

# NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU JAPAN

MARCH  
2010

# 30<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary

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

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



## A Night to Remember

**Rodolfo Remigio Diawa** (Philippines, 2006)

On November 26, 2009, the officers and members of the Association of WMU Sasakawa Fellows (Philippine Chapter), Inc. gathered at the Sofitel Hotel, Manila, Philippines to welcome the officials and staff of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), WMU officials and staff and Japanese resident officers for a meeting and reception. Commodore Luis Tuason Jr. PCG, President, led the Philippine Sasakawa Fellows and delivered his welcome address. Mr. Hiroshi Terashima, Executive Director of OPRF, warmly acknowledged the presence of WMU Philippine Sasakawa fellows in his speech. Likewise, Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Special Advisor of OPRF warmly imparted his delight to the members who attended that night and gave importance to the occasion.

It was also befitting that the newly appointed President of the World Maritime University (WMU), Dr. Björn Kjerfve, who participated in the East Asia Seas Congress of 2009, hosted by the Philippines, also attended the meeting and reception. It gave the Fellows an opportunity to update the guests on their accomplishments and future activities. It is likewise a testament to the strength of the Philippine Sasakawa Fellows network and unity towards the goals and objectives of The Nippon Foundation and OPRF.

The Fellows likewise shared their individual appreciation and gratitude for the unceasing kindness of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa. The feelings during the occasion were unequivocal. Every face reflected principles of our benefactor that "We are One Big Family". When the WMU song was boldly sung by the Fellows, it seemed that everyone was remembering their happy experiences at WMU and Malmö.

Moreover, the presence and messages of Ms. Maria Elena H. Bautista, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator; Admiral Wilfredo D. Tamayo, Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG); and Commodore Richard U. Ritual, Vice-President of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) on behalf of PMMA President Admiral Fidel E. Dinoso, inspired the Fellows during the reception/cocktails that followed. The "Kampai" that abounded during the reception contributed a lot to make the night "a night to remember".

With "one solid voice" we are very thankful to Mr. Sasakawa, the officers, staff of The Nippon Foundation, and OPRF for their untiring support, concern, and generosity to the Sasakawa Fellows and to others. A special thanks also to Mr. Kudo, who always extends himself to attend to our needs and to the officers and staff of OPRF, Mabuhay.



# WMU FELLOWS MEETING PHILIPPINES Sofitel Philippine Plaza 26 November 2009 with the presence of DR. BJORN KJERFVE WMU President

ROMMEL A. SUPANGAN  
MILP 2008  
RONALDO G. MANDINO  
MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING  
CLASS 2008  
JEAN VER PIA  
MILP 2009  
JEAN VER PIA  
MILP 2009  
DEONIS G. TAN  
MET-N 1999  
RODOLFO R. DIAWA  
MSEP 2009  
SONIA H. MALALUAN  
SAPS. MGMT. 1998  
(MARINA)  
RAMON C. LIWAG  
VADM  
MLA - 96  
ROLANDO B. BANDALARIA  
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION  
CLASS 2008  
ALBERTO V. MANDINO  
MSEP 2009  
PCG  
GEORGE V. MANDINO  
MSEP 1999

LARRY V. GONZALES  
2009 MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING  
KARL V. CONCEPCION  
2006 MARITIME EDUCATION & TRAINING  
LUIS M. TUASON JR.  
MSA (NAUTICAL) 1995  
PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD  
MARIA ROWENA HUBILLA  
CLASS 2009 - 8/20/09  
NINFA D. MARTINEZ  
SA-1997 - 11/26/09  
BONG DIAWA  
MSA 1998 - 11/26/09  
GEORGE C. BOLICHE  
WMU CLASS 2009 (Port Management)  
ENRICO EFREN A. EVANGELISTA  
MSEP 2006  
CAPT JOSEPH R. BORDADO PCG  
WMU PL-99  
ROLANDO LIZOR N. PUNZALAN JR.  
WMU CLASS 2002  
JOSUE D. DELA CRUZ  
WMU CLASS 2003  
VICTORIA G. PARAGUZA  
WMU CLASS 2009, Shipping Management  
CARLOS MANUEL C. PORTUS  
WHA CLASS 2009, MA

## Greetings in their Work Places

### Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)

Rommel Supangan (Philippines, 2008)



The Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, Admiral Wilfredo D. Tamayo, welcomed the delegates from Japan, headed by Vice Admiral Eisuke Kudo JCG (Ret), Special Advisor of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation (OPRF), at the headquarters of the Philippine Coast Guard on November 25, 2009. Also joining the delegates were the JICA experts, headed by Admiral Toshitaka Ishima JCG, Chief Advisor, JICA-PCG Human Resource Management Systems Development.

