

WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022



*August 26 – August 29, 2023
Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel,
Tunis, Tunisia*

*Hosted and Organized by the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat in
Cooperation with The Nippon Foundation, Tunisian Sasakawa
Fellows, and the Office of Merchant Marine and Ports of Tunisia*

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Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022



Overview of Regional Meeting

Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022

Overview

Date: August 26 - 29, 2022

Location: Tunis, Tunisia

Introduction



Photo by JR Harris on Unsplash

The Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022 took place in Tunis, Tunisia on August 26-29, 2022. 24 Sasakawa Fellows from 12 African countries and one Fellow from Japan convened for this event. This was the 5th regional meeting, the first in four years since the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting that was held in London in January 2018.

The event was scheduled to coincide with the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)¹, which was to take place that summer after being repeatedly postponed due

¹Established in 1993 at the suggestion of Chairman Sasakawa. This international conference brings together the knowledge and cooperation of not only African countries, but also development-related international organizations, private enterprises, and civic society, conducting discussions that lead to African development. The conference is held roughly every three years in Japan or an African country.

to the COVID-19 pandemic. The venue chosen was the Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel. This put the meeting in close proximity to the TICAD venue, and allow for Yohei Sasakawa, the Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, to visit in conjunction with his business trip to TICAD.

As was the case with previous regional meetings, all participants prepared materials such as presentations in advance before arriving in Tunis. Unfortunately, most Fellows faced difficulties obtaining a visa in the short amount of time available. Ultimately, 24 out of the 32 invitees were able to attend, with some arriving late due to issues with their flights.

Pre-Meeting (August 26, Afternoon)

As many of the Fellows have never met each other before, the pre-meeting (also called Day 0) was dedicated to getting to know one another. Some used a single PowerPoint slide to introduce themselves, while others enthusiastically utilized several. In addition, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, the President of WMU, was in attendance to see the participants' self-introductions. She had generously rearranged her schedule just so she could join the start of the regional meeting.



The event venue, the Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel

The self-introductions were followed by a discussion on the structure of the sessions and working groups beginning the following day, as well as who to elect as chairs for each session. Ultimately, Nabil Anwari (Morocco, 2005) was elected as chair for the overall meeting, with Houcem Eddine Cherni (Tunisia, 2020) and Maureen Kanini Kitheka (Kenya, 2020) as vice-chairs. The chairs of the working groups in Session 2, in which various maritime issues would be discussed, would be decided by the working group members themselves. Stella Joshua Katondo (Tanzania, 2001) was selected as the chair for Session 3 to discuss ways to strengthen and expand alumni networks.

At the end of the pre-meeting, Capt. Yusuke Mori (Japan, 2014), who was participating as a representative of the Japanese Sasakawa Fellows and as Deputy Executive Director of the International Association of Maritime University (IAMU), gave an overview of IAMU's important roles and activities.

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

Day 1 (August 27)

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony began with a welcome address from Dr. Sakaguchi. This was followed

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

Following the opening ceremony, Chairman Sasakawa - who was participating in TICAD - made an appearance at the meeting. The Fellows welcomed his entrance with WMU's school song. Chairman Sasakawa listened attentively as they each told him about their current activities and responded warmly to their questions. This long-awaited meeting was concluded with group photos with him, Dr. Atsushi Sunami (President of SPF), Dr.



Group photo with Chairman Sasakawa

Doumbia-Henry, Dr. Sakaguchi, Ms. Khelil, and OMMP representatives. Several Fellows who ran into flight troubles made it just barely in time to see the Chairman.

Session 1: Maritime Review of Countries

Participants explained how their countries were doing regarding maritime affairs and current issues they were facing. Each presentation was followed by questions from the enthusiastic and curious Sasakawa Fellows. (See Part 4: Maritime Review of Countries for the full reports)

Day 2 (August 28)

Session 2: Working Group Discussions

The Fellows were separated into working groups based on four different topics: 1) Maritime Transport and Port/Harbor Issues, 2) Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection, 3) Maritime Education and Training, and 4) Ocean Governance. They selected specific topics within these broad themes and fervently carried out discussions aimed at resolving future issues.

