and information about the Group, we were taken for the factory tour around the Head Office. As I reported earlier, it was truly exciting for us through the introduction about the Corporation. Yet, when it came to the factory tour – where you could see the real production process, we got a ten times excitement than before. We visited production plant number 1 and 3 because the plant number 2 was being constructed for the anniversary in 2015. We could not hide our excitement and surprise when we observed the robot production line where hundreds of robots were making robots. Moreover, we came to the showroom and watched a lot of surprising performances of robots. They were playing drums, packing luggage, serving in a restaurant, taking photos, even performing the lottery. We were all watching every single movement of the robots, held our breath and said the same one word: Awesome!

The visit to YASKAWA Electric Corporation is successful thanks to the hospitality of the Group and the well organization of the OPRF. We all felt great, exciting and had the hope to come back doing business some day in the future.

May 17, 2013

Visiting
Furuno Electric Co. Ltd. - Miki Factory
Marine Technical College



Furuno Electric Co. Ltd. - Miki Factory

Marine Technical College



Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd, - Miki Factory

Mr. DAO, Tien Thanh

The Japan Field Study trip is very useful and valuable for us, WMU students, class of 2013. In the trip, we had the opportunity to visit many places in Japanese Maritime area as well as in Japanese industry such as factories, companies, or school. Among these places, visiting to Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd. Miki factory left me a really deep impression.

On 17th May morning, WMU Sasakawa fellows , class of 2013 arrived at Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd. Miki factory located in Miki City, Hyogo Japan at 9:30. The warm welcome from the company is our first impression about Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd, Miki Factory. Firstly, all of us gathered in the meeting room to take the introduction about the company. In the introduction, the information about history, organization, policy and products of the company was delivered to the audiences through a short video. From the introduction, we got the information of that the Miki Factory is FURUNO's main production facility in Japan and one of the largest plants in the world producing marine electronic equipment. From Navigation Equipment to Fishing Equipment, the Miki factory accounts for around 80% of FURUNO's total production. Later, we took a guided tour around the factory where the products are manufactured. We visited to logistic store, radar assembly and test area, fish searching equipment assembly and test area, transducer assembly and test area and production line of electronic devices. In every visit point, accompanying tour guide provided us the useful information relating to the product, from the information of composition and function of the products to the information of the procedure to produce it, also enthusiastically he answered all questions from visitors. After the guided tour, we got back the meeting room again for attending the question and answer session. Here all questions from WMU students relating to Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd, as well as Miki factory were answered adequately and satisfactorily by representatives of the company. Following the series of questions and answers, Mr. Ton Small, WMU registrar, presented a gift on behalf of WMU students to the factory in appreciation. We departed the factory at about 12:00 AM.

The visit to Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd. Miki factory gave us the unforgettable impression of the well-organized modern factory where leading electronic equipments in maritime industry are produced, especially the hospitality, sincerity and attitude of the people working there. As for me, it was really a nice memory.

Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd, - Miki Factory

Mr. NGUYEN, Dinh Thang

May 17th, 2013

The visit to FURUNO Electric Co., Ltd (FURUNO) on May 17th morning was a very good chance for us to get to know and understand more about one of the most famous company in the world producing various types of navigation and communication equipment in maritime industry.

The delegation of 23 students from 19 countries under Sasakawa Fellowship and OPRF's members were welcomed by key personnel of the MIKI factory in the city of Miki, Hyogo, Japan.

Founded in 1938 from practical fish finders, FURUNO has been developing to be the top company with hundreds products which are equipped on every vessel all over the world. Some of the main products are fish finder, radar, voyage data recorder, GPS plotter, automatic identification system, navigation systems for aircraft and satellite communications equipment and service. After the introduction about the company and Miki factory, a video with brief information of the company was presented. The delegation was divided into two groups accommodated by two factory's staff each to have the site visit of the factory.

Miki Factory is FURUNO's main production facility in Japan and one of the largest plants in the world producing marine electronic equipment. The factory accounts for about 80 % of FURUNO's total production in the total site of 67,000 m². It is said that the factory products around 500 products each year. In 2008 the total products was 51,000 but the figure decreased to 31,000 in 2010 due to the global economic crisis. In the last two years, the output of the company increased slightly and may reach the peak again in 2015.

In order to meet the customers' demand, the company has the global network of 20 factories and the worldwide distributors of almost 100. The policy of the company is to maintain products to meet customer's requirement. It was mentioned in the video that the company has the toolkit box which is always ready to travel with the technician whenever and wherever there is a need.

The three technical core competences are Sensing, Processing and Communication with the management principle that the happiness of its employees comes with the growth of a company. FURUNO has and will always work to coexist with the environment is the commitment of the company.

The short but courtesy visit ended with thanks from students and WMU's staff and a group photo.

Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd, - Miki Factory

Ms. SINEL, Ma. Soterania Mosqueda

The visit to Furuno was held on 17 May 2013.

The visit started with an orientation about the company, the host talked about the company profile, factory outline and the policy of the factory. The company has three technical core competences, namely, sensing, processing and communication.

The company was established in December 1979 and at present, it has five hundred fifty nine (559) employees. It is one of the World's Top 5 ISO 180-9001-2005 certified. According to them, the large investment of the company goes to research. The research is regarding technology related to devices, sensing, processing, and etc.

Furuno's produce equipment use on air, at sea, the road and for everyday life. Among its products are; Navigation Systems for Aircraft, Satellite Communications Equipment & Service; Automatic Identification System; Radar; Fish Finder/Sonar; Voyage Data Recorder; GPS Plotter; Multi Beam Sonar; GPS Steered Time and Frequency Generator; GPS Fixed Point Observation System; Wireless Handheld Terminal; Chemical Chemistry Analyzer; Ultra Bone Densimometer; Electronic Toll Collection System; GPS Receiver for Car Navigation System.

After the brief orientation about their companies, some Furuno officers and employees toured us around the factory. The group was divided into three. For our group, we first went to the production area, In the said area, there's a division which is responsible for Production Plan and the other division is the Marketing Department. According to them, the company just produces equipment according to customer's request. We also went to Purchasing Department wherein there are seven (7) processes involved, namely, BUY-ASSEMBLE-PRODUCE-FIX-INSPECT-PACK- AND SHIP.

We also went to Voice Recorder wherein all conversations are recorded. The fourth destination that we went to was the Radar Inspection, thereafter, we went to Warehouse/Packaging and the last that we visited was the Quality Control Department. After the tour around the factory, we gathered once again in the conference room for the questions and answer portion. Before we left, we had a group picture taken together with some Furuno's officers and staff.

It was indeed a memorable experience in the factory, the people are not only accommodating but you will learn a lot from them. The challenge that I think they have is the research part. But with their dedication, I know that they will produce more products which can help in our day to day activities.

Marine Technical College

Ms. MBANDI, Fiona Syovata

INTRODUCTION

The Sasakawa Fellowship class of 2013 began their trip from Sweden to Japan on 11th May 2013. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize themselves with Japan, its culture, custom and appreciate different areas of development by visiting various stakeholders associated with the maritime industry and The Nippon Foundation.

THE INSTITUTION

The Marine Technical College is one of the institutions we visited and is located in Kobe cosmopolitan port city, the fifth largest city in Japan and capital of Hyogo prefecture. This is only learning institution we visited and we were warmly received and welcomed by Professor Hikima and his team in the afternoon of 17th May 2013. This is an impressive college whose aims are to give vocational training for mariners, brush up technical knowledge and skills and carry out practical researches for technological development of mercantile marine. They use the following rallying call “Blue Peter”. A phrase borrowed from its use as International Signal flag, ‘P’. This symbol is used when the crew members have to return to the ship from the port to sail on. For the college “Blue Peter” means, ‘The return for all marine technicians to Marine Technical College to prepare for the voyage on his/her career path.

The college covers a big area and for easy communication, the group was subdivided into three smaller groups and we were given comprehensive tour into the training rooms, laboratories, simulator centres by the instructors and with the use of short demonstration of each equipment, the students were able to have a class experience, while the instructors explained and answered questions accordingly. The training programs vary from newcomer education which comprises of basic and advanced navigation/engineering class to professional upgrading for crew members, in addition other courses for university graduates to acquire 3rd grade maritime license officer, vocational courses for ship officers engaged in domestic voyages, ocean going key officer course, pilot training and various engineering courses.

There is a special course of the international cooperation for graduates from developing countries to get academic and skills of a commercial ship education facility. This facility has benefited graduates from all the regions and most countries represented by the Sasakawa Fellowship class 2013.

The mood of the whole visit was very cordial and there was a general feeling of excitement having successfully completed the weeklong very busy trip. We were expecting a sumptuous farewell dinner that night and it our host Professor Hikima who promised an entertaining evening as we bade farewell to the exciting lecturers.

CONCLUSION

The future Sasakawa fellows will benefit even more by visiting additional maritime training institutions to appreciate the effort it has taken Japan to reach high maritime development. Seafarers must acquire quality education to serve the country in an economically effective manner and for continued cooperation and hoped to visit Japan in a near future.

This was indeed a very educative trip and we left feeling humbled by generosity of the Professor Hikima and his team and by extension the people of Japan for their time, funds and priceless advice.

Marine Technical College

Mr. PISHENIN, Igor

I am particularly interested to visit the Marine Technical College as well as the training of seafarers, this is my specialty.

I am very pleased and grateful that the College has been included in the program of the visit, it helped me and my colleagues, to examine all aspects of the marine industry in Japan.

As noted in the Maritime Bureau, and then further explained Mr. Kudo, Japan training of seafarers is not a priority. Prepare to be mainly used on domestic routes. Of course, the sailors get the necessary knowledge and can work all over the world in different positions, but given the specificity of work the sea and the level of remuneration for the residents of Japan, it is not attractive.

As with all other enterprises, us expected and pre-prepared for our reception. The presentation, conducted by head of College, helped to understand the system of training of seafarers in Japan. Unfortunately, the room where the presentation was held, not very suited for such events. Lecturer located at one end, and the screen on which the slides are projected in the opposite side of the room. The screen was miles away, making it difficult to read slides to the audience. But it's all offset, handed out in advance the slides, which were each in a separate folder. I especially want to mention director of the college, which is very interesting talks, providing examples and sometimes joking and playfully gave a presentation. After the presentation, we went to see the College. Was very well done, that was shared by the group that helped look better material and technical base.

Unfortunately the classes, where classes are held we were not shown. For sure, my colleagues would be interested in it.

First there was the engine room simulator is presented with a pseudo consoles. The simulator fully simulates the real engine room of the ship. It can be worked out many of the tasks faced by the engineers daily. Working on such a simulator will help students in the future, feel more confident in the engine compartment while carrying engineering watch on a real ship. The simulator to see the video control, students' work, which is very important. There is also a projector that will make out features of the problem and analyze the collective work. The woman who presented a simulator, well versed in it. Unfortunately, she was not able to answer general questions, such as: company manufacturer who approved simulator, when the renewal of software trainer who checked the knowledge of instructors, where she was trained for this type of simulator.

After that, we visited the laboratory with real engines of and a small workshop for mechanics. Certainly, a small amount of visual exhibits for mechanics compensated visiting repair workshops and shipyards.

After, we headed to the navigation bridge simulator, a visualization of 240 degrees. The presented simulator is fully emitted real bridge of the ship. It is possible to work out any problems that occur every day navigation officer, while carrying navigational watch. The simulator also allows you to simulate different models of ships and different areas of navigation. Our group had the opportunity to find himself on the tanker in the three hundred thousand tons.

