

The world is a family,  
and all humankind are brothers and sisters.

## WMU Graduation Ceremony 2019



**Maia Brindley Nilsson**  
Communications and  
Conferences Officer  
World Maritime University

On Sunday, November 3, the maritime leaders of tomorrow from over 70 countries graduated from the World Maritime University. The graduates have received the education required to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in their home countries as well as within the broader maritime and ocean community. They are equipped to become the maritime and ocean leaders of tomorrow that will promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping on clean oceans.

The graduating Class of 2019 includes 250 graduates from 79 countries, with roughly a third being women. The Class is composed of 131 MSc graduates from the Malmö headquarters and 42 graduates from the China programme, making a total number of 173 MSc graduates; three PhD graduates; and 74 graduates from the distance learning programmes, including 19 LLM graduates. The 2019 graduation ceremony brings the total number of WMU graduates to 5,167 from 170 countries.

WMU President, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, delivered welcoming remarks. In addressing the graduates, President Doumbia-Henry encouraged them to take advantage of

the WMU alumni network, joining or activating national alumni groups to foster the power of the global WMU network. Further, she emphasized the important role the graduates will play in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals when returning to their home countries. "You are now experts in perhaps the most important areas for the future of mankind. You are all aware of the importance of the issues surrounding climate change, and of the pressing need for us all to become carbon-neutral in a rapidly decreasing time-frame... You are the citizens of this globalised world. Its future is in your hands," she said.

Mr. Kitack Lim, the first International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General and WMU Chancellor to hold a MSc degree from WMU, conferred the degrees on the graduates. In his remarks, he thanked the City of Malmö and the Government of Sweden for their continued generosity and support in hosting the University, as well as the many donors for their ongoing commitment to the WMU mission and its sustainability.

Mr. Lim reflected on his own experience, having graduated with a WMU MSc degree in 1991, highlighting the profound impact it had on his life in terms of gaining lifelong friendships as well as a global professional network. He noted the responsibility the graduates now have as they return to their home countries, saying, "I urge every one of you to assume ownership and shoulder your part of the responsibility of moving the world forward in a sustainable manner and leaving no one behind. You are now in the enviable position of having the knowledge and the power to turn ideas into reality. This will improve our lives, benefit our countries, our regions, and our planet."

The Guest of Honour was Ms. Sadan Kaptanoglu, President of BIMCO. She encouraged the graduates to go beyond the knowledge they gained at WMU, and push their imaginations to solve the global challenges we are facing today. "We need smart, well-educated experts and leaders, to help us imagine and implement the changes needed to address these challenges and – in time – to lead the industry towards zero emission," she said.





Representing WMU's host city, the Chairperson of the Malmö City Council and Mayor of Malmö, Ms. Carina Nilsson, noted the honor of hosting the University, as it makes a unique contribution to the local community as well as globally, educating maritime and ocean leaders. She highlighted that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are a guiding light for the City of Malmö, as well as WMU and its alumni. "You now have the latest knowledge and the world as your field of work. You are the future leaders within the maritime field," she said.

Mr. Natig Hasanov, President of the Student Council and a Sasakawa Fellow, also addressed the gathering and to his classmates, in particular, he said, "Today might be the last day for some of us as students, but as of tomorrow we have new missions. We must fulfill the visions of the International Maritime Organization, the World Maritime University and the international maritime community regarding enhancing maritime safety and security, as well as developing sustainable shipping on cleaner oceans."

Awards made during the ceremony included:

Dr. Stephen Cross was awarded Honorary Professor in recognition of his service to WMU as a Professor, Adjunct Professor and Visiting Professor since 1988, and his service to the International Maritime Lecturers' Association.

Mr. Kent Andersson was awarded Honorary Fellow in recognition of his distinguished service to WMU as Deputy Mayor from 1998 to 2010 and then as Mayor of Malmö from 2010 until his retirement last year, as well as his long service as a member of the WMU Board of Governors, and his generous and sustained support of the growth and development of the University.