Each working group spent some time before and after lunch compiling a summary based on what they had discussed, and then, presented their conclusions to everyone that afternoon. As they took the floor, the presenters passionately exchanged questions and answers with members from the other working groups. (See Part 5: Working Group Discussions for presentation slides)

Session 3: Discussion on Alumni Networks in Africa

Fellows talked about their country's alumni activities, or lack thereof. An energetic and passionate guided discussion was held to create ideas for expanding the alumni network. Some common issues were brought up: the lack of alumni per country, the lack of responsive members and a means for reaching out to alumni, and the lack of alumni leaders who can take the initiative to organize events. The talks culminated in one solution: establishing a strongly bonded group once and

for all at this very moment, leading to the Resolution. (See Part 2: Resolution)

Day 3 (August 29)

Port Tours

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

Sightseeing

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



Overlooking the Ancient Carthage ruins

Farewell Reception

For about an hour at the beginning, participants intensely discussed the meeting's resolution draft prepared by Mr. Anwari. The timing of the toast was delayed because of this, regrettably leaving less time for socializing. However, after the Resolution was finished and signed, everyone was able to enjoy their final night together. There was festive music and dancing, wonderful food, and many talks and commemorative speeches. The reception ended on a bittersweet, but very heartwarming note.

Though the consecutive days of presentations, discussions, networking, and learning were surely exhausting, the Fellows were patient, flexible, attentive, and positive throughout the whole affair. The meeting would not have been as rewarding and fruitful if it was not for this particularly outstanding group of maritime professionals. This event was, without a question, a great, great success. As the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat, we couldn't be prouder, and it was our honor and privilege to be able to hold the Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022.

Event Program

August 25th (Thu) – DAY 0 (Arrival)

Time	Schedule	Venue/Notes
Morning/ Afternoon	Arrival	Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel

August 26th (Fri) – DAY 1 (Arrival and Pre-Meeting)

Time	Schedule	Venue/Notes
Morning/ Afternoon	Arrival	Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel
15:00 – 17:00	Pre-Meeting 1) Self-introductions 2) Create Working Groups 3) Select Group Leaders	
17:00 – 17:20	IAMU Presentation by Mr. Yusuke MORI (Japan, 2014)	
18:30 – 20:00	Welcome Reception	

August 27th (Sat) – DAY 2 (Maritime Information Exchange and Working Group Discussions)

Time	Schedule	Venue/Notes
9:00 – 9:10	Opening Remarks by Dr. Hide Sakaguchi (President, Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation)	Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel
9:10 – 9:15	Video Message from Chairman Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman, The Nippon Foundation)	
9:15 – 9:25	Welcome Address by Dr. Cleopatra Dombia-Henry (President, World Maritime University)	
9:25 – 9:35	Welcome Address by Ms. Thouraya Khelil (Director of Training Department, Office of Merchant Marine and Ports)	
9:35 – 9:45	Group Photos	
9:45 – 10:00	Short Break	
10:00 – 12:00	Visit from Chairman Sasakawa Group Photos	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 – 15:45	Maritime Review of Countries Cameroon: Etakong TABEYANG Egypt: Team Egypt Ghana: Team Ghana Tunisia: Houcem Eddine CHERNI	15 min./person + 10 min. Q&A
15:45 – 16:00	Short Break	
16:00 – 17:15	Maritime Review of Countries: Nigeria: Team Nigeria Cote D'Ivoire: Djaiblon Dominique-Yohann KOUAKOU Uganda: Bibian TURYAHUMURA	15 min./person + 10 min. Q&A
17:15 – 17:30	Short Break	
17:30 – 19:45	Maritime Review of Countries: Togo: N'Hoboutoun SANTA	15 min./person + 10 min. Q&A

	Kenya: Team Kenya Benin: Yehonnou Tchegbenton Fabrice METONWAHO Tanzania: Team Tanzania Morocco: Nabil ANWARI Japan: Yusuke MORI	
19:45 – 20:00	Dinner with Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry	

August 28th (Sun) – DAY 3 (Working Group Presentations Cont. and Alumni Network Discussions)

Time	Schedule	Venue/Notes
9:00 – 10:30	Working Group Discussions (WG1-4) WG1: Maritime Transport and Port/Harbor Issues WG2: Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection WG3: Maritime Education and Training WG4: Ocean Governance	Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel
10:30 – 12:30	Wrap Up and Prepare Presentations	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 – 14:30	Finalize Presentations	
14:30 – 14:45	Arrange Seats	
14:45 – 17:10	Working Group Presentations	15 min./group + 5 min. Q&A
16:05 – 16:20	Short Break	
16:20 – 18:30	Discussion on Alumni Networks in Africa	
18:30 – 20:00	Dinner	