The Nippon Foundation, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, has continuously supported the Philippine Coast Guard through scholarship programs for post-graduate maritime education in maritime affairs at WMU and specialized post-graduate education in international law at the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Msida, Malta. To date there are 26 PCG officers / Sasakawa Fellows, with Vice Commandant for Operations, Vice Admiral Ramon C. Liwag PCG, as one of the most senior Fellows. The visit was highlighted by the PCG Sasakawa Fellows joining the Commandant in welcoming the delegates from Japan.

Admiral Tamayo expressed his sincerest gratitude to The Nippon Foundation for their continuing support of the Philippine Coast Guard. The Commandant further stressed that aside from the career and professional growth of PCG officers who received fellowship grants from The Nippon Foundation, PCG has gained so much from the education and training towards facilitating the highest practicable standards in maritime safety and the preservation and protection of the marine environment. In response, Vice Admiral Kudo reiterated his support to the Philippine Coast Guard and acknowledged the warm welcome accorded to Japanese delegates.

### Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)

Sonia Malaluan (Philippines, 1998)



Sasakawa Fellows in MARINA were excited to meet Mr. Eisuke Kudo of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation on the afternoon of November 24, 2009. To some, the meeting with Mr. Kudo after so many years proved that he had not changed a bit since the last time they saw him.... the same jolly man who is very supportive of WMU graduates, particularly Sasakawa Fellows.

Eight out of the twelve Fellows at MARINA attended the brief meeting, and each one reported on current activities or assignments. The group was proud and happy to report that with the recognition being given by the current MARINA Administrator, Undersecretary Maria Elena H. Bautista, WMU graduates were being given special tasks and assignments relating to the developments at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Some of the highlights of the report are as follows:

Atty. Jean Ver Pia, together with Ronald Bandalaria, attended the Intersessional Meeting of the STW working group held at IMO on Sept.

7-11, 2009. MARINA's position paper on the proposed amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention, as amended and the STCW Code was prepared by a Special Group composed of WMU graduates. It was also reported during the meeting that the MARINA Administrator has created/organized an IMO Division under the Overseas Shipping Office of MARINA, composed of WMU graduates and led by Atty. Rowena Hubilla (WMU 2009). Ronald Bandalaria, Zaldy Maquera and Bong Diawa were transferred to this Division. Its primary function is to make implementation plans on recent IMO conventions, resolutions and circulars, as well as to prepare position papers or comments on proposed agenda items or issues in various IMO meetings.

In addition, Mr. Lunecito delos Santos and I are in charge of the Administrative arrangements for the Philippines' hosting of the International Diplomatic Conference to Adopt the Amendments to the 1978 STCW, as amended and the STCW Code in June 2010, in close coordination with the Conference Division of IMO. Furthermore, we are together with Ms. Ninfa Martinez, actively participated in the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (VIMSAS), which was completed November 3, 2009.

Prior to Mr. Kudo's meeting with the WMU Sasakawa Fellows, along with JICA Consultant, Mr. Masahiro Useono, he also met with Director Arhleen A. Romero of the Domestic Shipping Office of MARINA, relative to the ongoing projects at MARINA. JICA is providing technical assistance in conducting route capacity measurement studies in the Philippine domestic trade.

After the short meeting, Mr. Kudo was introduced to Col. Primo V. Rivera, MARINA's Deputy Administrator for Operations, and Atty. Rowena Hubilla also joined the group.



# Happy “Coming and Going”



## A Surprising Appearance in Traditional Suit

**Hlaing Thiri (Myanmar, 2008)**

Near the end of last year, a very auspicious event graced the Myanmar Sasakawa Fellow members. That was the second visit of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa in 2009. All of us were keen to see him and sent messages to each other immediately. Currently, 35 have graduated from WMU with 26 Sasakawa Fellowships, including two students who are still studying there.

However, some are working abroad, and some are working far from Yangon, so, altogether 11 members from different departments under the Ministry of Transport had a chance to meet Mr. Sasakawa.