The ship approached the coast of Japan. Separately, it should be noted that the visualization was carried out through the projector. The height of the screen, more than five meters in height. To date, few people can afford such a visualization. The woman, who represented the simulator, it is well oriented, but, unfortunately, also failed to answer general questions, such as who coordinated and approved Tasks for the training, who recognized and endorsed the navigation simulator, who approved models of ships, when it was spent the last update, and who the manufacturer.

After that, the class has been shown, which is used for training in personal survival and rigging workshop. The equipment presented gives a very superficial understanding of these issues. Separately, the teacher was mentioned as being held and training in personal survival, survival craft, and advanced training in fire, in accordance with the requirements of the STCW Convention. Where else needed equipment, he could not explain. Also provided information that is used ground water and fire department for training workshops.

After that, we visited the ECDIS simulator, which was located in a separate class and represented the six single-user version, which help the students to understand his work. Unfortunately, such equipment can not be used as a simulator, as it is only single-user version. The instructor, who represented the simulator, well versed in the simulator. At a more detailed questions regarding the approval of equipment, preparation and approval of the tasks of special training for instructors, able to answer just another teacher, who was specially invited.

Also, we saw one of several small navigational bridges by TRANSAS. Visualization was performed using three monitors are small. Navigation bridge was equipped with controls panel of the ship.

After that, we went back to the room where the presentation was held and conducted a question and answer session. Unfortunately, we did not show GMDSS simulator, which is also a must for training navigators. The teacher said that there is a simulator, but because of the small amount of time it did not show.

To sum up, we should note the following. Training equipment allows the College to train students as seafarers same level of operation and management in accordance with the requirements of the STCW Convention. Certainly, in the preparation of sailors management level, will be attracted more qualified staff (captains and chief engineers with extensive experience in the fleet).

Attending college for me was very helpful. The entire trip was based on the experience of high-tech, high-quality labor and manufacturing high quality products. As the practices and experiences of other countries to train seafarers released not very many resources and attention. It seemed to me, the College needs a bit more resources to the development of material and technical base. Certainly, more closely with the maritime industry, the college will continue to develop and evolve, which is especially difficult for a small number of students.

Despite some aspects of working moments, I loved it. Hopefully in the future I will have the opportunity to visit other maritime training institutions in Japan.

Marine Technical College

Mr. TEINIU, Eric Jeriel

At the outset, I wish to thank Dr. Sasakawa and staffs of The Nippon Foundation for their unrelentingly efforts in facilitating this pleasant field trip. This short report however, purports to give a brief overview of the general observation carry out during the site visit that we have had on May 17, 2013 at the Maritime Technical College (MTC).

We felt immensely privileged to be offered an opportunity to visit the College and directly interact with those lecturers by acquainting ourselves with new ideas and knowledge on how the college was structured, the varies of courses offered and their admission prerequisite requirements. Lecturers and Professors were really helpful by enlightening us by way of practical illustration and demonstration in each unit. We have noticed that those professors and lecturers were so superior, knowledgeable and also skillful in their own expertise. The Staffs at the college were fantastic in how they managed to use those newly invented technologies by incorporating them into their course syllabus and executing them practically to the students.

MTC accommodating international students:

MTC accommodated students all over the world including the South Pacific. The inclination of those cheerful staffs and students struck me as warm and caring people, something that I was accustomed to, having been brought up in the Pacific. Furthermore MTC as far as we were told, was such a mixture of culture and tradition mingle up together in one particular atmosphere in which students from other countries came to enroll and undertake their studies there.

MTC generally was fantastic by making sure all nationals and international students were taken care of. The course itself were revised and upgraded to suit international standard which was quite impressive. As international students they had to contend with understanding the Japan educational system which was very well structured, and responded and from practical perspective, they relied heavily on their well trained experts from those reputable industries. Consequently we all benefited by learning from the lecturers and Professors during the visit.

MTC as a key model institution:

MTC is a key model institution other maritime nations countries can adopt to incorporate in their own Maritime Institutional structure and set up. Our visit to MTC is in fact a bonus for most of us.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

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Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Ms.VIGGIANO, Analia Soledad

Our field study trip to Japan as Sasakawa fellow students was the most exiting trip ever. On 11 May 2013 we departed from Copenhagen Airport via Amsterdam, arriving in Narita International Airport on 12 May at 0845, where we were received by Mr. Ichikawa, Ms Miyoku and Mr. Kudo who join us latter in the Hotel. This was the beginning of our awesome trip always in the company of these great hosts.

First, we were housed in Tokyo where we had the opportunity to know the Japanese capital city. In addition, we went to see the Tokyo Gate Bridge, the imposing Tokyo Skytree with an amazing view of the complete city since 4500 meters. After that we visited the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT). This visit allowed us to get a complete idea how this Ministry trough Maritime Bureau manages all the maritime issues regarding safety, security and environmental protection.

In the evening, we were kindly welcomed in a reception party where we were able to interact with people from the different maritime sectors sharing information, experience and creating a strong contacts network that will be perdurable, enhancing our human relationship for all around the world.

In our third and last day in Tokyo, we visited Niigata Power Systems plant and The Nippon Foundation building. Unfortunately, because of previous arrangement, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa was not present in that place. However, we were warmly received by Mr. Mitsuyuki UNNO who gave us the opportunity to introduce our selves and to have time together to talk and exchange ideas.

After Tokyo, we took a domestic flight from Haneda Airport to Oita. In this city we visited the Miura Shipbuilding. This visit was so interesting for all of us because here we could see almost the complete process for a ship to be build. Later on, we went to a Japanese style hotel where we had the unique experience to sleep in a futon and to eat Japanese food with chopstix sitting in the floor.

Furthermore, we visited more Japanese industries such as NISSAN Motor Kyushu Co., YASKAWA Electric Corporation and FURUNO Electric Co. In all those places we could appreciate the advance technology that Japan has as well as the high level of organization and compromise with their jobs. Additionally, we visited the Marine Technical College which also has same characteristics regarding technology and organization reflecting for instance in the sophisticated simulators of navigation and engine.

In addition, we sailed overnight in a ferry from Osaka to Kobe where we were translated to Kyoto. In this place we visited impressive touristic and cultural places such as Nijo Castle; Kinkaku-ji Temple and Kiyomizu-dera Temple, receiving always the interesting explanation given by Ms. Miyoku.

To sum up, during our field study trip to Japan, we all had the opportunity to know this wonderful country, developing its well organized society and the relevant maritime institutions, which enhance our knowledge about your culture as well as your expertise in the maritime domain. Consequently, this field trip gave us the chance to growing up in a professional and

personal level, contributing to enforce our bonds and creating a network among Sasakawa fellows and all the professionals that we meet during the trip.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. ISLAM, Md. Nazrul

11 May 2013 will be marked as a red letter day in my life. This day I started journey for visiting Japan for which I dreamt of whole life. It is really a dream come true. I heard about the mighty Japan from my colleagues and friends who visited Japan before and from the text book of my previous educational life in my home country Bangladesh. This time I had the great opportunity to explore the beautiful Japan.

The first thing that impressed me more is the hospitality and polite Japanese culture. Everybody from OPRF staff to common Japanese people offered great hospitability to us. The ministry of Land, Infrastructure, transport & tourism gave us a grand welcome reception at Tokai university club on 13th May. We felt honored because lot of Japanese government high officials, Industry managers and businessmen were present at that party and warmly welcomed us spending their time. The factories, tourists' attractive places we visited gave warm reception to all of us. The hotel arrangement, food and transport arrangement was simply awesome.

I will remember Japan for her heavy industries and their world renowned management system. From ship building to transport industry to Electronics industry they are simply the world leader. They have not only established lot of industries but also maintaining and managing them very efficiently over the years. They invented some world famous management techniques including Just in time system (JIT) for proper management of the industries. Japanese people are very hard working. We saw in NISSAN motors kyushu co ltd that people and robots are working in parallel in two different production lines. It was astonishing that speeds of the both two production lines are almost same. Human beings are competing with robot there. We were told that staffs are working on four hours a shift there and in these four hours they do nothing without working. It seems like that human being are turning robot for that four hours of their duty period which is astonishing.

Japanese products are well known for their quality and durability. In today's competitive world Japanese industries are market leader of their products due to their quality. They do not make any compromise in the question of quality. While visiting Nigata power systems co ltd, Yaskawa Electric corporations and Furuno Electric co ltd, the speaker mentioned that quality has no limit. They are continuously trying to develop the quality of their products and carrying out R&D works for new technology and innovations. They are also very loyal to their customers. While visiting NISSAN motor Kyushu ltd, the managers said they withdraw millions of cars of a particular model due to some future suspected faults in the brake system. They said that those cars will successfully run on the road without accident but they are not satisfied with some elements of the brake system. They could do it because they are dedicated to their customers.

Besides industries, Japan is remarkable for their infrastructure, robust transport system and architecture. As there are lot of mountains and hilly region in Japan, most people live in densely populated urban region. But I am surprised that there is almost no traffic congestion, most of the people are using train and public transports are well managed. The sky scrapers, flyovers, bridges, Tokyo sky tree and other architecture are showing Japanese aristocracy.

Japan is rich in their culture, heritage, history and tourism. I will never forget the Veppu city, it's hot springs and the hotel we resided in Veppu city. The ocean view from my hotel room and the hot springs was mind blowing. We led a traditional Japanese life here with unforgettable

Japanese dinner and Japanese dress. The way Japanese people greet each other is amazing and it shows lot of love & mutual respects.

Actually Japan FS trip was once in a life time experience. We learned lot of things regarding our studies in WMU and regarding our profession. I think we can use this knowledge in our workplaces back to our countries and surely one of the biggest personal achievements. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to OPRF, The Nippon Foundation, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, MLIT, Japanese Government and people of Japan for creating this great opportunity to visit Japan, the pride of Asia.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. EUGENE THOMAS, Ngong Amaazee

This memorable trip commenced on the 12th of May 2013 at about 845 am after a safe flight from Copenhagen to Amsterdam Holland and to Narita international Airport Japan. Upon arrival we were given a warm welcome by Shin and Miyo who had been waiting for our arrival with a standby bus which took us through an exciting ride from Narita to Tokyo considering the fact that it was my first time of visiting Japan what I could first notice was green vegetation everywhere in Japan giving a beautifying scenario and showing a concern for the environment.

After about one and a half hour we arrived Tokyo and went directly to Royal Park Shidome Tower where we were to lodge. We immediately had an orientation session on an outlook of the entire field studies and the rest of the day was left to us to relax and get set for the main study trip.

Academically and professionally, my impressions were and are still very satisfactory with regards to the visit to the following institutions in Japan. With regards to the functioning of the NIPPON FOUNDATION/OPRF we were opportune to visit the Foundation on the 14 may 2013 wherein we were warmly received and given a lecture on its functioning achievements and future goals which when combined with our previous visit to the MLIT enhanced our understanding of the extent of cooperation in the improvement of the maritime domain in Japan. Our visit to the Nippon Foundation equally gave us the golden opportunity to see where decisions are being taken to ensure that we benefit from this lucky and wonderful opportunity as Sasakawa fellowship students.