August 29th (Mon) – DAY 4 (Port Visit, Tour of Tunis)

Time	Schedule	Venue/Notes
7:30 – 9:00	PCR Tests	Chelli Mohamed Hassen Laboratoire D'analyses Médicales
AM	Tour of Port of La Goulette and Port of Radès	by Bus
PM	Lunch Sightseeing 1) Ancient Carthage Ruins 2) Sidi Bou Said	
17:00	Arrive at Hotel	by Bus
18:30 – 19:00	Review and Sign Resolution	
19:00 – 20:30	Farewell Reception	Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel

August 30th (Tue) – DAY 5 (Departure)

Time	Schedule	Venue/Notes
Morning/ Afternoon	Departure	

Participants

Benin, 2018  <p>Yehonnou Tchegbenton Fabrice METONWAHO Port State Control Officer in Charge of Marine Pollution Subjects, Department of Marine Environment Protection, Directorate of Port, Maritime and Fluvio-Lagunar Affairs</p>	Cameroon, 2018  <p>Etakong TABEYANG Diplomat, Secretariat General, Ministry of External Relations</p>	Cote d'Ivoire, 2021  <p>Djaiblon Dominique-Yohann KOUAKOU Commanding Officer of Vessel, Navy, Ministry of Defense</p>
Egypt, 2004  <p>Capt. Ehab Ibrahim OTHMAN Vice Dean for Education Affairs, Maritime Safety Institute, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)</p>	Egypt, 2013  <p>Capt. Amr Monir IBRAHIM Captain/Director, Senior Simulator Instructor/Maritime Lecturer, Director of Marine & Offshore Training Centre (MOTC), Integrated Simulators Complex (ISO), Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)</p>	Egypt, 2018  <p>Fawzy Fathalla DEKINESH Head of Natural Gas and Petrochemical Department, Integrated Simulator Complex, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)</p>
Ghana, 2017  <p>Prosper Senyo BEDIAKO Senior Security Officer, Security, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority</p>	Ghana, 2020  <p>Marvin Bang-Gesina AYOO Maritime Administrative Officer, Maritime Services Division, Ghana Maritime Authority</p>	Ghana, 2021  <p>Synclesia Wenia PWATIRAH Acting Assistant Director, Naval Administration, Ghana Navy</p>

Participants

Kenya, 2012  <p>Elsie Nyabonyi BIKONDO Principal Human Resources Development Officer, Human Resources Department, Kenya Ports Authority</p>	Kenya, 2013  <p>Fiona Syovata MBANDI Senior Human Resources Officer, Human Resources Department, Kenya Ports Authority</p>	Kenya, 2015  <p>Juma Ahmed ALI Business Development Officer, Commercial Shipping, Kenya Maritime Authority</p>
Kenya, 2019  <p>Margaret Wanjiku WACHIRA Monitoring Officer, Commercial Shipping Department, Kenya Maritime Authority</p>	Kenya, 2020  <p>Maureen Kanini KITHEKA Maritime Expert, Shipping and Maritime, Ministry of Transport</p>	Morocco, 2005  <p>Nabil ANWARI Senior Officer, Multilateral Cooperation Service, Cooperation Division/Directorate of Strategy and Cooperation, Department of Marine Fisheries</p>
Nigeria, 2019  <p>Roland Oladipo IJABIYI Senior Manager, Pollution Control, Environment Department, Nigerian Ports Authority</p>	Nigeria, 2020  <p>Capt. Abiodun Abidemi FOLORUNSHO Captain/Assistant Director, Marine Engineering, Nigerian Navy</p>	Nigeria, 2021  <p>Yakubu ABUBAKAR Transport School, Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology, Zaria</p>