When we arrived at the lobby of the Traders Hotel, Mr. Sasakawa was wearing our traditional silk Myanmar jacket (TIKE PONE) and

longyi (PASOE). Even though this was the second time to see him in our traditional suit, I was still delighted.

We are grateful to him for his kind consideration towards the Myanmar Sasakawa Fellows.

The meeting started at 6:30p.m. and ended at about 9:00p.m. Although it was a short time, it seemed like we were all family members. During the dinner, Mr. Sasakawa asked how we, coming from a tropical country, could survive in Sweden. He told us humorous stories about his family, experiences in Myanmar, and we laughed a lot. We enjoyed the meeting and all look forward to meeting with Mr. Sasakawa again soon.

Nowadays, the Myanmar Sasakawa Fellows can contribute our workforce to any maritime sector by applying knowledge gained at WMU.

All of us would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Sasakawa not just from us but also on behalf of the people of Myanmar.

## Dreams Can Come True!

**Mr. Shantanu Paul (India, 2009)**

I am delighted to write about the noble efforts of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa to restore the dignity and rights of people affected by leprosy. On January 25, 2010, Mr. Sasakawa was in Mumbai for the launch of Global Appeal 2010. Being a WMU Sasakawa Fellow, his door was open to me although he was extremely busy with various high officials from India and abroad. It was a unique experience to meet him, knowing of his noble work in my country to end the stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy. In the 21st century, notwithstanding India's remarkable progress in many fields, there is hardly any improvement in eradicating the old superstitions about the disease. However, now I strongly believe that the Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (SILF), which was established with the generous support of Mr. Sasakawa in Oct. 2007, will make noteworthy progress. Today, modern drugs can control the disease but the fact remains that many Asian countries including India are still on the WHO list with more than 1000 new cases reported annually from 1993 to 2007. The tragedy is that people affected with leprosy tend to hide the disease due to fear of discrimination, which makes the situation very complex. In 2006, Mr. Sasakawa led a group of world leaders and Nobel Peace Prize laureates in announcing the first appeal from Delhi (India) followed by Global Appeal 2007 from Manila (Philippines). In 2008 and 2009 Mr. Sasakawa took the appeal to London, where he was supported by various international organizations that work for human rights together with leaders of many different religious faiths. Finally, Global Appeal 2010 has been signed by leaders of the corporate world, in recognition of the fact that those affected by leprosy deserve all the rights, including the



right to work, enjoyed by all people. Among many global signatories are the well-known Mr. Keshub Mahindra (Chairman of Mahindra Group), Mr. Mukesh D. Ambani (CMD of Reliance Industries Ltd.), Mr. Ratan N. Tata (Chairman of Tata Group), which has added a different dimension to this noble effort in India. Today we all must be aware of the fact that leprosy is not contagious. It is completely curable. A person with leprosy becomes non-infective within 24 hours of starting treatment. It is not hereditary, and there should be no place for the stigma against leprosy that still persists. It is my desire and hope that shipping industry leaders will also join hands with Mr. Sasakawa very soon.

Possibly the famous poem which Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (Former President of India) quoted at the end of his tenure is true:

*"When you wish upon a star,  
Makes no difference who you are  
Anything your heart desires  
Will come to you"*

# Recent Maritime and Ocean Issues

## The 3rd Asian Shipbuilding Experts' Forum for International Technical Maritime Initiative (ASEF) in Shanghai



**Yasushi Kajitsuka**  
Japan Ship Technology Research Association  
(Secretary of ASEF)

ASEF has been organized to facilitate an exchange of information and views among Asian countries in the field of shipbuilding, and to give Asia a voice at international discussion tables such as IMO. Its first annual meeting was held in Japan in 2007, followed by a second meeting in Korea in 2008.

In 2009, the 3rd ASEF Meeting was successfully convened in Shanghai, China on Dec. 3-4. The meeting was organized by "China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry (CANSI)" and "Chinese Society of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (CSNAME)," and advocated by "Korea Shipbuilders' Association (KOSHIBA)" and "Shipbuilders' Association of Japan (SAJ)." "Japan Ship Technology Research Association (JSTRA)" served as the secretariat of ASEF.

More than 300 experts attended the meeting from nine Asian countries including China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia. Nineteen experts from China, Japan, Korea and India gave presentations.

During the forum, attendees had active discussions on seven "hot" topics which have been on the table of IMO, i.e. "prevention of air pollution," "ballast water management," "performance standards of protective coating," "ship recycling," "goal-based standards," "maritime regulations" and "actions from industry".