Mr. Peter Hinchliffe, OBE, was awarded Honorary Fellow in recognition of his distinguished service to the maritime world within the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Shipping Federation from 2001 to 2018, as well as his service as a member of the WMU Board of Governors from 2012 to 2018 and his pivotal role in the development of a number of international conventions.

Ms. Nancy Karigithu was awarded Honorary Fellow in recognition of her distinguished service to the maritime world, as Director-General of the Kenya Maritime Authority, as a Chairperson of IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee, as a member of the WMU Board of Governors since 2010 and as a champion of the Association for Women in the Maritime Sector in Eastern and Western Africa.

Ms. Claudia Grant was awarded Outstanding Alumna in recognition of her distinguished service as Deputy Director-General of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO instruments (III), and as President of the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean. Ms. Grand received her Master of Science degree from WMU in 1991.

Dr. Kofi Mbiah was awarded Outstanding Alumnus in recognition of his distinguished service as Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Shippers' Authority for two decades, as Chairman of the IMO Legal Committee and as a Visiting Professor at WMU. Dr Mbiah received his PhD degree from WMU in 2011.

Regarding the annual student awards, the Chancellor's Medal for Academic Excellence for the MSc in Maritime Affairs 2019 in Malmö was awarded to Ms. Carol Jaimy Schroeder from Namibia, for the Dalian MSc Programme to Ms. Li Yan from China, and for the Shanghai MSc Programme to Ms. Li Manxi from China. The C P Srivastava Award for International

Fellowship was awarded to Mr. Luis Miguel Colmenares Hernández from Venezuela. Ms. Yvette de Klerk from South Africa received the Secretary-General's Prize for the best dissertation. Mr. Nishank Sharma from India received the Schlüter Foundation Dissertation Prize for an outstanding dissertation in the field of Shipping and Marine Environmental Protection. Mr. Mohammad Samsul Mannan from Bangladesh received the Lloyd's Maritime Academy Dissertation Prize. Mr. Gerardo Daniele Miscuzzi from Italy received the Lloyd's Maritime Academy Distance Learning Prize. Mr. Shi Quiang from China Hong Kong SAR received the Richard Charvet Scholarship for the Postgraduate Diploma in law. And Mr. Duncan Cuthill from the United Kingdom received the Richard Charvet Scholarship for the Master of Laws.

Earlier in the week, the Kalmar Prizes, awarded by Kalmar Global to students who are recognized as leaders among their peers, were presented in a ceremony at WMU. Recipients of the award included: Ms. Enas Al-Mahariq (Sasakawa Fellow - Jordan), Mr. Yuthana Autsadee (Thailand), Ms. Chan Foong Mun (Singapore), Mr. Luis Miguel Colmenares (Venezuela), Ms. Yvette de Klerk (South Africa), Mr. Roland Ijabiyi (Sasakawa Fellow - Nigeria), Mr. Reynaldo Rojas Trillos (Sasakawa Fellow - Colombia), Mr. Usman Shuaibu (Nigeria), Mr. Vu Ba Huy (Vietnam), and Ms. Thema Ward (Sasakawa Fellow - St. Kitts and Nevis).



# A Remarkable Day: The Awards Ceremony for Sasakawa Fellows

Enas Nadi Hamed AL-MAHARIQ  
(Jordan, 2019)



On Saturday, November 2, 2019, in front of hundreds of our friends, families, World Maritime University faculty and staff members, 30 students of the Class of 2019 were honored for their achievements during the academic year at the award ceremony for WMU Sasakawa Fellows. This great ceremony was held at the Sasakawa Auditorium and followed by a reception at the World Bistro.



The award ceremony was organized by the "Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat" in cooperation with The Nippon Foundation. Mr. Takeshi Mizunari, as the Master of Ceremonies, started everything off, as students' hearts beat fast, filled with happiness, waiting to receive their certificates and hand in their Master's thesis.

Welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Eiji Sakai, Vice President of the Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI), Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Known as one of the most eminent experts in this field worldwide, he highlighted the great relationship maintained over the years between WMU and the Foundation. He advised Sasakawa Fellows to contribute further when returning to their home positions, hoping that they would continue sharing knowledge and experience through the Sasakawa Fellows' alumni network. In addition, he hoped the Fellows would make an effort to enhance cooperation within the international community.

The Fellows were honored to have Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President of WMU, as a perfect example of a woman leader,

a hard worker in the maritime field, the head of an organization with the insight to build and strengthen relationships with donors and supporters. Dr. Doumbia-Henry talked about the WMU mission statement, with the aim of creating global leaders in the marine and ocean field, building capacity in education and research to serve the maritime community, in order to ensure safety and security, marine protection and efficient shipping on the oceans.

Dr. Doumbia-Henry spoke eloquently about the creativity and the sense of pride that the students had. She was glad of the partnership between WMU, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the Fellows, hoping that the Fellows would contribute to their network as graduates of WMU, an edifice which offers the wonderful opportunity to nurture and grow into professional individuals.

The next honorable guest was Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, who praised the efforts made by Dr. Doumbia-Henry, WMU staff and faculty for their generous support of WMU students, offering them such good quality education.

After his speech, Mr. Unno then awarded the certificates! As their names were read out and "congratulations" was spoken in each person's language, the graduates were filled with joy. In return, they handed their Master's thesis to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The audience was also highly impressed with this graduation ceremony.



Next, Mr. Tangeni Haimbala, representing 29 Fellows of the Class of 2019 belonging to different organizations located in 28 countries,

introduced their Resolution adopted on September 20, which defines two goals: contributing to one's own country, and contributing to the International Maritime Organization.

Finally, the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Mizunari invited Sasakawa Fellows, honorable guests, WMU staff and faculty to the buffet dinner at the World Bistro. Mr. Faisal Jadoon from Pakistan made the welcome toast for the Sasakawa Fellows, expressing their gratitude for this great moment.



Mr. Santiago Geymonat from Argentina mentioned that WMU Sasakawa Fellows are like a family, even though they have different cultures and different languages. This family was invaluable to their lives, as they studied hard every day, helping and encouraging each other. In his emotional remarks on behalf of the Class of 2019, Mr. Geymonat also expressed the students' feelings concerning their memorable visit to Japan, all the happy and beautiful moments, the generosity, hospitality, and the fruitful academic visits that the Sasakawa Peace Foundation provided.

It was a wonderful ceremony and party with beautiful moments and a warm atmosphere, surrounded by guests and audience... and it will remain engraved in our minds.



# Charting the Course for the Future of Maritime Universities



**Yusuke Mori**  
(Japan, 2014)  
Deputy Executive Director  
of IAMU

The International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) held the 20th commemorative Annual General Assembly (AGA) in October 2019 in Tokyo under the theme “Charting the course of future of maritime universities – Environmental, Technological, Economical, Social, Policy impact”.

The IAMU was founded in 1999 by 7 maritime universities, academies and colleges from 5 countries with a share and recognition of the significance of maritime education and training during the rapid globalization of international shipping, with generous support from The Nippon Foundation. The aim of the IAMU is to be the global leader in maritime capacity building through networking and excellence in MET, and its mission is five-fold and global in nature: Building a network of member institutions; providing opportunities for MET system development; supporting effective MET systems for passing on maritime know-how; publishing members’ research and scholarly works; and functioning as a liaison with other maritime associations and United Nations agencies. Since 1999, the IAMU has significantly expanded its membership to 65 of the world’s leading maritime universities and faculties, with The Nippon Foundation as a permanent special member, bringing the total to 66 members.