Participants

<p>Tanzania, 2001</p>  <p>Stella Joshua KATONDO Director of Transport Environment and Safety, Transport Sector, Ministry of Works and Transport</p>	<p>Tanzania, 2007</p>  <p>Dr. Tumaini Shabani GURUMO Senior Lecturer/Acting Principal, Maritime Transport, Dar Es Salaam Maritime Institute</p>	<p>Tanzania, 2021</p>  <p>Kwilasa Lushanga NG'WIGULU Environmental Management Officer I, Directorate of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, National Environment Management Council</p>
<p>Togo, 2018</p>  <p>N'Hoboutoun SANTA Head of the Section of Legal Affairs, Direction of Legal Affairs and Litigation, Ministry of Maritime Economy, Fisheries and Coastal Protection</p>	<p>Tunisia, 2020</p>  <p>Houcem Eddine CHERNI Harbor Pilot, Office of Merchant Marine and Ports, Gabes Port Authority</p>	<p>Uganda, 2021</p>  <p>Bibian TURYAHUMURA Maritime Information Technology Officer, Maritime Department, Ministry of Works and Transport</p>
<p>Japan, 2014</p>  <p>Yusuke MORI Deputy Executive Director, International Association of Maritime Universities</p>		

Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022



Resolution



RESOLUTION








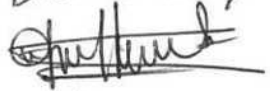


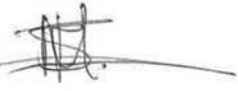
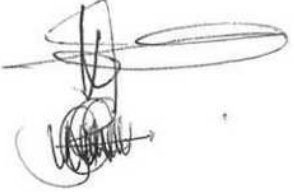
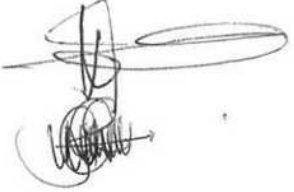
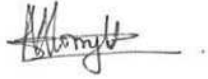



We, the participants of the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting of the African Region held in Tunisia from 26th to 29th August 2022.

Whereas the African Fellows have been dormant with minimal communication and interaction, RECOGNISING the need to create WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network in the African Region for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a constant link among Country and Regional Fellows for mutual cooperation and exchange of beneficial information and CONSIDERING the availability of resources and the maximum utilization of current information and communication technologies and tools.

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

- To enhance the Friends of WMU, Japan Website by making more effective meaning of communication among fellows and for the promotion of Sasakawa Network to benefit the maritime sector;
- To regularly update the Fellows' List to keep the directory alive and relevant (beneficial),
- To improve the Newsletter of Friends of WMU Japan by regularly contributing articles touching on current maritime issues and challenges in our regions;
- To utilize our respective maritime knowledge, expertise and experience, individually as well as collectively, for the development of African maritime sector;
- Uganda: Bibian TURIAHUMURARegional Secretariat to monitor, communicate and sustain future activities for expansion of the Sasakawa Fellows' Network.
- To make active use of this network as an effective tool for solving various issues or for promoting sustainable development of maritime societies and ocean; and

RESOLVE to cooperate actively in the implementation of this Action Plan within the African Region as undersigned:

Name	Signature
Yehonnou Tchegbenton Fabrice Metonwaho (Benin)	
Etakong Tabeyang (Cameroon)	
Djaiblon Dominique-Yohann Kouakou (Côte d'Ivoire)	
Ehab Ibrahim Othman (Egypt)	
Amr Monir Ibrahim (Egypt)	
Fawzy Fathalla Dekinesh (Egypt)	
Prosper Senyo Bediako (Ghana)	
Marvin Bang-Gesina Ayoo (Ghana)	
Synclesia Wenia Pwatirah (Ghana)	
Elsie Nyabonyi Bikondo (Kenya)	
^{Syovata} Fiona Syobata-Mbandi (Kenya)	
Juma Ahmed Ali (Kenya)	
Margaret Wanjiku Wachira (Kenya)	
Maureen Kanini Kitheka (Kenya)	
Nabil Anwari (Morocco)	
Roland Oladipo Ijabiya (Nigeria)	
Abiodun Abidemi Folorunsho (Nigeria)	

Yakubu Abubakar (Nigeria) 

Stella Joshua Katondo (Tanzania) 

Tumaini Shabani Gurumo (Tanzania) 

Kwilasa Lushanga Ng'wigulu (Tanzania) 

N'Hoboutoun Santa (Togo) 

Houcem Eddine Cherni (Tunisia) 

Bibian Turyahumura (Uganda) 

Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022



A Visit from Chairman Sasakawa

Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in the African Region 2022

A Visit from Chairman Sasakawa

Date: August 27, 2022

Guest of Honor: Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation

First, a Video Message



Chairman Sasakawa in his video message to the alumni.