In the session on "ship recycling," some problems occurred during



procedures for developing an inventory of hazardous materials, and trials were introduced. Some experts emphasized the importance of standardizing the inventory of hazardous materials and proposed further discussions on this item among Asian experts.

During the topic of "performance standards of protective coating (PSPC)," some issues were pointed out by presenters on the implementation of PSPC for seawater ballast tanks, and new technologies were introduced.

In addition to IMO matters, the Indian expert made a comprehensive presentation on the current situation and future prospects of the Indian shipbuilding industry and ship recycling industry.

The next forum (4th ASEF) will be held in Japan in the beginning of winter, 2010.

I have strengthened my belief as Secretary of ASEF through three forums that successive results can be achieved by cooperation among all shipbuilding industries, and that the results can contribute to maritime safety and marine environment protection. We should do our utmost not only for ASEF but also for the whole maritime world.

## The 14th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

**Xu Cuiming** (China, 1996)



I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce to you the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP, which was held on December 8-10, 2009 in Toyama and hosted by the Government of Japan, and chaired by the Head of Delegation of Japan, Mr. Eiji Yamamoto, Deputy Director-General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP member states, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Coordinators of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and the Directors of each of the four NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) also attended. The representatives from UNEP Division of Global Environment Facility; Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA); the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Project; and North Pacific Marine Science Organization

(PICES) attended as observers.

The meeting reviewed the progress and achievements made and the activities carried out by NOWPAP RCU and RACs during the 2008-2009 biennium, and discussed NOWPAP's work plan for the 2010-2011 biennium and many issues in relation to the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan on marine environmental protection in this region. Six resolutions on the program for the 2010-2011 biennium were adopted: enhancement of the NOWPAP RCU performance, NOWPAP medium-term strategy, sustainable contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund, new project on biodiversity, and regional action plan on marine litter in the region. The results of the meeting were very effective and helpful for NOWPAP member states in this region in order to better implement the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.





## Policy Proposal from OPRF

Mr. Akira Ishihara and Mr. Kenjiro Miki from the Ocean Policy Research Foundation came to WMU on November 2 to give a special presentation to staff and students on maritime society in the era of global warming.

Mr. Ishihara and Mr. Miki presented a scenario of global sea-borne trade in 2050, and discussed the impact that the projected enormous increase in traffic – especially container traffic – would have on pollution, specifically CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and global warming, but also the release of toxic substances and bio-invasive organisms. The OPRF team have been considering the future, while bearing in mind two essential principles: that the maritime industry must continue to contribute to world economic growth, and that it should not pose a threat to the world's safety, security and environment.

OPRF has made two proposals to deal with the threats of the 2050 scenario. The first is to set a series of target dates over the next 40 years for the development of ultra-low emission and very low emission vessels, with the aim of a drastic 88% reduction in per unit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared with 2005 levels. The Foundation has also proposed other associated measures to facilitate international technology transfers, to secure the supply and availability of zero-emission fuels, and to provide the special training that would be needed by seafarers.

**Sue Jackson** (Associate Registrar, WMU)

The second proposal is for an international research institute to support the industry as it moves towards 2050. The institute would deal with research and data collection to assist the regulatory system, as well as supporting voluntary initiatives by the industry. Mr. Ishihara stressed that the institute would complement and support IMO in its work, providing neutral and science-based research, information and data to inform the Organization's deliberations.

Roger Jones, WMU's Vice-President (Business Development), noted that the OPRF's proposals were particularly important given the UN climate change conference that would take place the following month (Dec. 2009) in Copenhagen. "Decisions are likely to be made on how the shipping industry will be regulated, and whether this will be on a mandatory or a voluntary basis. Co-operation and collaboration are even more essential against this backdrop."

As Professor Jens-Uwe Schröder observed, in his concluding speech of thanks, "These proposals may include some tough deadlines – but without this pressure, effective technological solutions will not appear. They will also encourage the active international co-operation essential to the vision of this global institute."

Please refer to [http://www.sof.or.jp/en/topics/09\\_02.php](http://www.sof.or.jp/en/topics/09_02.php)

## Looking back at the East Asian Seas Congress (EAS-Congress) 2009

**Takashi ICHIOKA**

General Manager, Policy Research Department  
Ocean Policy Research Foundation



The East Asian Seas Congress 2009 was held in Manila on November 23-27, 2009. It was the third of a series of triennial meetings, succeeding the EAS-Congress 2003 in Putrajaya, Malaysia and the EAS-Congress 2006 in Haikou, China. It was hosted by the Government of the Philippines and co-organized by PEMSEA (Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia) and the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). No less than 1,400 participants from 43 countries, including as many as a hundred participants from Japan, joined the Congress.