The visits to the Nigata Power Systems, Miura Shipbuilding co Ltd, Yaskawa Electric Corporation and Furuno Electric co Ltd was a formidable experience and an insight Japans might in the Shipbuilding technological domain was equally exploited and it gave us a practical knowledge of how Ships are constructed alongside their accessories which cannot be undermined as maritime affairs students. At the Nissan Motor Kyushu plant we had the once in a life time opportunity to see how cars are being manufactured but what was most educative here was a practical lecture on the inter relationship and importance of multimodal transport in international trade

Although most of the afore mentioned institutions served as training for us, a more direct form was via our visit to the Marine technical college Kobe wherein various models of training were made known to us ranging from short courses for seafarers and diploma courses. We were also conducted through a parade of the various simulators in the college which was also very interesting

Japans technological advancement has made it a great touristic nation. This could be confirmed by our visit to the Tokyo Sky tree which is the tallest building in the world. There, we could see tourists from all parts of the World and equally our visits to the niijo castle, Kinkaku-ji temple and the view of the Golden pavilion and the Kiyomizu-dera Temple also had a great and amazing revelation of Japanese cultural wealth and touristic capabilities.

In all I will end up by saying that the field studies was very successful and having had vast knowledge not only of the Japanese maritime cluster and functional system and also Japanese geopolitical social and economic advancements and diversities I am very certain that this will

help me in my academic and professional life upon graduation from WMU and I will forever remain indebted to Nippon foundation,OPRF and most especially Dr Sasakawa for this golden exposure.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. MOHAMED IBRAHIM, Amr Mohamed Monir Anwar

When I first got approved for the Sasakawa fellow ship, one of the first I told was a friend of mine who was a Sasakawa fellow himself in 2003. The first thing he told me that I will get to go Japan for a field study trip, he started to tell about this trip, he made me feel very anxious for this trip and looking forward to it even before I arrive to Sweden.

The preparation for the trip started from the second week we arrived to Sweden, when I spoke with Sasakawa fellows from class of 2012, made me make a mental picture of how the trip will be, I even started thinking about the gifts I will bring back from there.

The dream was coming true one day when I received an email from Ton Smaal organizing the briefing session for the trip. The days followed by and the day had finally came, it all started when we met all together in Copenhagen airport well before the flight, just to organize ourselves. We took the KLM flight to Netherlands and connected to Tokyo airport. It was a long flight (11 hours) but it was eased by the company of good friends.

When we arrived Tokyo, and after passing the passport check, we decided to regroup before the custom clearance so that we regroup and exit all together as to meet Shin as one group to leave a good impression. It was then we met Miyo, I was personally taken by welcoming spirit and from what I experienced later dealing with Japanese people, she was a well representative for the Japanese people, not to mention Shin, he was energetic and helpful as ever.

The field trip had officially started by now, but before I go on I would like to mention that I will not speak about the places that we visited or the exciting things we have experienced, this side will be covered thoroughly by my colleagues. I would like to speak about the Japan and the Japanese people from a personal perspective.

Japan is a breath-taking country, a country that when visited for the first time will strike you for the first impression. Normally after a 20+ hours of travelling the need to rest is essential, but with what I saw when I left the airport, I decided that there were no time for sleeping and I can sleep as much as I want when I go back to Sweden.

I would like to state here some of the things that caught my attention and made me think the world of Japan. This list is not limited to what it holds; on the contrary, it exceeds it to beyond imagination.

- Extreme politeness

It is shocking how a human being can be this polite under all circumstances, morning , evening, on the street, walking , driving or even sleeping in the underground.

- Attention to the details

Everything is done to the outmost detail with almost perfection, even if it is a temporary thing like road maintenance or building up scaffolding.

- Safety attitude

The safety of the people is a priority in the Japanese community; it transferred from being a personal attitude to become a safety culture that every person in the community is practicing.

- Usage of space

I noticed to my amazement that the Japanese made full usage of whatever space they have, especially in a busy city like Tokyo, everything is squeezed in place and allot of spaces is being used for more than one purpose.

- Discipline and courtesy

Very high levels of discipline were noticed on the streets beside the courtesy that was shown to us as guests or foreigners.

- Traditions and customs

Japan is the nation of tradition and customs, actually this point should have come on the top of this list, because I think what really makes Japan different than any other country in their insistence and ability on keeping their tradition and customs live and in practice from one generation to another. This was experienced by us when we stayed in the traditional Japanese hotel in Beppu and enjoying the Japanese dinner and spending the night in a traditional Japanese furnished room.

I can go on forever and still not cover all what I have experienced in this trip, but what I can express is that this was a trip of a life time that I do not think I will have the chance to do it again in the near future, not to add that now I have a lot to say to my children when they grow up.

Finally, I cannot thank Dr.Sasakawa enough for giving us this opportunity and I would have thanked him in person if I had the chance to meet him. Also I would like to thank Shin and Miyo who tried their best to direct this trip in the smoothest way possible. Last but not least, I would like to thank Japan and the Japanese people for giving us the trip of our lives.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. GHEBREMARIAM, Jenay Ghebregherghish

Over view of the field study

Field Studies are a key component of the World Maritime University. Particularly the field study to Japan subsidised by Nippon Foundation arranged by the Oceanic Policy Research and Foundation of Japan (OPRF) is one of the best programme that found to be very helpful to enhance, deepen and broaden the knowledge of the SASAKAWA fellow students who are currently studying different specializations in the World Maritime University. In addition to this, it was a great opportunity to visit the head office of the Nippon foundation and above all getting familiarised and learning about Japanese culture and history. Total of 23 SASAKAWA fellows students from 19 different countries had get a chance to visit Japan and to gain inspiring experience and ideas from the different maritime organizations, companies and academic institutions.

And during the visit all the students were happy and satisfied with the arrangement and they had shown their great interest in each places visited by making a lot of question during the lecture presentations as well as on site visits.

The visit was well organized and tightly scheduled on this fact a lot would have been explained however, due to the limited scope of the report, only summary of the some places and most interesting events are going to be reported from the records or notes taken by student during the field study.

Places Visited and Impressions

It was on 11 may 2013 that 23 students accompanied by Mr Ton Samal from World Maritime University located in Malmo, Sweden had travelled to Tokyo Japan for the purpose of field study visit. After arriving at Narita airport, on 12 may 2013, students travelled by bus to their hotel where they are supposed to get accommodated that is Royal Park Shiodome Tower. The accommodation of the hotel and the services given was something unique being the best experience for most of the students. After that short orientation and an overview of the programme was explained by Executive director of Ocean Policy Research Foundation Mr Eisuke Kudo and Coordinator of OPRF Mr. Shinichi Ichikawa.

A. Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

The Programme starts on 13 May 2013 initially by visiting to the Tokyo Gate Bridge and then to the Tokyo Sky tree. Climbing to the Tokyo SKYTREE TOWER 634 Meters height` of Japan, Second Tallest Tower in the World , after ``Burj khalifa of Dubai 828 Meters`` was a great experience for all the students. And every student had enjoyed the beauty of Tokyo observing standing at the tip of the tower.

During the afternoon time of this day according to the programme the visit was to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

First a small orientation was given by Mr. Tomotsugu NOMA then later Welcome speech was given by Mr Masato MORI the Director General of the Maritime Bureau. Next greeting representing the students was given by Mr Jenay Ghebregherghish, from Eritrea which is a new member country to the SASAKAWA fellowship award. Taking the opportunity he forwarded sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Transport Infrastructure and Tourism of Japan and affiliated organizations, for their warm

welcoming and hospitality and he thanked the sponsors of the studies Nippon foundation the OPRF, explaining that that without scholarship patrons like them there would be many professionals who wouldn't have been able to pursue the specialization they had dreamed off. He also added that the exposure and information gained will go a long way in equipping the students in the future.

Then after presentation and important information about the MLIT was given on power point slide. The main facts about Japan on Maritime transport were explained and students had learned that more than 99 per cent of all imports and exports of Japan pass through the countries ports and harbours. In addition to this the Bureaus and external organs of MLIT with organisational structure including the division on the ministry was explained to the students. The question and answering session was one that students learn a lot, and it was asked that how Japan being the most modern country with a lot of transport modes to manage decided to the transport, infrastructure and tourism are under one ministry instead of being independent ministries. At last a souvenir was given by Mr Jenay Ghebregerhish on behalf of the WMU to the MLIT.

B. Niigata Power Systems and Nippon Foundation Building

On 14 May 2013 in the morning the visit was to the earth friendly clean power Niigata located in Ohta, that is about 2 hour drive from Tokyo, is an industrial plant well known on manufacturing of Internal Combustion engines ,castings and Gas turbines. The company have 960 employees and 15 domestic sales offices. And students were guided to visit the manufacturing site of the company while explanation was given by experts. The company manufactures Small size engines, which are highly used in small ships generators aboard ships land generators and land pumps, medium size diesel engines, gas engines Rail way car diesel engines, Z-peller which is the trade mark product that is only known in Japan etc. Students especially those who had good technical background in engineering and hard science had asked a lot of question for further briefing on the different range of products.

In the afternoon time of the same day, students arrived in the Nippon foundation building located in Tokyo. At that moment, though the students would have loved the presence of Chairman Nippon Foundation to see him in person, Executive Director of the Nippon foundation Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno had given his speech to students on behalf of Mr. Yohei SASAKAWA. Mr Unno stated to the students that they are the most lucky. When the students where formally introducing themselves , Mr Unno said he knows and pictured out every students profile as he had been one of those who were to decide and select the applicant students to be considered for the fellowship. At last group photo was taken and programme was finished.

C. Miura Ship Building Company

On 15 May 2013 baggage of the students was transferred from Tokyo to Kobe and flight was from Haneda airport to Oita airport. After arriving in Beppu city the visit was arranged to Miura ship building company. The Miura ship building centre has a yard length of 125m x 30 meters and all the blocks are built inside. They have a huge 150 ton crane that is used for installing of main engine unit on ship. And they make complete service after delivery of the vessel on the floating dock. I addition to this they have a privately owned electrical facility and a solar photovoltaic unit equipped dock house. The Miura ship building build varities of ships such as Oil tanker, LPG Carrier, General cargo ship, Container ships, Ferry /Ro –Ro ships, etc . From the overall observation Miura ship building company was a place where students learn that how Japanese ship

building industry had able to keep its competitiveness among all the rivals in the world. The excellent technical engineers and crafts men, High quality technologies and top level quality management system were continually explained to the students as a key factor of ensuring highest quality product of Japanese ships in the world.

The students visited the ship yard , the mechanical work shop and the main design centre office where the entire initial computer aided design and drawing is done. It was quite an excellent visit to see all the concept of naval architecture practically. During the visit Mr Eisuke Kudo as a naval expert is giving further explanations for students in every question if the students seem they don't clearly understand the given answers from the company experts.

D. NISSAN Motor Kyushu Co.Ltd Plant and YASAKAWA Electric Corporation

On 16 May 2013 students travelled by Bus to Nissan Motor Corporation. The general profile with worldwide Nissan branch companies and overall manufacturing and production statistical explanation was presented to the students. At the end they had visited the production plant which is the most surprising automated production where almost everything is done by robot. Everybody interested to record a video however it is not allowed to take pictures or videos by the company rule. The car body assembling system and the rate of production was explained by the technical experts of the company. This was one of the interesting sites of the visit in Japan that draw student's attention.

On the same day in the afternoon, again there was a visit to YASAKAWA Electric Corporation. Students where so impressed by the YASAKAWA electric corporation products which seem a company that students highly rated visit out of all the visited companies This company technology products is believed to solve the emerging global problems. It is a company that operates under a vision of producing robots closer to humans. YASAKAWA is to celebrate its century in 2015. The company is a source of innovation, it was a surprise to most of the students when it was explained in the lecture presentation that the term MECHATRONICS was initially evolved as a concept in this company which is now used worldwide. This industry manufactures different size and types of robots which are applied at home and at work. Students had able to see some robot performance like those who can play music and can pack a baggage. YASAKAWA was a wonderland of robot technology.