See link for video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gFopBdgM20>

The Nippon Foundation had recorded a video of Chairman Sasakawa prior to the regional meeting. While it was the Chairman's wish to come to the regional meeting, his schedule during TICAD was packed and unpredictable, so he had prepared the video message in case he had to miss the event. This was played during the opening ceremony following the opening remarks.

His Message

“Mr. Foued Othman, CEO of the Office of Merchant Marine and Ports of Tunisia, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President of the World Maritime University, and WMU Fellows. I would like to thank you for organizing this networking session at the same time Japan is hosting the Tokyo

International Conference on African Development. This session will offer opportunities for exchange of views on ocean issues in Africa and beyond and for WMU Fellows to deepen ties among yourselves.

The Nippon Foundation's relations with Africa go back almost forty years. We have been active not only in the maritime and ocean fields that you specialize in but also in the areas of agricultural assistance and elimination of leprosy. Having visited almost thirty African countries, I feel very close to you and at the same time, consider you as my colleagues with whom I have overcome many difficulties in the spirit of "Never Give Up."

As you know, the ocean is a common asset of humanity. The challenges we face require cooperation /across countries and disciplines for orderly management of the environment, fisheries, energy, maritime safety, and international law. Against this backdrop, African nations too, while appreciating the importance of individual marine resource conservation and the sustainable use of the vast African oceans are now making joint efforts in ocean management. Africa hosted the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in 2018 and the blue economy policy dialogue during the UN Ocean Conference in 2022. Although western countries have taken the initiative to lead those international ocean conferences now there is a growing momentum for Africa to play a greater role.

I sincerely hope that as WMU Fellows, you will also contribute to the orderly management of the oceans of Africa. You can do this by making full use of the expertise you have developed at WMU, experiences from your current field work, and the network of more than 1,600 Sasakawa Fellow ocean specialists all over the world, of which you are a part.

Ocean issues are wide-ranging. Although you may not see tangible results in the short term, you have to take action with a long-term perspective. But as the people of Africa have taught me, let us work towards passing on the sustainable oceans to the future generations in the spirit of Never Give Up. I look forward to the success of this gathering and your future work. Thank you very much."

Meeting Chairman Sasakawa

Right as the opening ceremony was finishing up and group photos were being taken, there was an announcement that the Chairman was, in fact, arriving that very morning. This announcement was met with a flurry of activity as Fellows moved chairs to more suitable positions closer to the front where he would be seated.

Mr. Eisuke Kudo, senior advisor to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, had the brilliant idea of playing WMU's school song and timing it with Chairman Sasakawa's entrance into the meeting room. He seemed pleasantly surprised to hear the music and enthusiastic singing as he walked in, but immediately followed suit and clapped along to the song.

Fellows took turns introducing themselves and talking about their time at WMU, and how their experience there shaped them as maritime workers



Clapping to WMU's song

and as individuals. They ended these brief reflections with heartfelt words of thanks for funding their studies and allowing them to pursue their dreams. Thereafter, they had the chance to ask him questions such as about his motivations for his generosity towards mankind and maintaining his health at his age.



Receiving local clothing from Tanzania

A few Fellows actually flew into Tunis that morning and made it barely in time to see Chairman Sasakawa. Though they were operating on near-zero sleep after resolving their flight issues, they still participated in the introductions, Q&A, and the final group photos. Also, in the meeting, Chairman Sasakawa was presented with precious gifts from several alumni. He even declared that he would display his gift from Ms. Katondo, a Fellow from Tanzania, from the top of Mount Kilimanjaro if he is able to successfully climb it as part of his campaign in the fight against leprosy.

The visit finally concluded with Fellows taking group photos on top of individual photos with the Chairman. He would share a few images from his morning with the Fellows in his personal blog later: https://blog.canpan.info/yoheisasakawa/category_11/2

Though short and sudden, it was a heartwarming and emotional visit, especially for the alumni who never got to see him because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their grins in the pictures tell us that it was worth it.



All smiles for the group photo!