The administrative structure of the IAMU consists of an AGA, an International Executive Board (IEB), Standing Committees and the Secretariat. The AGA provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of maritime issues by member universities, comprising all member universities. The AGA, the president’s forum, plenary session and IAMU Conference are jointly organized by a member university. At the AGA plenary session, the Chair and the Executive Director, on behalf of the IEB, report to the member universities on the decisions of the IEB. The IAMU Conference as a part of AGA brings together academicians and researchers of member universities to discuss recent progress and future trends in maritime education and training within the scope of the IAMU. The IEB is responsible for directing and supervising the Association and is the primary decision-making body. Members of the IEB are the official representatives of member universities nominated by regional members and the Policy and Planning Committee. In the IEB, the following standing committees fulfill their responsibilities to administer and manage the IAMU: Policy and Planning Committee (PPC); Academic Affairs Committee (AAC); Liaison

Committee (LC); and Financial Committee (FC).

The IAMU promotes the international maritime community network and contributes to the enhancement of effective academic studies, developments, and practical applications associated with Maritime Education and Training through several activities.

Currently, five working groups - Institutional database, Peer-Assisted Evaluation Scheme, Research Project System, Academic Publication, and Comprehensive study on quality of onboard training - have actively undertaken comprehensive activities with international team members under supervision of the standing committees.

In 2007, the IAMU’s Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in consultative status was officially approved by IMO in November 2007 at its 25th Assembly meeting in London. As an NGO, the IAMU contributes its views on various IMO agenda items as an academic organization in meetings.

The IAMU research project system has been implemented to promote progress in capacity building at member universities all over the world through autonomous international coordination of member universities since 2010, and the IAMU organizational development project has also been implemented since 2016 in order to provide a mechanism to build and strengthen the IAMU as an organization, and as a result, to strengthen beneficial outcomes for its member universities.

A recent achievement of the IAMU is the official publication of Body of Knowledge (BoK) – Global Maritime Professional (GMP) in 2019 as one of the outcomes of the GMP initiative. The GMP initiative is intended to meet the envisaged needs of industry and a rapid evolving educational and career context while catering for the professional development aspirations of individual seafarers. The BoK is the publication of a number of related learning outcomes needed to be GMP. It is the aim of the IAMU that, through BoK, students graduating from across the membership of the Association will exhibit the learning outcomes of the GMP.

In Oct. 2019, celebrating its 20th anniversary, the IAMU held the 20th Commemorative AGA in Tokyo. The Assembly began with an opening speech delivered by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation. Dr. Sasakawa first congratulated the IAMU on



the 20th Anniversary of its establishment and appreciated the dedicated work by member universities and also the Secretariat. He also appreciated the official publication of the “BoK – GMP” and emphasized the importance of embodying the BoK – GMP as a guide for the curriculum development of member universities. He concluded by proposing to establish two new fellowship programmes: one, a fellowship for undergraduate students and two, a fellowship for young academic staff. Both programmes will aim to support future GMPs. These two new NF-IAMU fellowship programmes will be further developed by the IEB and will be made available to IAMU member universities for application in the Fall of 2020. Following Dr. Sasakawa’s speech, opening remarks and keynote speeches were delivered by dedicated speakers from different societies, such as representatives from IMO, shipping companies and International Maritime Associations. The opening ceremony was followed by a panel discussion on the theme: “Is there a future for seafarers with the coming of MASS?”, where MET’s role in the future was discussed among 6 specialists from various maritime societies. On the second day, at the plenary session, member universities approved the “Tokyo statement”, which contains important actions to be taken by the IAMU over the next 20 years. On Friday, the IAMU Conference was held and 30 oral presentations and 39 poster presentations were delivered under the themes: environmental, technological, economical, social and policy impact. Each session was chaired by 6 professors nominated from member universities.

The 20th Commemorative Annual General Assembly was attended by more than 180 attendees, including presidents, rectors, academic staff, and students of member universities, was concluded with great success and networking, and most importantly approved the Tokyo Statement, which includes new fellowship programmes to ensure the success of the IAMU’s activities for the next 20 years.

The exploration of the IAMU goes on.