E. FURUNO Electric company and Marine Technical College

The night of 16-17 May 2013 was spent on voyage by Hankyu ferry from Beppu city Oita to Osaka. During the voyage Mr Eisuke Kudo had prepared a party to the students, snacks and drinks where served where everybody noted the event as delight full memorable night.

On 17 May morning students arrived at the Izumiotsu terminal and made a tour in the ferry engine room while briefing was given by the captain and chief engineer of the ship. After that departure was by bus to Kobe to the Furuno electric company. Furuno was known for producing high performance electronic equipment such as Radar, GPS, Sonar, Monitors, NAVnet 3D series, Compass and many other communication facilities. The students had also visited production centre of the company and test for the newly produced ship antennas had been showed to students to have a broad understanding and as an example that FURUNO counter check its end products before package a lot of Questions

After that we visited the Marine technical college that provides various education training/courses from newcomer education, qualification education, practical education/training for ship operation, to pilot training education. During the visit lecture was given to the students by previous WMU professor and current rector of the college proff. Toshio Hikima and students had got a chance to look over the class room lectures and all simulation systems which the college used to train its students.

F. Historical and Cultural Places

The students had got a special opportunity to visit different historical place and city tour parallel to the academic programmes. For example in Tokyo they had made bust tour and visit Tokyo Tower, Kasumigasaki area , Imperial Place the National Diet Building, Miki factory in Kobe, Hakushika Sake in Kobe etc.

On 18 May student depart by bus from the prestige Hotel Anna Crown Plaza, Kobe to visit historical sites such as Nijo castle, Kinkaku Ki Temple (Golden Pavilion),Kiyomizu-dera Temple etc. On 19 May 2013 in the morning at 10:30 all the students depart from Kansai International airport back to Copen Hagen via Amsterdam airport.

Conclusion

To conclude the Field Study Trip in Japan fare well dinner was hosted by OPRF, and delegates of companies, SASAKAWA fellows, government officials, Students etc. had attended. On evaluating the field study trip, during the visit all the students were happy and satisfied with the arrangement and they had shown their great interest in each places visited. The field study was well programmed and the services given such as accommodation in hotel, transport, and guidance everything was best. At last it is recommended that field study had always to be continued as far as it is important to the students to reinforce their relation among them as well as to familiarize and strengthen their attachment with the OPRF as well as Japan.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. AYEKPLE, Timothy Kwami

Students of class of 2013 Sasakawa class is made up of 23 from 19 nationalities. We began the trip accompanied by the Registrar of the World Maritime University, Mr. Tom Smaal. We set off from Malmo, Sweden on the 11th of May 2013 by train to Kastrup, Copenhagen airport and then transited through Schiphol airport in Amsterdam to Narita International airport Tokyo Japan where Mr. Shin Ichikawa of OPRF and our tour guide were waiting to give us our first big welcome.

We had an orientation and then lunch and checked-in in our Royal Park Shiodome Tower hotel rooms. Some of the interesting and very educative places visited were the Tokyo Gate Bridge, Tokyo Sky Tree, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Courtesy visit to Maritime Bureau. We had hearty welcome wherever we went, in the evening of Monday 13th may, there was a big welcome reception where invited guests were from stakeholders in the Maritime Industry in Japan, former Alumni of WMU, former lecturers and many more, there were over 100 invited guests and this gave us the opportunity to interact with the Japanese society.

Other places visited were Niigata Power Systems where we had the first- hand experience in seeing how marine engines were designed, built and tested, we also saw the making and testing of propellers and many other parts. The visit was very educative. Later in day two, we had the opportunity to visit The Nippon Foundation Building where we were hosted by the Executive Director of the Foundation, Mr. Mitsujuki Unno. It was memorable and the best of the opportunities to see where our assistance came from.

The next was our visit to the Miura ship building Co. Ltd. We were given a real opportunity where we were allowed to tour the yard and see workers on duty building ships and preparing materials; we saw the design stages and went through all the preparatory stages. One wonderful part is the authorities allowed us to take pictures. It was one of the high points of the trip.

Nissan Motors in Kyushu, Yaskawa Electric Company and Kokura Castle were the wonderful places that we visited on day 5. The memories cannot escape my mind of what we saw. Day 6 saw us in Furuno Electric Co. Ltd and from the evening of day 5 to the morning of day 6, we were onboard a ferry from Shin-moji Terminal at Hankyu Ferry Co., Ltd to Izumiotsu terminal, later in the morning we were allowed to see tour the engine room. During the transit from Shin-moji terminal to Izumiotsu terminal, was an evening of partying organized by Mr. Kudo and Mr. Ichikawa. Furuno Electric Co., Ltd, Marine Technical College and the beautiful scenery of Kobe City were also memorable.

It must be stated that the Japanese culture was displayed wherever went and the warm reception of all places that we went either formally or informally cannot be over looked. We saw happy, warm people who accepted us everywhere we went either as individuals or in a group.

Day 7 saw us in Nijo Castle; Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Kiyomizu-dera Temple and the grand farewell reception in our honour was the crowning of the field study. All the places that we visited, we had gifts showered on us.

Day 8 saw us returning to Sweden to continue with our studies. For all the wonderful days that we were in Japan, we were given the best of hospitality that there is, the hotel rooms were more than my expectation, I saw many new things for the first time in my life, the field study was worth it and lived up to my wildest imagination.

I will therefore, like to seize this opportunity to thank Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, the organizers of the field studies, OPRF, Nippon Foundation and everyone associated with the organization for the fine touch and seriousness attached to the perfect trip. Although we missed Chairman Dr. Yohei Sasakawa narrowly, we will forever be grateful to him, I wish him good health, prosperity and long life.

Thank you.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. SANTOS SOLORZANO, Juan Francisco

1. The Japan Visit was conducted from 12–19th of May. The trip was organized for World Maritime University (WMU) Sasakawa Fellowship students of Class 2013, by the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF). The study trip was arranged and developed in order such that students were able to see the administrative side of some Governmental offices, different Japanese industries (Automobile, Maritime, Technology and Educational industries) and the rich and unique cultural heritage of the noble people of Japan.
2. The visit enabled the 2013 Sasakawa Fellows to witness the strong bond between Government agencies and different industries in order to achieve their common objective which is the sustainable development of the country. The Japanese model of industrial growth has become an example to the rest of the world. The technological area was covered by visiting Shipyards, Marine Engine Industry, Robotics and state of the art Nissan facilities.
3. The cultural and leisure part was covered with the visit to Kyoto and nearby places, this part of the visit enabled the Sasakawa Fellows to understand the worth and value of Japanese people its culture but most important the values, morals and ethics that rule this great nation. It can be stated that the field trip has accomplished all its training value, which the host country and organization (OPRF) have aimed to achieve. Overall rating is a very well-coordinated, organized and planed Field Trip to Japan.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. PANKAJAKSHA WARRIER, Rajesh

1. The Japan Field Study Trip was conducted from 12 – 19 May 13. The study trip was organised for WMU Sasakawa Fellowship students of Class 2013, by the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF). The study trip was arranged in such a manner where the students were able to witness the administrative setup of the governmental organs, the industrial ingenuity and the rich cultural heritage of Japan. It was a sumptuous mixture of all blends.

2. The visit enabled the students to see the strong bond between the policy makers and the industries for achieving the ultimate goal of development of the nation. The Japanese model of industrial growth has become a role model for the rest of the world. From the technological angle the students were made abreast with technological innovativeness in the field of heavy engineering, ship building, automobile manufacturing and the robotics.

3. As far as the rich cultural heritage of Japan is concerned, the visit to Kyoto and adjacent places enabled us to understand the worth of Japanese civilisation and also about the values and principles that were attached to the life.

4. In a nutshell, it can be stated that the field study trip has derived all its training value that the organisers have aimed to achieve. Overall a very well-coordinated and ably conducted field study trip.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Ms. ADITIRTA, Efa Rosida Dwi

On 12 – 19th May 2013, 23 WMU Sasakawa Fellowship, Class of 2013, including me, had opportunity to visit Japan for conducting Japan Field Study Trip. This “Japan Field Study Trip was subsidized by the Nippon Foundation with assistance funds derived from proceeds of motorboat racing.

We arrived in Japan on Sunday 12th May 2013, after taking approximately 15 hours flight from Kastrup Airport, Copenhagen to Narita Airport, Tokyo. Despite of long hours of flight, all of us didn't feel tired but excited. For most of us, it was the first time to visit Japan. However, for me it was my second visit. Even though it was my second visit, I was as excited as other fellows to visit Japan. It is because Japan is one of developed country with vast growth economic and technology. Nevertheless, it does not turn Japanese people to forget their root and culture. This fact made me always interested to broad my knowledge about Japan; how they develop their economic and technology, without leaving their original norms and values.

In Tokyo, we stayed in Royal Park Shiodome Tower. It is quite luxurious hotel for us. 23 WMU Sasakawa Fellowship felt that we were being well-treated. The second day of our visit, we were taken to the highest tower of the world, Tokyo Sky Tree. We were amazed by its high and design. We were lucky to have opportunity to climb up to the high of 634 meters above sea level. It was exquisite experience. Not only that, we were welcomed by very nice welcome reception. We had opportunity to meet many people who deal with maritime field in Japan. We got a lot of knowledge during our conversation with them.

In our third day, we visited Niigata Power Systems Co, Ltd. It was interesting to see how machines for vessel are produced. After long day of journey, we finally got a chance to visit The Nippon Foundation Building. Unfortunately we couldn't meet Mr. Yohei Sasakawa in this visit. However, in the meeting with the Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, we were able to utter our grateful for being chosen as WMU Sasakawa Fellowships.

The fourth day of our visit, we flew to Oita. In this place, we visited Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. For some of fellow who never seen how the ship is built, it was a great experience. We could have tour in shipyard and looked at very close to ship building process. Not only we had knowledge in Ship building matters, we also had opportunity to experience one of Japanese culture by staying in Japanese style hotel in Beppu. We ate, slept and tried sauna in Japanese style.

Visiting Nissan Motor Kyusho Co.Ltd. and Yaskawa Electric Corporation, we did in the fifth day. We were amazed by advanced technology in Japan. In this day, we also had a chance to cruise with ship of Hankyu Ferry Co., Ltd from Kitakyushu to Osaka. The next day before our arrival, we were able to have tour in Engine room. After our arrival in Osaka, we went to Kobe to visit Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd and Marine Technical College.

In seventh day of our visit, we visited Nijo Castle, Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion) and Kiyomizu-dera Temple in Kyoto. In the evening, Farewell reception was held for us. It meant we have to leave Japan the next day back to Malmo.

Seven days in Japan was great experience for us. We had opportunity to get knowledge not only in Japan Maritime field but also Japanese culture. We felt overwhelmed with gratitude.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Ms. FUKASAWA, Azusa

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, the Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, and all the staff of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation for giving us this special opportunity of coming to Japan as the supplement of the scholarship.

The arrangement of the Field Study Trip was totally well organized in Japanese style; Just in time. As it is my home country, although I (should) know more than my friends; visiting to Japan with friends in WMU was fresh to me either, and it gave me a wider view to be in a part of foreign students coming from 19 different countries. There were so many developments for me both in new knowledge of Japan and in relationship with friends.

