

# NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU JAPAN 84

One World, One Family

September 2023



Welcome Reception

## A WONDERFUL WEEK IN JAPAN

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

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

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

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

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



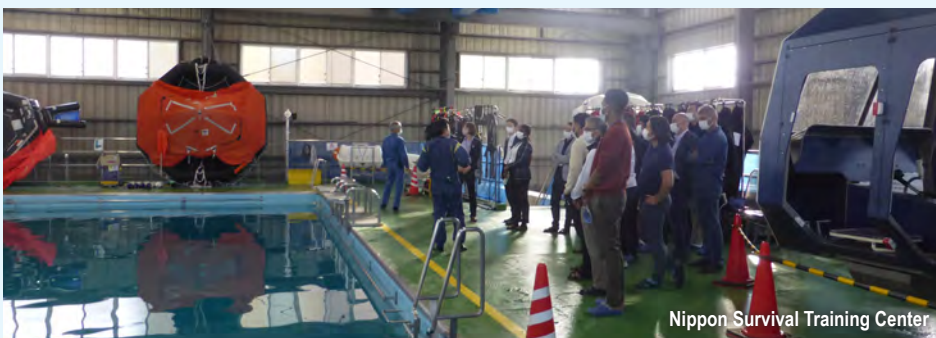
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)



Chairman Sasakawa speaks to the students.



Ariake Water Reclamation Center



Nippon Survival Training Center



Kyokuyo Shipyard Corporation



Tokyo Metropolitan Government Waste Landfill Sites



Kyokuyo Shipyard Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Port of Hakata



KANMON KAIKYO Vessel Traffic Service Center



Tea ceremony experience on the ferry



Furuno Electric Co., Ltd



HSN-Kikai Kogyo Co., Ltd



From Kobe to Kyoto by bullet train (Shinkansen)



Zen garden at Ryoanji Temple in Kyoto

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arigato gozaimasu!



Heian Shrine in Kyoto

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# 40th Anniversary



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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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



**Chahrazed Tigha**  
(Algeria, 2022)

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Let the adventure continue!

# Taking WMU Pictures for 32 Years



HM The King Carl XVI Gustaf  
with Mr. Efthymios Mitropoulos



Mr. Allan Olofsson  
(Rtd. Photographer)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# First Position in Essay Competition by Rashtriya Raksha University



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

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

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

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

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

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

Please visit the following link to read the full essay.

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



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



**Nabil Anwari**  
(Morocco, 2005)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# New WMU President Max Mejia Visits Japan

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

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

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



Japan Coast Guard



Maritime Bureau



## The Apple of My Eye

Tomotsugu Noma (Japan, 2016)

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

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

## Please update Directory information

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

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

October to check your home address is updated.

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

## Editor's note

## Your Signatures are My Treasure

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

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

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



Eisuke Kudo  
(Senior Advisor, SPF)