The Manila Declaration, which encouraged East Asian countries to further strengthen the implementation of integrated coastal management, was adopted at the Ministerial Forum. More significantly, eight East Asian nations signed the Agreement Recognizing the Legal Personality of PEMSEA, which enabled PEMSEA to transform into a self-sustained regional mechanism for the implementation of SDS-SEA (Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia).

28 workshops were organized under the 6 thematic sessions. OPRF, together with OPINEAR (Ocean Policy Institute Network in the East Asian Region), co-convened a workshop titled "Coastal/Ocean Policy and Legislation", which included "Legislators' Dialogue". The venue of this workshop was fully occupied by about 150 audience members. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Terashima, Executive Director, OPRF and Dr. Chua, Council Chair, EAS partnership Council, and discussed a large variety of ocean policy initiatives in the region. The crucial importance of political will was emphasized.

Another workshop titled "Impacts of Climate Change at the Coastal and Ocean Areas of the East Asian Seas Region" was co-convened by the WMU and other agencies. Dr. Kitagawa, Special Research Fellow of OPRF, made a presentation titled "Shipping and Climate Change in East Asia: The impacts of the opening of the Northeast Passage" in this workshop.

It is generally acknowledged that the EAS-Congress has evolved into a region-wide platform of cooperation for the sustainable development of East Asian Seas. The Congress is expected to unite like-minded people who have a strong interest in oceans and coasts and moreover, expand the "circle of ocean policy".



## The World is a Family, and All Humankind are Brothers and Sisters

Neill Nolit (Estonia, 2008)



When applying to WMU in 2007, I never thought that by the time I graduated I would not only get my MSc degree but also friends for lifetime.

After graduation and before going back home, I thought to reward myself for all my hard work at WMU and go for a holiday in Ghana. Luckily, one Sasakawa Fellow, Nana Esi Quansah (Ghana 2008) let me stay at her place and showed me all the nicest places in the South of Ghana. After three weeks there, I had to return home to continue work at the Estonian Maritime Academy as well as to continue my studies at Tallinn University of Technology for another masters' degree. After one more year of hard work, I decided to go traveling in South East Asia.

I started my holiday with a visit to Malmö. The night before the WMU graduation ceremony, I attended the Sasakawa Fellows' reception. There I had a very happy reunion with Mr. Kudo and Mr. Ichikawa, my former professors, WMU staff members, students from the class of 2009, and my biggest surprise, my classmate Rommel A. Supangan from the Philippines, whom I had not seen since our own graduation in 2008. After spending a few days there, I continued my trip.

I spend three weeks traveling in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. When visiting these beautiful countries, it was an

additional bonus seeing my friends whom I had come close to while studying at WMU. Unfortunately, I did not have a chance to meet other Sasakawa Fellows in Malaysia because of their tight working schedule, but I did have a joyful phone conversation with Ahmad Faizal (Malaysia, 2008). In Thailand, I met with 3 Fellows, Theerapong Bhothirungsi (Thai, 2008), Sarinee Tongbai and Poppy Sartika (Indonesia, 2009). We had a wonderful day in Bangkok visiting temples, museums and other sightseeing places. Then in Vietnam, I met two of my classmates, Nguyen Quy Doanh and Phung Trong Hieu. They took me around Ho Chi Minh City, on a Mekong Delta boat trip, and we also visited Vung Tao.

I have already planned my next holiday in December for a really happy event in Ghana: The wedding of two WMU graduates, Nana Esi Quansah and Martin Söderberg.

I am so happy to be able to visit my friends' countries and to learn more about their culture and customs and participate in special moments of their lives.

The Nippon Foundation has given me more than just my MSc certificate; it has given me a new family: "The world is a family, and all humankind are brothers and sisters."



## Maritime Law Enforcement Course 2009 in Japan



With all the participants at the course



Dinner with WMU graduates and OPRF friends

Ronaldo P. Bandalaria (Philippines, 2005)

Konnichiwa! Last autumn while the weather was at its best, I participated in an Area Focused Training Course in Maritime Law Enforcement in Japan. Sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) along with the Japan Coast Guard and other government agencies, the course is very relevant and informative as it is designed to provide knowledge and skills related to coastal security and maritime crime investigation. The participants were trained in international law, countermeasures to trans-national maritime crimes and maritime law enforcement activities, among others.