# Challenging Life of a Representative to IMO



**Ms. Sonia B. Malaluan**  
(Philippines, 1998)  
Maritime Attache - London

The career opportunity I had been waiting for finally came when I was appointed Maritime Attache of the Philippines in London, United Kingdom. I assumed office on December 18, 2018. As Maritime Attache, my primary responsibilities include, among others, representation in meetings at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other conventions, meetings & conferences, and providing advisory and technical assistance activities to the Head of Mission on matters relating to flag administration, seafarers administration and shipyard regulations. Twenty years after my graduation from the World Maritime University, I am now putting into application all my learning and knowledge from WMU. Though most of the subjects needed updating, the basic knowledge on how IMO works, and what the instruments/conventions are all about, serve as a strong foundation to the effective performance of my functions.



With the Philippine delegation to the IMO 31st Assembly

The complex subject matters on Sub-Committee and Committee Agendas and the mere volume of documents for each meeting have been overwhelmingly huge to deal with and comprehend. It brought back memories of student days at WMU, where we had to read volumes of books to no end, preparing for discussions, homework and even examinations. Now it's almost the same, except that in IMO meetings, any statement uttered may affect the country's maritime industry, while as a student, repercussion was purely personal. However, the best part of working and interacting with representatives from IMO member states is the shared vision to ensure safe, secured and

environmentally sound international regulations and standards.

My work in London, and in IMO in particular, has been made easy by the network of WMU alumni who are working either in the IMO Secretariat or permanent representatives of their respective governments to IMO or even as delegates to various sub-committee or committee meetings in IMO or in any international conference. I am forever grateful to the Sasakawa Foundation for my WMU experience and the continuing experiences with other Sasakawa Fellows, regardless of whether they are WMU or IMLI graduates and regardless of their year of graduation. It has created an invisible bond among Sasakawa Fellows wherever we are. I've been extra happy every time I have had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with any of the Fellows. It makes the discussions or negotiations easier and effective, as we always have many things in common regardless of our nationalities. I am truly proud to be a WMU alumni and to actually show and apply the goals for which WMU was created. I believe that any cooperation I may achieve with alumni from other member states is truly more precious than gold.



World Maritime University (WMU) and International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) alumni with IMO SecGen and WMU President at Assembly31 in London.

## Dr. Yohei Sasakawa is Conferred a Doctor of Humanities Degree

**Mr. Jose Romualdo Quismundo DENZON**  
(Philippines, 2011)

It was a hectic afternoon, August 20, 2019, when I opened my email and learnt that my benefactor, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, would be visiting Manila, the Philippines, three weeks later on September 10. Dr. Sasakawa was to be conferred a degree in Doctor of Humanities, Honoris Causa, at the Ateneo de Manila University. While the commendation came as no surprise, considering the numerous accomplishments that he has achieved, the news of his coming was unexpected. Nine years had passed since I last met him, and therefore I had no desire to waste this rare opportunity to see him again. The occasion was not only a chance for me to meet a great person and leader,



but more so, to personally thank him for the WMU scholarship that he had accorded me.

During the luncheon meeting prior to the conferment, I was amazed to see that there were other Sasakawa Fellows of diverse programs in attendance. I came to realize that Dr. Sasakawa's

advocacy was not only championing the cause of the lepers and poverty alleviation, it was likewise accentuated on the importance of young people. Truly, Dr. Sasakawa, while you quietly worked, your achievements spoke out loud for you. Congratulations, Sir, you deserve it!

# The Mission of the Hellenic Coast Guard and its Contribution in Tackling the Migration Crisis



**Eleni KELMALI**  
(Greece, 2018)  
Hellenic Coast Guard

Migrant and refugee flows towards Europe have dramatically increased over the last few years. Managing the unexpected waves of people aiming to reach the European Union (EU), either in an attempt to escape life-threatening conditions and wars or in order to raise their standard of living, poses a major challenge to European countries. Of all irregular migratory routes, the Eastern Mediterranean faces the main migratory pressure, as it registered 74126 illegal border crossings in 2019, mostly at the sea borders between Greece and Turkey. In times of such unprecedented refugee and migration crisis, the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) has made strenuous efforts to achieve effective border management and save human lives at sea.