During the field study trip, I sometimes felt difficulty to behave as a pure WMU student; there was always a possibility that I might act as a second tour guide (first is of course Miyo-san) or a fake assistant (real assistant is Tomo-san) instead of a visitor. Coupled with the well-organized “Japanese way” of managing group activities, my standing position may be somewhat different from a student simply. However, if I have an advantage, such as understanding Japanese words, I should use this skill in a good and natural way to help others keeping some distance from the too much line. Nevertheless in some cases, it could be uncomfortable, especially, to those who think themselves as adult, to be treated like kids in high school. To my shock, called as “Thanks Mom”, though it was expected as “sister”, maybe I was doing too much like a mother. Further, I noticed that I was seen as those who doesn’t understand others feelings, so it might be difficult to suppose my idea without talking, from their side either.

The interesting difference appeared anywhere. For example, when we got some gifts from the visiting place, some of the students opened the wrapping paper and showed happiness on their faces. In Japan, officially we don’t unwrap the gift in front of host; however, this silent reaction might be far away from the European common sense. The Western people express their gratitude by showing how happy their faces are when they open and see what were in. In this case, even tearing a package is not a rude behavior. On the other hand, the reason why Japanese doesn’t open the gift is because they show their appreciation by NOT opening but sending a quiet message, such as “whatever your gift is, I know it’s wonderful, so I don’t need to check it right now”, I guess.

If we understand the meaning behind the behavior, perhaps our misunderstanding of others rudeness might decrease. It was a great opportunity to study “who am I?” and how I am looked from outside. Still along the way, I would like to cultivate my character to be true to the name of Sasakawa Fellow students, reminding Dr. Sasakawa’s words:

“The world is one family, and all the humankind is brothers and sisters”.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. OKAMOTO, Yasunori

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for Nippon Foundation and OPRF for giving us such a great opportunity and treatment.

For me as Japanese, except for tight schedule, this trip was good and I could see Japan from new view point by being in the international group and getting questions from them. Furthermore, if I were not a member of this fellow, I would not have been to most of the places which OPRF arranged. Also, apart from company visit, we had many dinner parties. They also made our trip special and unforgettable.

I personally attended fellows in Tokyo and I could introduce my country briefly although we needed more time. If we have more time to look at Japan other than company visits, the travel would have become better for them.

Regarding company visits, we had chances to see Japanese technology which I had never seen before. The most impressive one was Yasukawa Electric Corporation although it is irrelevant to maritime industry. The technology in this company changed from 'motor', 'automation' to 'mechatronics' which Yasukawa Electric Corporation created. This company is always seeking for people's demand and what they can do for society. Therefore, that mind brings development to the company. Furthermore, regarding its skill, staff said to us that it is easy to automate everything, however, if the company does so, the skill and technology for the next generation would not function well. Therefore, no matter what it costs on human labor, some people are still working on operational work place. I think this mind generates further development of this company and it was very grateful to see such a company in this field study trip.

Regarding cultural experience, without saying, Kyoto visit was the best for foreign fellow students. Also, it should have taken more time for this part because other sightseeing in other city was quite limited due to scheduled events. In my opinion, for foreign fellows, this kind of experience makes them more Japanese-friendly person. We saw how Japanese people developed in terms of technology and efficient system, on the other hand, Japanese have our tradition and has preserved many historical building as well especially in Kyoto. I think it is quite unique and interesting. I hope this trip will be balanced well from next year.

Finally, through this trip and living Sweden and went to many countries for study trips, I could recognize how Japanese people work efficient, accurate and diligent, and they have hospitality, friendly and helpful character, which other countries do not have. However, compared with other countries, people do not speak English even in capital city. Near future or even now, it is necessary skill for everybody and if people have it, their world would be wider. Fortunately, thanks to Nippon Foundation and OPRF, I am be able to study in WMU and learning not only English but also cultural difference as well, which makes me cosmopolitan and broaden my viewpoint.

In the end, I would like to express my gratitude for people who planned and supported this trip, especially Nippin Foundation and OPRF. Thank you very much.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Ms. MBANDI, Fiona Syovata

INTRODUCTION

The Sasakawa Fellowship class of 2013 began their trip from Sweden to Japan on 11th May 2013. This is an annual highlight to being a Sasakawa fellow and many students usually plan to maximize the weeklong trip, long before the actual month of May. The preparations for the trip are coordinated by the Ocean Policy Research Foundation who administrator the sponsorships and the registrar office of the university. The main purpose of the visit was to familiarize with Japan, where the sponsorship funds come from, meet the sponsor Mr. Sasakawa, the chairman of the Nippon Foundation. The trip also offers an opportunity for the fellows to meet senior officials in Japanese maritime industry, interact with the rich Japanese culture and visit different industries related to the maritime. The visit falls on the break period at the World Maritime University so it also a time to relax and socialize with fellows and our hosts.

The preparation of the trip begun on receiving the sponsorship at my work place and for me it was a dream come true to finally visit Japan. In my country, Kenya, those who travel to Japan are usually high ranking government officials so I will also have something to contribute when people discuss about Japan and development. It was therefore a source of envy to my colleagues at work and at the university, many of my college friends also wished they had such a trip. When the itinerary was communicated to us, we realized it was going to be very tight, and it showed clearly a lot of thought and preplanning had been done to achieve this itinerary. We had also prepared questions about Japan in advance to the host to enable the hosts to source for the right answers and I think this is smart way of preparation.

The flight to Tokyo was the longest I have done in my life and although I was very apprehensive initially, my fears we soon misplaced because the plane was comfortable and everything else went very well and even on arrival one day after leaving the residence in Sweden, I still had energy to visit another official at his residence outside Tokyo city centre in the evening we had arrived.

My first impression of the country from the airplane is a very mountainous place and on arrival to Tokyo, the shock of the size and number of sky scrapers was almost overwhelming. The reception and accommodation was superb what followed was six days of tour from one firm to another in different cities. In each of the places we visited, there were well planned programs awaiting us and either the officials gave presentations and discussed the questions we asked within the limited time or physically took us through tours around to see work in progress. We still had time to have fun and toured the spectacular Tokyo Skytree and the Imperial palace area among various temples and at night, saw a bit of the Japanese night life.

In the future Sasakawa fellows will benefit even more by visiting additional maritime training institutions to appreciate the effort it has taken Japan to reach high maritime development. It could be wonderful to see other maritime students and upcoming seafarers. The organisers would also target to take the students to see the countryside, where farming is taking place and allocate at least half a day in Tokyo city for private time to tour and shop since for many of the students this is a lifetime opportunity and it will make it as memorable as possible.

The overall impression is that Japanese are humble people because in all the institutions we visited, the Chief Executive officers spent time with us and showed us their institutions. It is

very easy to see that people like what they do because their enthusiasm and were very strict with time just like the Swedish which is different culture in my country. The lessons to learn is time discipline and something I take home alongside my college education. The other lesson is proper care to diet, is a hallmark to good health and indeed learned to eat sushi and lots of vegetables. Another valuable lesson is the act of generosity by the Japanese to the beneficiaries of Sasakawa fellowships, to the families and to our home countries. This was indeed a very educative trip and we left feeling greatly humbled by generosity of the people of Japan for their time, funds and priceless cooperation.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. KYAW WANNA

Beautiful Saturday of 11th May 2013, we started our amazing Japan trip and back to our home away from home at 19th May, 2013. We have a chance to explore the wonderful tradition and culture, Japanese cuisines and the life of the Japanese people in daily basis. More than that we can build our close bond and attachment among us getting firm during the trip. In this trip, we have a chance to travel the almost luminary places of Japan. Our field study was completed by means of Mr.Kudo, Mr.Shin, Mr. Tomo and Ms.Miyo who was our tour guide.

I felt warm and save by means of hospitality welcoming by Mr. Shin and Ms.Miyo at the Narita Airport and the orientation which was held in Royal Park Shiodome Tower by Mr. Kudo, Mr. Shin and Mr. Tomo and the responsible persons. After that we had the chance to occupied the rest of that day that the Royal Park Shiodome Tower which provided us with relaxing and spacious accommodations and modern, state-of-the-art technology.

The next day, the experience of **Tokyo Skytree** which is the tallest tower in the world, we had the chance to enjoy the stunning panoramic views of the Tokyo at a vantage point at 350 m and 450 m. We also enjoyed our lunch an array of restaurants, bars and shops. After that we moved to the MLIT and learnt about the implementation of Maritime sector in Japan. At 18:00 pm, Welcome Reception is held at the Tokai University Club, BOSEI room and all of us are welcomed by the responsible persons from MLIT, OPRF, Nippon Foundation and special guests heart-warmly.

14th May 2013, we went to the Niigata Power systems Co.,Ltd and had a chance to learn the production of powerful diesel engines, Z-pellers and Gas engines. The profit for the previous year was 2% and this is acceptable when compare with the Toyota Mobile while their profit was 6%. In the evening, we visited to the Nippon Foundation and had a chance to pay respect to the Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, The Nippon Foundation's Executive Secretary. We introduced by ourselves and I felt adore to him because of well recognize to each fellowships and their qualification also. That is really marvelous and commendable for me to keep emphasize upon our fellowships.

On Wednesday morning, we departed from the Haneda Airport at 10:05 am and arrived to the Oita Airport around 11:45 am. As soon as we arrived to the Oita Airport, we had our lunch and at that time I really wondered because of the systematic arrangement. I believe that kind of ability is one of the pillars which can support the Japan to become the advanced industrialize country and rich. After the lunch, we departed from the Oita Airport and went to the Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd which is one of the leading shipbuilding yards out of 840 shipbuilding yard from Japan and are capable of constructing vessels of over 2,500 GT. Miura shipbuilding is mainly emphasize upon the coastal vessel and capable to provide the best design and the most effective and efficient vessels. After that we went to the Hotel Seifu, having served guests with warm and traditional Japanese hospitality. This is my best and favorite experience that I had in Japan. Such kind of emotion comes for using the most of these products to serve delicious and original culinary dishes; traditional seafood based meal and includes many kinds of prepared fresh vegetables. The Open - air hot springs bath overlooks Beppu Bay, and on a clear day, the sunrise is beautiful. This is my unforgettable experience that I had to taste in Japan.

Beautiful sunny day of 16th May 2013, we went to the NISSAN Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd. Kyushu Plant and we had learnt the important role of robots in Japanese industry. With the help of the 1200 robots, NISSAN can product 1800 different kinds of model cars in one day. And after that we moved to the YASAKAWA Electric Corporation which has served the world needs for motions and control products including Robotics controllers and Network Control. We arrived to the Shin-moji Terminal at 16:30 pm after leaving from the YASAKAWA around 14:45. The most important event on the Hankyu Ferry was the invitation to the dinner hosted by Kudo san. I was so happy to participate that party on the Ferry.

17th May 2013, we arrived to Kobe and we visited to the FURUNO Electric Co. Ltd which produce electronic marine equipment include sea navigation instruments, fish catching instruments, radio communications equipment and others. Its industrial electronic equipment includes radio data transfer systems, electronic equipment for aircrafts, global positioning system (GPS) navigators and automated analytical equipment for clinical examinations. We visited to the Marine Technical College in that evening and warmly welcomed by the responsible persons from that college.