Similar to my WMU studies, I found the training very "international". To further enhance collaboration and networking, particularly with the current problems of piracy in the Gulf of Aden, the Maritime Law Enforcement course was well represented by participants from China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Yemen, Oman, Tanzania, Kenya and the Philippines.

What makes Japan training more memorable is meeting "old" and new FRIENDS. Given the chance to meet WMU-OPRF family, we had a fabulous dinner and drinks in Tokyo. As mostly expected, the night was too short for chatting and reminiscing about the delightful times at Malmö. Nonetheless, such a gathering was a heartfelt and wonderful experience of a lifetime.

# Malmö

## – Our Second Hometown –

### Swedish hosts for WMU students in Malmö

**The Jeræus family: Lars, Cecilia, Katarina, Helena and Johan**

Our family has been a host family for students from WMU for a number of years.

We think the host family-system is a very good idea, giving the students the chance to get to know more about Sweden, where they spend so much time while studying at WMU. Living in the hostel together with other international students doesn't help them get to know many Swedish people, and of course, we want them to feel more at home in Sweden!

Our family is probably an ordinary Swedish family, living in a village 30 kilometres from Malmö. We have three children, who are now adults. Our family life is very typical: we live in an ordinary Swedish house, work and follow the Swedish traditions, eat ordinary Swedish food and so on. The students who visit our home learn about our way of life. We hope this is interesting for them.

In return, being a host family for these students has given us so many pleasant times. We have met students from many countries and we have learned a lot. Our many interesting discussions with WMU students have taught us much about their home countries and about



their cultures. We have also become familiar with WMU and its supporting organizations. Many of the students we have met have been sponsored by The Nippon Foundation and we know how much they appreciate this support, and how much they look forward to their trip to Japan each September.

We have noticed that the students appreciate sharing our family life. Most of the students miss their families, and it's so different for them to stay in the hostel. Hopefully, we can give them some of the family atmosphere they miss. We also know that they are very busy with their studies.

We always enjoy joining them at the graduation ceremony and other events at WMU such as the welcome dinner and International Day. During their time in Sweden, we get to know "our students" quite well. Most of all, we've noticed that we can laugh at the same things, wherever in the world we come from - and that's fascinating!

### A WMU Student Hosted by a Swedish Family

**Pervez Iqbal Mughal (Pakistan, 2010)**



It was difficult for me to select a dish from a variety of Swedish foods at the dinner hosted by the Malmö city government to welcome the class of 2010. Mrs. Jeræus helped me by telling about these typical Swedish dishes. I met her at the same gathering where Mrs. Lundahl introduced her as my host family. Even as a first impression, I could tell she was a very caring and outgoing lady. Her daughters were also there to accompany us and to share Swedish culture.

Lars and Cecilia Jeræus are one of the host families in Malmö, Sweden, who take care of WMU students and provide a chance to share with them. There are numerous host families who are very enthusiastic about their WMU students, wholeheartedly familiarizing them with Swedish customs and traditions. They invite students in their homes and share just like one family. In this way students not only get a chance to understand a different culture but also feel less homesickness and loneliness. At the same time, it provides a golden opportunity for students to introduce their diverse and colourful costumes and traditions to their hosts. It gives them encouragement, a way for open communication and to contribute significantly to global peace and harmony.

### WMU Early Christmas

**Giang Thi Huong Dang (Vietnam, 2010)**



As a WMU tradition, every year Mrs. Lundahl holds an early Christmas party before our holiday back home. It is a great opportunity for us to celebrate the Christmas season as Swedes do. It goes without saying that we all eagerly await our last party of the year.

It was Friday evening and all the corners of the basement of the Henrik Smith resident were brightened with lovely candles and a twinkling Christmas tree that made a warm and friendly environment to welcome all students and their families. At the start of the party we learnt to say "God Jul" ("Merry Christmas") and gave best wishes to each other in Swedish. We really enjoyed the Swedish specialties "pepparkakor" - a crisp, thin ginger biscuit, flavoured with cardamom, cinnamon and cloves, and "glögg" - spiced red wine served with almonds, hazelnuts or raisins.