The HCG was established in 1919 and is currently staffed with approximately 7500 officers. It constitutes a law enforcement agency, militarily organised in ranks, responsible for the implementation of the mandate of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy. Its primary mission is to support the Greek shipping industry, and its main responsibilities extend over the fields of shipping policy, maritime safety and security, search and rescue at sea, the protection of the marine environment, border management, fishing control, and the fight against organised crime. The HCG forms a structural part of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, whose headquarters are located in Piraeus, Greece.

High-ranking HCG officers represent Greece in international organisations related to the maritime sector, such as IMO, EMSA and EFCA. Participation in international fora and cooperation with national and international institutions provides the HCG with the prestige, knowledge and technical know-how to respond to the contemporary



Hellenic Coast Guard <http://www.hcg.gr/>



Hellenic Coast Guard <http://www.hcg.gr/>

challenges of the shipping industry, promote the resolution of important issues and best serve the interests of Greek shipping.

For the purpose of accomplishing its mission, the HCG is equipped with aircraft, and a fleet of different types of vessels, including Offshore Patrol Vessels, Coastal Patrol Vessels and lifeboats, patrol cars and motorcycles as well as surveillance equipment.

The HCG plays a multidimensional role in the management of migratory and refugee flows around the Greek state. HCG patrol boats safeguard Greek territorial waters while HCG surveillance equipment contributes to effective border management, with a view to dismantling migrant-smuggling networks. In many cases, the lives of innocent people who try to reach the EU via sea routes are in serious risk, due to rough weather conditions and unseaworthy and overcrowded boats used for transportation. This is when the HCG sets as a primary purpose to save human lives at sea. Thousands of search and rescue operations have been conducted by HCG patrol boats in recent years, often under extreme weather conditions. The professionalism and experience of the crews play a crucial role in the successful outcome of these operations.

Since the HCG is a national organisation in a European state, maritime operations are carefully planned in accordance with national and international law, as well as European Regulations. In the context of joint operations coordinated by Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency that acts as the guardian and the driving force behind the integrated management of Europe's borders, the HCG cooperates with operational means and officers of other European countries,

which offer significant support to the Greek Authorities as regards border control. In the operational field, HCG officers' top priority is to guarantee the protection of human rights. In cases of illegal border crossing, officers have to ensure that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are treated in line with relevant international Conventions.

Lesvos island, located in Northeastern Greece and close to the Turkish coast, is the most targeted destination in terms of illegal border crossings. A significant number of Greek and other European operational means (patrol boats, surveillance equipment) has been deployed for the purpose of achieving effective border management at the sea border between Greece and Turkey. Since migrant-smuggling networks are very active in this area, migrants and refugees are detected at the sea border almost on a daily basis, and facilitators are often arrested during the operations.

Nowadays, the challenges for the HCG are more demanding than ever. Apart from conducting border management operations, the organisation works towards setting up legislative and technical solutions, which will allow the Greek maritime administration to fully adapt to developments in the maritime field. The contribution of the HCG in search and rescue cases, the protection of the marine environment and the support of the Greek shipping sector is highly appreciated by society and maritime industry. Being a member of the HCG for the last 8 years, I have witnessed many incidents which demonstrate the effectiveness and dedication of my colleagues to their mission and, thus, feel proud to be a part of this well-respected organisation.



## A Milestone Achieved

**Carolyn Annmarie  
Elizabeth Graham**  
(Jamaica, 2008)

February 5, this year marked a very important milestone for me when I successfully defended my thesis at Cardiff University, titled: Developing Labour Standards for Representation on Ships. Having completed my MSc at WMU in maritime education and training in 2008, I knew I wanted to continue doing work that might contribute to improving the lives of seafarers. My thesis focuses on

the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, and its provisions for seafarers to select safety representatives to speak for their interests in health and safety management on ships. The MLC is important as it focuses on labour standards and represents what has been termed as the “fourth pillar” in the global regulatory regime for safe, secure and environmentally clean shipping. Despite efforts by the international maritime community, seafarers continue to bear excessive work risks when compared with land-based industries. A lot of work has been done at the Seafarers International Research Centre,

where I was based, where so far 30 students have gained PhDs, generously sponsored by The Nippon Foundation. However, more needs to be done as new risks emerge even before old ones are fully solved. I hope to continue work based on my thesis, as important gaps have been identified in ensuring these global labour standards are effectively applied. I would like to thank The Nippon Foundation for funding my PhD.