18th May 2013, beautiful Saturday of May was occupied by our active Sasakawa fellowships for the visiting sightseeing of beautiful Japan like Nijo Castle, Kinkaku-ji Temple, Kiyomizu-dera Temple. Etc. At that evening, we celebrated the Farewell Reception attended by the guests from the places that we visited. And the next day, we had to leave the beautiful Japan and the moments that we enjoyed still accompany with us till the Malmo.

I would like to conclude about our field study to Japan was one of the most enjoyable trips in my life and all of the facilities provided by the host are excellent and exceptional. Let me take this opportunity to thank Dr.Yohei Sasakawa, Admiral Kudo, Mr.Shin, Ms.Miyo, Mr. Tomo and the whole responsible persons for their gesture in inviting us to learn about Japanese technology and culture.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Ms. SINEL, Ma. Soterania Mosqueda

Except for the very busy schedule, Japan Field Trip in its entirety was great. The hospitality of Japanese people was very remarkable. The generosity of the Sasakawa Foundation was actually felt, from the very comfortable accommodation to the most deluxe restaurant, and for this, I really wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Foundation and the people behind it.

With regard to the activities, the activities were all great, but it was too tiring though. I think more than two activities in a day was so tedious, especially when the day started too early. The students can only absorb enough and considering that most of our time was spent to travelling, so this made it more tiresome. But the activities were all enlightening and it gave me additional knowledge. It was also good to mingle with different people in the industry, this activity, to me was the most memorable and very valuable as network to me is so important in this industry.

The inclusion of rest and relaxation (r and r) activity was likewise really great, this I think is very essential in every field study. However, I hope that the next r and r would be a little bit longer, to really feel relaxed and not so tired. For instance, when we went to Tokyo Skytree, the waiting time for queuing was longer than seeing and enjoying the sceneries so instead of us feel so relaxed, it made us feel more strained as we have to be at the meeting place after 10 minutes or 15 minutes.

We know that we have to observe the Japanese time as it is a taboo to be late in Japan. The schedule which was set on the file was completely different from the actual meeting time. In my humble opinion, I think if we set a schedule on the paper, we should follow it or otherwise, set an earlier schedule because to me, the setting of a meeting time is futile if we would change it to earlier or later time. It's acceptable if it was done once or twice, but if we need to be at least 10 minutes before the meeting time, then the actual schedule should be written on the paper.

With all due respect to our tour guide, she was great as she did her job well. However, sometimes, we felt that we are robots. Like when we want to go to the washroom, sometimes she wanted us to wait so as not to bother the discussion. While I understand that we need to pay attention to the lectures and etc., however, we cannot set a time for the call of nature. And sometimes she embarrassed the students when the student is late. In this regard, I would suggest that for the next field trip, a washroom time should be set when arriving and leaving the place so as to avoid hassle in the discussion.

To sum up my overall impression, as I mentioned above, the field study in its entirety was great except for the very tedious schedule.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. TEINIU, Eric Jeriel

First, and foremost, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Sasakawa and the staffs of Nippon Foundation in facilitating this very exciting field trip. This is a journey I will never forget. If you ever get the chance to join Sasakawa field trip, I favorably commend it. This unending Sasakawa field trip is also a great way to make new friends and contacts, both within and outside the Maritime industries, institutions and other great companies in Japan. Suffice it to say, that generally Japan comparing to other places I have visited during my field trips here at WMU, is a well-organized and industrialized nation. Indeed, we are so lucky, to have been given an opportunity to visit most of the reputable and big organization, companies and institutions in Japan which I would endlessly say a big learning experience for me.

However, the underlying issues that I have had learned and obtained from this field trip, was simply on the implementation part of it, how the maritime administration collaborate with other agencies or its enforcement unit to implement this maritime regulations and law. Indeed, I have discovered that when it comes to implementations, Japan Maritime Authority along with other supporting agencies always on their feet to ensure their carryout our tasks diligently and for healthy administration a teamwork is ought to be seen. In evidence, this is so obvious within all this organization that we have had visited. Help shouldering each other tasks for the betterment of the maritime industries in Japan is paramount. For me personally, when I try to reflect it on our maritime administration, it's a way forward or a learning lesson for me on behalf of my country, and this notion of togetherness (teamwork) for sure that's the key ideals of a good administration of any organization.

It obvious that Japan maritime administration has really up to standard in terms of implementation. A lesson learned from this was that we can draft how many conventions, regulations and best laws in the world, but it would accomplish nothing unless they were complied with, and purely voluntary compliance cannot be expected within our social and economic institutions. But given the existing laws we have, it must be pointed out that laws by themselves do not restore order in our maritime industry. Enforcement does; and the success of enforcement depends on whether the legal requirements are enforceable or, in the alternative, the strategies adopted by the enforcement agency to circumvent legal booby traps, and plug loopholes in the laws are properly carried out. For classical example, in Japan they have had full set of facilities to cater for Oil spill compare to our administration, which has lacking this entire infrastructure. We currently have a very important marine pollution Regulation 2010, it is impressive by its contains and has a strong declarations of goals but personally in my view, the weak substantive requirements or enforcement mechanisms will be the problem then (prematurely, we do not have all the facilities at hand to cater for such or any big marine environmental pollution incidents). This are areas that ought to be seen and done and have to be learn from other reputable administration like Japan.

One more thing, as part of my field studies that I have learned was, they have well trained people in the administration and other stakeholders. It's a big lesson for our administration; we have few untrained officers manning most of the maritime administration. So, if we are to maintain good administration, I strongly believe on educating our staffs, just like Japan, by sending them for further studies in their priority areas of interest. An organization cannot do the work, it's the human being, manpower, the human resources that we need to reform. Lest not forget, any maritime administration that lacks a well-trained officers to run it, is by its nature malfunction per se.

Lastly, Japan is a beautiful place on earth one can visit (the beautiful palace, newly build bridges, advance technologies and the tallest Sky Tree in the world) and every single people you meet them are so cheerful.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. WANNIARACHCHI K., Samantha Gunawardhane

1. INTRODUCTION

We were the group of 24 students from 19 different countries of WNU Sasakawa Fellows started our field study tour from Tokyo, Japan on Sunday 12th May 2013 to 19th May 2013 that we departed from Kansai International Airport to Sweden after visiting many interesting places given in the schedule organized by Nippon Foundation & OPRF of Japan. I would like to give my overall impression of this event under the following categories.

2. OVERALL IMPRESSION ON THE TOUR SCHEDULE

The whole trip schedule is concerned; it is quite nice arrangement from beginning to the end of the study trip. There we could enjoy with different industry applications related to the Maritime sector and other cultural aspects together with different people are a good arrangement in the schedule. I would further like to comment on per day arrangement to further improvement in future that many are like to get the outdoor experience after the day schedule and if they have a time to hang around the places further more gives them the better idea about Japan. But it depends on the people in the group and their behavior, so that it may be sometime problem with these kind arrangements. I myself am extremely happy about the overall schedule of the trip.

PLACES VISITED AND INFORMATION

The places we visited were get a good blend on our knowledge and the experience gained through the visit as it has completely different industry knowledge but closely related to the maritime sector. For example, the Nissan factory is belongs to the automobile industry but it gets how the productivity improves in the process developments and ultimately the shipping arrangements give the company the enormous additional value in global markets. The other thing is the information about in the visit. Herein that I have to give a quite nice comment on Miura Ship building company that they gave us a complete information from the design stage to the launch of the completed vessel at the end of the process. Not only that the other places and events such as important cultural places and professional get-togethers gave us complete knowledge & experience in this regards. Specially, it has to be mentioned about the places belongs to the parts of Japan are different in prefectures also get a good chance to experience the different of geo situation and culture, for instant Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe and Oita.

TRANSPORT

This is fantastic arrangement. We had fully comfortable buses all at times. The most attractive one is different transportation modes have been introduced to the whole trip. The tour by ferry is a good experience. Whole night with foods and enjoyable events also gives us a good experience. If it is possible to have a bullet train instead of domestic flight gets another good experience for all of our people as many have not experienced high speed trains. This is my proposal for the future arrangements.

FOOD AND LOGINS

We were the group of 24 people from 19 different countries. Only two were the Japanese. It seems that the organizing food is another challenge for these different people. Why I want to say that we experienced this in our other field study trips. But in here it was completely changed. Those arrangements were quite comfortable for all people. Hotel arrangements were the same. It was amazing that to have star arrangements with different facilities, especially we enjoyed in Oita. It has to say that these arrangements were so exiting for all of us at all times in the trip.

MANAGEMENT AND GUIDANCE

This is another excellent commitment. The overall arrangements are fantastic and really exciting for all of us. From the beginning to the end of the program, we were educated and guided by the OPRF and Nippon Foundation officials especially Mr. Eisuke KUDO & Mr. Shinichi ICHIKAWA, other officials from different organizations, tour guide with translators, institutional professionals, industry experts in the places we visited, our two batch mates from Japan gave us a hospitalist and special guidance in this event. They were so flexible, sometimes they became our parents, friends, brothers and sisters and lovers in helping to grasp the whole knowledge and experience in this study trip.

3. OVERALL IMPRESSION

Excellent.....

4. MY GRATITUDE

It was great pleasure for me to have a vast knowledge and experience in different aspects in this tour. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Yohei SASAKAWA the chairman of The Nippon Foundation to make me this kind of invaluable opportunity to enhance my knowledge and experience in this field of my study and my life. And my special thanks, it goes to Mr. Eisuke KUDO & Mr. Shinichi ICHIKAWA with the other officials from Nippon Foundation & OPRF in Japan in this regards.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. RATHNAYAKE WANNIARACHCHIGE, Ajith Rathnayake

Welcome to Japan.

The Ocean Policy Research Foundation organizes Japanese Field Study Trip for WMU Sasakawa Fellowship students by annually with the corporation of NIPPON foundation. The program for 2013 had been organized on last May 12th to 19th. 23 numbers of Sasakawa fellowship WMU students from various countries took-part the trip. On the very first day, the students were warm welcome by the OPRF team with Mr. Kudo and Mr. Ichikawa at Narita International Air port and were given a brief instruction about whole the program and explained activities of the workshop.

Places visited.

The places which we visited had been selected rather carefully and were good enough to understand and experience Japanese culture, life style, technology and industry as well. For instance, Miura Shipbuilding Company, Nissan Motor Kyushu Company and Niigata Power System Company gave a advanced knowledge of Japanese technology in logistic and marine industry while Yasukawa Electric Corporation and Furuno Electric Company introduce their modern technology. The people in those industries were more generous and helpful enough us to teach the secret of their development.

Sky Tree, the tremendous tower (634 Meters high) in Tokyo, the Golden Temple and Kokura Castle explained well about Japanese culture and history. Moreover, we were lucky enough to visit the world famous Tokyo city, Kiyoto, Kobe and Osaka within a very short period during this trip.

Food and lodging facilities

We were provided an excellent login facility in a hotel where we could get Japanese traditional meal and cultural experiences under one roof which is unforgettable. The entire students worn Kimono, the famous Japanese traditional cloth and tasted their traditional sea food and experience their cultural events. Students were provided all the facilities with food & beverages at top level in all the hotels which were allocated for them.

Transport arrangements.

Transport arrangements for the field visit were so excellent and convenience. All mode of transport facilities so called road, sea and air were given within this couple of days. The first two days, we were provided road transport service to travel covering all the important places in Tokyo. Thereafter, we had been arranged to fly in domestic air buses from Tokyo to Oita and provided ferry transport facility where we could get a wonderful experience in Hankyu Ferry, from there to Kobe.