Surprisingly, the gifts from Santa Claus were a big hit: typical Swedish seaman's puzzles made from wood by our dear host family - Father Christmas Jonny Ekdahl. We had great fun, like children, trying on Santa Claus' red clothes and long white beard to become "Father", "Mother", "Daughter" or "Son" Christmas.

It was the most fantastic and memorable celebration of all!!!



## Forthcoming STCW Diplomatic Conference in June, Manila

Louie U. delos Santos, MLP 2008

The Philippines will host the International Diplomatic Conference of Parties to Adopt the Amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention for seafarers, as amended and the STCW Code at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Manila from June 21-25, 2010.

To prepare for this international event, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recently dispatched a team composed of Ms. Olga E. O'Neil, Director, Conference Division and Mr. Vincent Job Olabisi, Deputy Director and Head Information Technology Division, to undertake a visual inspection of the conference and hotel facilities in Manila from 19-21 January 2010.

Ms. Sonia B. Malaluan (SM, 1998) and Mr. Louie U. delos Santos (MLP 2008), both Sasakawa Fellows, are actively involved in the preparations and are spearheading major committees of the Philippine Organizing Committee.

Information regarding the 2010 STCW Diplomatic Conference can be accessed through:

<http://www.marina.gov.ph/stcw/stcw2010.html>.



From Left to Right: Mr. Neil Frank Ferrer, Chair, IMO Maritime Safety Committee; Ms. Olga O'Neil, IMO Director, Conference Division; Ms. Sonia Malaluan (SM 1998); Mr. Louie U. delos Santos (MLP 2008); Ms. Myrna E. Calag, MARINA, OIC Deputy Administrator for Planning, and Mr. Vincent Job Olabisi, IMO Deputy Director and Head Information Technology

## A Note from the Secretariat



As of October 26, 2009 Mr. Eisuke Kudo, who was in charge of the WMU program, retired from his post as OPRF Executive Director. His successor is Mr. Shuhei Okazaki, who has thorough knowledge of all OPRF programs, including WMU. Mr. Kudo now serves as Special Advisor. We express our profound gratitude to Mr. Kudo for his contribution to Friends of WMU over many years and ask him to continue to be passionately involved and give it the benefit of his guidance.

It would be appreciated if you could refer to our website to take a look at his Keynote Speech "My Commitment in WMU" from the WMU 25th Anniversary International Conference in April, 2008.

[http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp/contact\\_download.html](http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp/contact_download.html)

## A Current Student's Outstanding Work on the Website

Jesús A. MENACHO Piérola, one of the current Sasakawa Fellowship students in the class of 2010, would like to share his paper on the "Maritime Labour Convention, 2006" (MLC-2006) which is expected to come into force in December 2011. The paper includes the following topics: 1) An overview of MLC-2006, 2) A comparison with the previous ILO instruments, 3) Impact on Seafarers and ship owners, 4) Practices in implementation of MLC-2006; Flag State Inspection/ Port State Control

The full text can be found on the "Friends of WMU, Japan" Website at: <http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp>

## Editor's Postscript



My association with WMU dates back to my first visit in 1993, and I had the honor of serving it as a Visiting Professor from 1996 to 1998. Then beginning in 1999 up to 2002 I had the happy opportunity of enjoying life with students at Malmö as MET's Associate Professor. In April 2002 I returned to my old place of work, Marine Technical College (Ashiya, Japan), thinking that my association with WMU would lessen when I was invited by the Ship & Ocean Foundation, (OPRF) to be responsible for publishing the Newsletter for Sasakawa Fellows.

I recall the first editorial committee meeting that took place in September 2002 as if it was just yesterday. I never dreamt that Newsletter No. 1 would carry the obituary of Dr. Nomoto, the honorary professor of WMU who had been closely associated with WMU from its inception.

The Newsletter is now marking its 30th issue and I note with amazement that eight years have

passed. During that time the Newsletter also carried the sad announcement of the death of Dr. Zade who was my immediate boss and vice-president as well, reminding me of the passage of time.

Last month, I attended WMU's STW41 at which I recognized many of my own students, shining in maturity and confidence. Once more I felt the passage of time.

Having noted that, one can also say that the Newsletter is only in its 30th issue and its contents can be even better and richer. That of course depends heavily on the articles Fellows send in.

I therefore ask for your greater cooperation because I am convinced the Newsletter serves as an important network linking the Sasakawa Fellows, as well as a good source of information.

**Toshio Hikima**  
Marine Technical College

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