The thesis can be downloaded at: <http://orca.cf.ac.uk/122484/>

## Contributing to the Progress of Gender Equality in the Maritime Transport Sector



**Ms. Ore OVIA TOUA**  
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One of the key findings is that most Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) have specific, overarching national gender equality policies, but the human and financial resources dedicated to their implementation are usually insufficient. There is a need to translate commitments made through gender policies into national development and sectoral strategies, where gender issues are usually either not mentioned, or are featured in a separate sector rather than mainstreamed throughout all development goals and strategies.

The need to advance women’s role in the maritime transport sector (the sector) has turned out to be a subject of great interest since the relaunch of the regional network association, the Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PacWIMA) in April 2016 in Tonga, supported by SPC and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Second Regional Conference for Pacific Women in Maritime held in Papua New Guinea in April 2018.

The sector is still considered unsuitable for women because of the perception that it promotes promiscuity, and it is not safe for women to work in. There are also expectations from society about a woman’s place being at home, caring for her family, and therefore a job that requires being on board ships, away at sea for long periods of time, is considered unsuitable and inappropriate.

The main obstacles to women’s full participation in the maritime sector are: a lack of commitment to create an inclusive workplace; the absence of a code of conduct and guidelines for respectful working relationships

and protection of people’s physical integrity; a lack of ships adapted to host women workers; and resistance to change.

Social norms may be a major impediment to women working in the sector. However, a growing number of educated women want to pursue a different path, and see the sector as an opportunity for travel and many interesting employment options. The sector is also at the dawn of another revolution, exploring low-carbon technologies and moving towards a carbon-free industry.

Increasing interest by women, and greater numbers of women working in the Pacific maritime sector, has led to national chapters being established and operationalised in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. These national chapters play a key role in contributing to the vision for the region and furthering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets.

An instrumental contribution of the national and regional network supported by SPC was the development of the GLOBAL FIRST Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2020-2024, officially launched at the 4th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting in September 2019 in Apia, Samoa. Arising from GLOBAL FIRST, there is now a greater opportunity to strengthen the positive momentum to further leverage some partnerships and increase visibility of some of the success stories of women in the maritime transport sector. There are calls for more coordinated collaboration, strengthening existing alliances and forging new partnerships to achieve more sustainable approaches. The national maritime administration is recognised and acknowledged for its continued support and passion in making inroads possible towards women-held careers in the sector, and shows a truly unique commitment from Pacific communities.

While there is an active network of Pacific



**Captain Susan Balekana, Fiji Women  
in Maritime Association**

Women in Maritime and many international and regional partners supporting gender equality in the Pacific, there is a need to increase understanding of the specific issues facing Pacific women in maritime, success stories and opportunities for women in maritime, and leverage innovative partnerships and funding to support national and regional networks and the Regional Strategy implementation.

Data collected and analysed by SPC have shown an increase in the number of women employed in the Pacific maritime sector from 1061 in 2017 to 1855 in 2019, out of an estimate of 16,000 people employed in the maritime sector (SPC, January 2016). However, details behind these figures, success stories and issues are not yet known, in order to better understand the situation and meaningfully implement the Regional Strategy action plan.

Thus, under SPC’s gender and social inclusion efforts, we are embarking on a project to focus on 2 countries and ascertain the data collected by SPC, investigate individuals employed in the maritime sectors, highlight success stories and capacity needs and organise a donor-country roundtable to showcase the project results and agree on specific strategic actions in the medium term.