Welcome reception and farewell reception

Student had a wonderful occasion to get-together with Japanese high ranking officers who had close relationship with OPRF and Nippon Foundation in both ceremonies. They were so generous to exchange their experience and cultural activities with all these multicultural students. All the occasions were organized well enough to enjoy students and guests with all food and beverages.

This was one of the field study trip I have ever been and enjoyed well with highly oriented people with gracious manner.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Ms. NITILATTHI, Panhathai

Konichiwa, First of all I would like to say thank you for Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Nippon Foundation, OPRF, Sasakawa fellowship, MLIT, including Mr. Kudo and Mr. Ichikawa

I greatly appreciate your warm hospitality and allowing me to stay in your wonderful country. Thank you for great opportunity to visiting for field trip in Japan. I had a wonderful time in your lovely home country and really enjoy all gathering with others Sasakawa fellowship.

It was very exciting and interesting to learn more about cultures, organization, innovation and the way of Japanese thinking. Several things I have learned weren't only related with the list of Companies Visiting Program but also the circumstance in each city that we visited. My first impression in Japan is very clean (best clean country ever!) people so gentle, nice and kind that show up the way of people concerned in environments relation, healthy and hard working. Especially we'll often find fancy toilets with all sorts of buttons next to the seat, I really love it!

You made us feel like family the entire time we were there. I had a great time getting to know most of the fellow students and having a chance to catch up what's going on with them during second semester. Furthermore, the welcome and farewell party was great. I have chance to getting to know the person who works on maritime industry and transportation related which is very important and meaningful for me to building/created widen connections as a global tool.

Japan seems to have a strong relationship with its history, everywhere and everything that shown how much you proud in your cultures. I have seen many young girls wear traditional Japanese dress 'kimono' wherever appearing in public. That's the scene that made me fall in love with Japan. Our journey in several mode of transports; fly, ferry, and bus was a great chance to sightseeing beautiful places along the way, different city, different charming, different impress. The meals you prepared were delicious and I always miss the Japanese foods which is became my top favorites. Moreover, I really enjoy with delightful traditional dinner, traditional dress Yukata that was amazing time for me to be like a Japanese girl.

Las but not least, to be honest I would like to say that I really appreciated and enjoyed with all arrangements that Mr. Kudo, Mr. Ichikawa and Msr. Miyo provide and take care of me. Every single minute we shared together has been impressing in my memory. This field trip is the best; it is a unique experience for me.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. WANZU, Hussein

From the 11th to the 19th of May 2013, WMU Sasakwa fellows of 2013 were hosted in Japan for a field study trip by OPRF, MLIT and the Nippon foundation.

Overall, the trip was an eye opening experience. It gave the fellows an insight into why Japan is globally one of the greatest maritime nations as several maritime institutions and marine related industries were visited.

Japan's economic, social and administrative sectors were highlighted through the several manufacturing industries that were visited and a taste of Japan's transport systems and infrastructure was witnessed.

The Tokyo gate Bridge was a manifestation of Japan's efficient transport infrastructure. It revealed how Japan efficiently utilizes her urban space and reserves much land as forests and mountains. The bridge's state of the art design and traffic that it handles brought a lot of admiration among the Sasakawa fellows and we hope it will be an inspiration for many to initiate such projects in their home countries.

The Tokyo Sky tree provided a breathtaking moment in the center of Japan's Capital. This tourism hot spot in the center of Tokyo was a manifestation of Japan's supreme architecture and urbanization together with shopping districts like Ginza. It was a true testament to the hardworking spirit of Japan and an Inspiration for many as most of the fellows would like to have outstanding structures in their respective Countries.

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism gave an overview of Japan's transport and maritime administration. It was an eye opener as a key lesson was learnt in the consolidation of government departments so that conflicting interests are solved In house for the benefit of the Country. The brief overview of Japan's maritime industry revealed many lessons especially with regard to International collaboration, search and rescue and management of fishing resources and vessels.

Niigata Power systems gave the visitors an insight into production and necessities of marine engines and power systems. The basics of production of marine engines were highlighted and possibilities of utilizing residual energy were noted. Alternative power generation methods were also noted.

The Bus tour around Tokyo and a courtesy visit to the Nippon foundation served as a reminder about the generosity of the people of Japan. This served the purpose of appreciating Tokyo as one of the World's major urban centers by the fellows. The Tokyo bus tour also gave the fellows an opportunity to witness a unique and distinguished experience of urban planning of one of the World's major cities.

Miura Shipping Company gave an oversight of the ship building process. The fellows were accorded an opportunity to appreciate the ship building processes and procedures which is a nucleus of the maritime Industry. New models of ships and technology were also highlighted at the Miura plant.

NISSAN Motor Kyushu plant gave the fellows a clear insight into one of Japan's biggest industries which is car manufacturing. Focus was put on car manufacturing which is a backbone of Japan's economy. The use of Robots and automation in manufacturing was witnessed. The utmost concentration and finesse along the car assembly lines was much appreciated by many.

YASKAWA Electric Corporation was an eye opener on Robotics, system engineering and public infrastructure instruments. There was an appreciation of robots and automation as key working tools of future aging populations and aids in system engineering.

Tour of engine room of Hanktu Ferry gave the fellows an opportunity to examine one of the key compartments of any Ship, which is the Engine room.

FURUNO Electric manifested a wide range of marine electronic products. In addition, FURUNO highlighted the importance of interdependence of industries in Japan as the development of its many products is outsourced to other companies in Japan. In turn, FURUNO does most of the value addition especially through developing the most valuable elements of its products.

Marine Technical College gave an insight of maritime training in Japan. The merging of different maritime institutions to form the technical college and the several simulation machines gave an oversight of Japan's maritime training.

Nijo castle, Kinkaku-ji Temple, and Kiyomizu-dera Temple highlighted Japanese ancient history and heritage. Part of Japan's rich heritage was explained in these historic monuments especially the eras of "Shoguns".

However, Japanese culture was also appreciated through the several meals that were served over the week. Our distinguished tour guide made a lot of efforts in explaining the details of Japanese culture. I would recommend brochures with highlights and tips of Japanese culture for future WMU Sasakawa fellows.

The farewell reception marked a roundup of the activities through and distinguished guests attended the ceremony where speeches and performances were made. The Sasakawa fellows had the opportunity of interacting with different players in the maritime field and ideas as well as contact information were exchanged.

Accommodation and meals during the weeklong event were exceptional. The quality of the hotels where the fellows resided was wonderful and the meals were ideal as a variety of was provided to suit everyone's taste.

The utmost hospitality of our immediate hosts from OPRF, MLIT and the tour guide were equally adorable. And ultimately, the hospitality granted by the different hosts in the various institutions visited was outstanding.

Key Points

I personally recommend the visit to MLIT as the best because it highlighted key issues in Japan's maritime administration and collaborations among sister organizations.

Recommendations

For the benefit of future WMU Sasakawa fellows, I recommend brochures (write ups) highlighting Japanese culture and cultural sites to better appreciate Japanese heritage.

Efforts should be made to ease interpretation of technical matters as the interpreters tried their level best to provide a valuable service but technical (manufacturing) language sometimes turns out to be different.

Conclusion

All in all, the study visit to Japan by 2013 WMU Sasakawa fellows was a remarkable chapter in the professional experience of the fellows. A lot of concepts were put in perspective ranging from learning from Japan's maritime administration to appreciating Japanese culture and its urban infrastructure. The manufacturing industries brought so many things into light especially highlighting the need for global collaboration. The hospitality accorded to the fellows was outstanding and so were the meals and accommodation. I trust that the trip strengthened the bond between the 2013 WMU Sasakawa fellows and the OPRF, Nippon foundation, MLIT and Nippon foundation at large. To this end, I trust that mutual benefits will arise from this solidarity.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. PISHENIN, Igor

I have long intended to write this information, I hope you'll forgive me for that.

This was my second visit to Japan. The first time I was in 2004. We had a transition from China to America. We broke down steering engine and we went to the Japanese port for repairs. In the city, we were not allowed. We had to watch everything from the ship. Then I first wanted to go to Japan. Prior to this visit, for me, as Japan was something fantastic and unnatural.

Unfortunately, I am ill-prepared for this trip. And I apologize that I was without a jacket. I'm really ashamed of it. When I checked the weather, the during of our visit, was to be 25 + and above. So I figured that the jacket is not appropriate. When I asked Ton, he said that should be the official clothing optional jacket, shirt and tie would be enough. In this regard, I want to recommend, in future, be sure to write before the trip that the jacket must be mandatory. So, regarding the experiences of the trip. They are above all praise. I believe that the content of this trip was great. We were able to cover almost all parts of the maritime industry. Also, show us your beautiful country, with its history, tradition and real life.

Now I want to briefly go from the beginning to the end of our visit, which began on 12 and ended after 19 May. In the course of writing his impressions of the trip, I will also insert recommendations. But I want to reiterate, I am very happy with this trip.

On the first day there was a meeting, and general information regarding our visit to Japan. Given the time difference and climate, it was very hard to adapt immediately. Personally, I just adapted to the 5 day stay.

Just want to mention a very good living conditions (other than the single rooms) and very diverse but always excellent food (breakfast, lunch and dinner).

A visit to the Marine Bureau has helped us to get a general idea on maritime areas in Japan. After his official visit was reception. During which we had the opportunity to talk with different experts of the maritime industry, make new friends and get more information on the work of different agencies.

Visiting Niigata Power Systes Co. personally made a lasting impression on me. I worked on ships of Japanese buildings. I have a Japanese car. And it was hard to imagine that once I can get to the factory where they make the engine. I was shocked, the code within the hour we walked through the plant. We were able to see almost the entire chain of creation, production and testing of marine engine. Creating screw and rotary nozzles. We looked at how the system works. How does the production process. And a company representative explained everything in detail and described.

It was especially nice that the head of the top managers The Nippon Foundation considered it possible and could take the time that would take us. And we were able to present themselves and say thank you for helping us honor to be scholarships.

Really liked the Miura Shipbuilding Co. I was frequently in shipyards and saw the ships are built. But I was struck by how compact everything is. As every small detail. How it all works

effectively. All in one complex: design, plan, collect, color, test and start. I am very happy. It was a small factory. Thus, we were able to see the whole process. And many of my colleagues, for the first time were able to see the ship's hull that are under water.

I love to drive a car. I have a driving license at age 16. I changed a few cars. Now I drive a car brand Toyota. It was very interesting to see how the system works and the Company now vehicle assembly process. A visit to this plant has helped to see how the logistics been established for such large enterprises. How and where to use the robot, and where the people are. So was it useful for general development. How is this collected Japanese cars!

Visitation Yasukawa Electric Corporation, It was also very interesting. Basically we used to see only robots in the TV or in the movies. But so that would live to see how they are going as they are tested and how they work, it was hard to even imagine. And all of this in front of us. All of this works, improved and developed.

Furuno Electric Co of the world's leading manufacturer of navigation equipment. I have often used these techniques, but I never thought that the basic concept of the production, it is only manual assembly. The one hour, during which we walked around the factory and saw how it's all done, assembled and tested remembered for a lifetime.

Visit Marine Technical College was also very interesting, as with educational institutions around the world we encounter very often. More detailed information I have given in the second report. Surprised the staff and the head of the College.

Besides all this, we had the unique opportunity to visit many cities in Japan. To see how people live in your country today. Visit the tallest tower in the world. Learn how to made sake. Walk the corridors of the Imperial Palace, and look at other historical sites in Japan.

Above all else, we had the opportunity, during the evening and night to feel like the Japanese. Resemble a kimono, have dinner in a traditional style and spend the night in the Japanese tradition.

It is also very useful and interesting, was the transition to the ferry, where we could feel myself seafarers, though for a short period of time. And since there was water all around us, no one was in a hurry to town, we were able to quietly sit and chat with each other. Thanks to the hospitality of Mr. Kudo, we were able to talk in an informal atmosphere, to laugh and joke. I think that after this evening, we all like a closer and become more tightly to communicate. In addition, we had the opportunity to visit the engine room of the ferry, where we were going. What was very interesting and helpful to my colleagues who have never been there.

A farewell dinner was held on the last day, gathered many experts. We were able to meet and talk in an informal atmosphere and find a lot of useful future by cooperation.

In conclusion I want to say about how well-planned in importance and in time a study trip. We never delay or non-compliance on time, or transportation problems. Some of my colleagues were a little concerned about the density schedule movement. But it does not matter, as compared with the amount seen. I believe that the importance of this trip is invaluable.

I want to personally and on behalf of my colleagues to thank the organizers of this study tour, which spent quite a few time in order to make it interesting and very useful.

And in the end with confidence to say that for my 35 years, I have not had such an interesting and rewarding journey. Impressions were only the best. I have not once told my friends about the visit, experiencing it again and again. Hopefully in the future I will be able to visit Japan again.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. DAO, Tien Thanh

1. Introduction

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words to express my sincere thanks to OPRF and NIPPON Foundation for arranging a very awesome useful field trip to Japan for all of us, WMU Sasakawa fellows, class of 2013.

With the aim of providing the knowledge and the information about the Japan, the Japanese, the Japanese culture and status and development of the Japanese maritime industry particularly as well as Japanese industry generally for WMU students, class of 2013 who get the Sasakawa scholarships from OPRF, Nippon Foundation, the trip to Japan taking place from May 12 – 19, 2013 was planned long time ago, and we were eager for looking forward to going to Japan.

On May 12, 2013 our dreams became reality when we landed at Narita International Airport and got the warm welcome from Mr. Shin and Mrs. Myo right in the way out of the airport. This gave me the first impression of the thoughtfulness of the Japanese. And from that time, we really enjoyed the activity going on in Japan.

2. Site Visit

The field study program began with the courtesy visit to Maritime Bureau belonging to Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Toursim. Here, we got not only the information of function, obligation of the Maritime Bureau, but also the information of facts about the Japan and about the Japanese Maritime cluster. These information provided us a general view about Japanese Maritime industry and how Maritime administration plays a role in its development.

On 14th May, we took courtesy visit to Nippon Foundation where I had been looking forward to visit. Unfortunately, on that day Dr. Sasakawa was on business, therefore we haven't had opportunity to see him. On behalf of Dr. Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation's Executive Director Mr Mitsuyuki Unno received WMU Sasakawa fellows in very hospitable atmosphere. Every of us in turn spent almost 2 minutes to introduce ourselves to Mr. Unno and the other ones attending the meeting. Last but not least, we had a precious chance to take a group photo with Mr.Unno in the Nipon Foundation Office.

In addition, we were provided with the opportunity to visit the companies, factories, school in Japanese Maritime cluster as well as the other ones in Japanese industry such as Niigata Power System Co.,Ltd; Miura shipbuilding Co.,Ltd; Nissan Motor Kyushu Co.,Ltd; YASKAWA Electric Corporation; Furuno Electric Co.,Ltd; and Marine technical college. Among these visits, I was really interested in visiting the shipyard of Miura. It was because of that I am a naval architect and my current company is a classification society, therefore I was eager for seeing how a shipbuilding company is organized in Japan. Although Miura shipbuilding company is just small shipyard, it is a well-organized company with the sufficiency of the departments, workshops from the phase of designing a ship to the phase of constructing a ship. We was guided to visit all of these departments and workshops by an enthusiastic knowledgable tour guide from the company. The Miura Shipyard really impressed me very much.

3. The other activities

Besides the site visits, we also were provided with the great opportunity to explore the Japan, the Japanese, the Japanese culture as well as the famous beautiful lanscapes in Japan. We visited

Tokyo Gate Bridge, Tokyo Skytree, Hakushika Sake, Nijo castle, Kiyomizu-dera Temple. All of these places are very famous visiting point I had heard or watched via public media, and at that time my dream became reality. Most of them are huger and more beautiful than I imagined. Additionally, we had the nice experiences of staying in the Beppu Hotel Seifu with very Japanese style-living rooms, spending one night on the Hankyu Ferry. In Beppu hotel Seifu, we enjoyed the dinner held according to Japanese style with Japanese food and everyone wore Japanese traditional costume sitting on the ground for dinner. I really enjoyed it and as for me, it was an interesting experience. There will be a mistake if I do not mention to the impression about the Japanese in this report. I heard a lot about Japanese, especially about character of them before. However, until that time I had not had the solid perception of that how Japanese is in reality. During one week being in Japan, I had chance to see, talk and exchange information with diversity of the Japanese and especially I had the great opportunity to be with Kudo San, Shin San, Myo San during the trip, and my general impression about Japanese is hospitable, friendly, hard-working, punctual and very professional working.

4. Conclusion

In my view of point, the Japan field study trip was fruitful and valuable. The trip provided us not only the general view of Japanese Maritime industry but also the more clear image of the Japan, the Japanese, and the Japanese culture. The information, the knowledge we got from the trip to Japan is really useful and precious for us in our career afterwards. The time being in Japan will be my unforgettable memories forever. See you again soon, Japan.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. KHUONG, Duy Hiep

Since I was informed that being chosen as a member of Sasakawa Fellowship there would be a Japan field trip provided to tighten the relationship among new members, I have been truly looking forwards to that May trip. As far as my understanding at that time, the trip has been annually designed not only for people to enjoy the beauty of Japan but also to provide true image of the globally well-known Japanese advance industry. As soon as I received the itinerary, I knew it is definitely true then I set myself at the utmost level of perception to receive these images as many as I can. And the trip hardly brought me any disappointment. Below is some of my overall impression coming from the trip:

Firstly, I saw the trip was very well organized taking us throughout Japan from North-East to South-West parts by almost every means of transport as domestic flight, coach, train, ferry. We visited around 11 organizations, companies and institutions in 06 cities during 07 days only. Thanks to that well organized-ness and hospitability of the OPRF, we were given the big overall picture of Japan, a very good chance to visit quite a number of associations and cities as well. The trip included Tokyo – the by far largest city and the pride of Japan, Osaka, Kobe – the third and fifth biggest, and other smaller but beautiful cities and provinces like Beppu, Saiki, Kyushu, etc thus, it brought us a very big picture of Japan from both industrial and tourism perspective. Visiting a number of sites means that we had to move a lot from place to place but all the fellows felt indeed excited. The movement was worthy.

The second impression to me is the advance level of Japan industry in every field. Seeing is believing, yes, I have been studying and reading a lot about the country but I was so overwhelmed with the visual visit to factories and companies. The sites included Maritime Bureau, the Nippon Foundation, Niigata Power Systems Co., Miura Shipbuilding Co., Nissan Motor Kyushu Co., YASKAWA Electric Co., FURUNO Electric Co. and Marine Technical College among which the visit to YASKAWA Electric Corporation impressed me the most. We paid the visit to Yaskawa Electric Corporation – the Head office in Kitakykushu on May 16th. During the visit, thanks to the warmly welcome, we were introduced about the long traditional history of Yaskawa, and also we were overwhelmed and impressed by the short tour around the production line of the company, where we could see clearly the advanced technological term “Where robots are producing robots”. The visit was truly precious for us to not only have the obvious view on how Japan and Japanese people are being forwards in the technological field but also gain a lot of lessons on the robotic performances.

Another impression that the trip left on me is all about Japan and the Japanese themselves. It was quite a surprising experience to see skyscrapers standing nearby some very ancient temples, creating the image of a very advance but still culture remaining Japan. Having seen how the Japanese live, behave and work, I understand that the strong and sustainable development of Japan did not come from any magic. It is the Japanese who did it and make it happened. In overall, they are polite, hard working, creative, co-operative and punctuate.

Lastly, the seven day trip is not enough but sufficient to have a deep understanding about a nation. Thanks to the hospitability and cooperation of the Nippon Foundation, the OPRF, the MLIT, the help and companion of Mr. Kudo, Mr. Shinichi and other staffs, the trip successfully brought to us a very good image of Japan and its industrial development. The trip was also the chance for us to tighten our fellowship among 23 people from 19 countries. Indeed, the trip

helps us understand more about the Nippon Foundation, the OPRF and the Sasakawa Fellowship and encourage us to participate into further activities of the Fellowship in the future.

Overall Impression on Field Study Trip to Japan

Mr. NGUYEN, Dinh Thang

It was a wonderful week that 23 students under Sasakawa Fellowship had a good chance to visit the beautiful country of Japan. The visit had made a very good impression on me and the following are some of the key memories:

1. The organization of the trip

It's firstly important to me is the organization of the trip. Though it was only 1 week but the organizers had made much effort to arrange the program, schedule in very details which helped us gain both in numbers of companies to be visited and also the historical sites along the journey. The visit not only helps me to understand more about Japanese people, culture but also the history of the country. The working spirit of Japanese people is the key factor that makes Japan to be the leading country in the world. It is not only the spirit of hard working of the people but also the efficiency and effectiveness of their work make the country different. Though Japan has almost no resources, the Japanese people make the country move.

2. Quality of the companies visited

During one week we had chance to visit 9 companies/organizations which cover shipping building industry, electronic, motor, training and ministry. They are all very good destinations for our visit. We have the depth inside look at what are done in details, especially at the Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. The knowledge and information from the ministry (MLIT) to the factories and training institute help us to have the full picture of Japanese policy on maritime sector.

3. The enthusiasm of the OPRF's staff

It surely remains in mind every of us is the enthusiasm of the OPRF's members who did all their best for the success of the trip. It's not only the arrangement on the schedule but also to information provided during the week that helped us understand more about the organizations, companies we visited. The arrangement of Mr. Shinichi Ichikawa and the information from Mr. Eisuke Kudo are really very helpful. The accommodation of MLIT's member made the journey more fruitful.

4. The accommodation, food, transportation, and tour guide

I am very satisfied with the arrangement of the hotel and food. I did have chance to stay in comfortable hotel in the expensive city of Tokyo, experienced the feeling of entertaining Japanese food and sleeping in the Japanese traditional way. The one night on board of the ferry

is also very impressive that I think not all 23 students had experienced before. The arrangement of transportation and tour guide were very wonderful.

5. Recommendation

Just a small idea, that it would be more wonderful if we can visit the shipping companies and ports of Japan as we all know that Japan is the leading shipping country in the world.



The Japan Field Study Trip 2013

May 12-19, 2013

JAPAN

Fukuoka

- Nissan Motor Kyushu Co., Ltd.
- Yasukawa Electric Corporation

Oita

- Miura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.

Kyoto

- Nijo Castle
- Kinkaku-ji Temple
- Kiyomizu-dera Temple

Hyogo

- Marine Technical College
- FURUNO ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

Gunma

- Niigata Power Systems Co., Ltd.

Tokyo

- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)
- The Nippon Foundation

<http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp/>

Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat, Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF)

Toranomon 35 Mori Building, 3-4-10 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001 JAPAN
Tel: +81-(0)3-5404-6843 Fax: +81-(0)3-5404-6800 URL: <http://www.sof.or.jp/>