The project will engage with the PacWIMA executive team, the Presidents of national chapters, the focal points from the gender desk in countries under the UN WOMEN, and SDP countries’ lead person and government officials.

At the end of the project, the objective is to have changed perceptions and issues of potential partners and facilitate conversations to support and fund the implementation of the Regional Strategy.

# Nippon Foundation Chairman is Named as a Person of Cultural Merit

According to the government's announcement on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa has been officially named as a Person of Cultural Merit by the Japanese government.

Chairman Sasakawa was recognized for using his experience as a director over many years in supporting various public interest projects, in the capacity of president and chairman of The Nippon Foundation, to make significant contributions to efforts to solve various problems by applying his forward-looking ideas and ability

to take action in social and cultural contribution projects beyond the reach of government, as well as social issues in international society that governments find difficult to deal with.

In particular, Chairman Sasakawa was recognized for his commitment to eradicating discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (also known as Hansen's disease), and his efforts in Myanmar to resolve hostilities in regions where the government and militant ethnic minorities are in conflict.

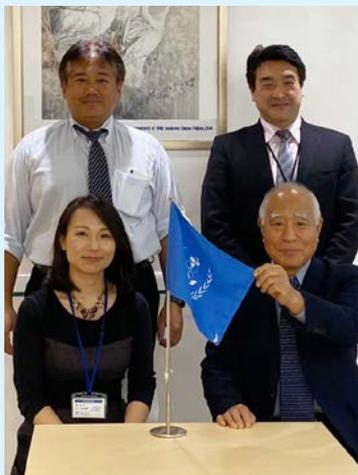


## Recent News From the Office

We would like to inform all the Fellows that we are going to change the design of our fellows' webpage, namely "The Friends of WMU, Japan website". At this moment we will shift to draft new design webpage temporary. In order to access your directory, please follow this instruction: (Same procedure for using laptop or desktop PC)

- (1) Press "menu" button on top-left corner (triple-dash icon)**
- (2) Menu shown. Press "Sasakawa Fellows Only"**
- (3) You can find and press "Directory"**
- (4) Then press "Link to Sasakawa Fellows' Directory"**

As always, please keep your mailing address up in order to distribute this newsletter. Please also let your colleague fellows know about this update if they do not know.



## Introducing Our New Secretariat Staff Member:

**Harumi Ishijima**  
Education/Outreach Div.  
The Ocean Policy Research Institute  
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Hello, everyone. I joined OPRI in November 2019, and I am happy to be involved in the WMU-Sasakawa Fellowship Programme.

At OPRI, I am working for the outreach of OPRI activities, as well as the Fellowship programme. Currently I am working on "White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy 2020". It compiles Japanese ocean activities in 2019, concerning a wide range of ocean matters, so please

take a look when it comes out this summer (English version will be available on our website).

My career started as a book editor. Later, I began focusing on international cooperation and developed my career at several organizations, such as the G8 Summit Secretariat, Cabinet Office (disaster management), and United Nations University (sustainability/SDGs). I have just started learning about ocean issues after joining OPRI, but I am already excited to be involved in this field.

At home, I am a mother of two daughters. I know every working mother on earth has the same situation - juggling work and life every day!

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in person at WMU or in Japan.

## Editor's note

As the new coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread unchecked across the world, I imagine that many of you share the same feeling of apprehension as I do as you go about your studies and work.

This virus is having a significant impact not only on the cruise ship industry but also on the shipping industry. To reinforce preventive efforts against the spread of the coronavirus and ensure the smooth flow of people and goods, I believe now is a good time for our Fellows to exchange constructive opinions across national borders.

Page 8 of this newsletter features news and activities of our Fellows,

including celebrations and condolences, transfers, and exchanges. I invite all of you to enliven this page by filling it with happy tidings from your own life and the world around you.

At this time, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Sadaharu Koga, Class of 2015, as well as Mr. Koki Matsushima, Class of 2016, for their contribution to our newsletter as an editorial committee member for the past two years.

Eisuke Kudo (Advisor, SPF)



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