

# F NEWSLETTER Friends of WMIU

## JAPAN

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MARCH 2009 No. 26

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



The Commemorative Event of IMO's 60th Anniversary  
IMO's 60 years and Future – The Asian Perspective –

Yasko Suzuki  
(Japan, 2003)

It was an absolutely fine day in late October when a ship naming ceremony for two newly built Greek AFRAMAX tankers took place at a shipyard in Yokosuka, Japan with Mr. Mitropoulos - IMO Secretary General - as a witness. The ships were built for a Greek company, and he was invited to the ceremony with his wife, Mrs. Chantal e Mitropoulos, who christened one of the vessels.

I was privileged to accompany them and joined the ceremony at one of Japan's and the world's biggest shipbuilding companies, SHI. The ceremony was followed by an "open ship", which is always fun. Surprisingly, the ship was to sail at 15:30 that day. Bon voyage!

Another purpose of his visit to Japan was to attend a commemorative event held by the Japanese Government (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism), celebrating the 60th Anniversary of IMO.

The event consisted of 2 main programs, one a keynote speech by Mr. Mitropoulos, and the other a panel discussion by maritime experts in the Asian region.



In his speech, Mr. Mitropoulos discussed three current topics that all maritime countries should be concerned with.

The panel discussion was chaired by Mr. Sekimizu, Director of the Maritime Safety Division of IMO, and began with presentations by experts from various sectors in the maritime field. Participants were from maritime administrations of China, South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and Japan, the Japanese shipowners' associa-

tion, and the shipbuilders' association of Japan. At the presentation, speakers emphasized the importance of Asian countries in the maritime world indicating their dominance in maritime fields - in shipbuilding, cargo handling, shipping companies, etc.

Following the presentations, they discussed the three topics suggested by Mr. Sekimizu; "Is IMO efficient enough to contribute to the maritime world?", "What are the future challenges of IMO" and "How Asian countries support IMO's activities."

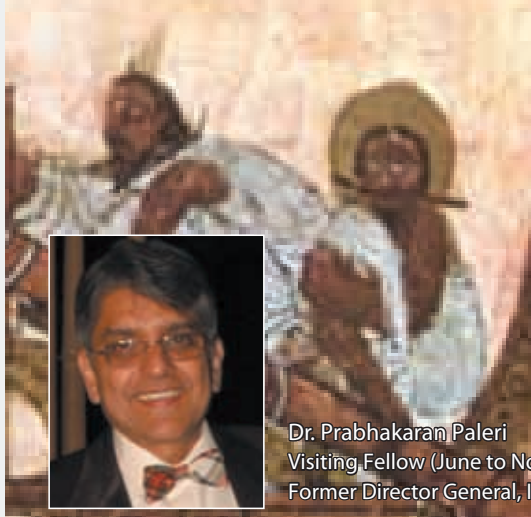
At the discussion, one participant suggested having regular meetings within the Asian region to exchange opinions and others agreed. Another continued that even during IMO meetings, having informal dialogs would be very valuable. Mr. Sekimizu guaranteed that after its renovation, the IMO building will have plenty of rooms which can be used for such purposes.

The discussion concluded successfully, confirming the willingness to have channels of communication among Asian countries.

It was amazing to witness this first big step in bonding, and personally, I hope that in the very near future, the AU (Asian Union) will be as strong as the European Union - initiated by this memorable event.

Following the discussion came the reception party, which is always fun and a good place to make new ties with other WMU graduates. I met Mr. Ning (China, 1993) and Mr. Zhang (China, 1999) for the first time, who had come to Japan to join this event. The picture above shows Mr. and Mrs. Mitropoulos, Mr. Sekimizu and us WMU graduates fortunate to attend the ceremony. It's a great honor being a part of the IMO family.

# Abyssal Challenges: Expectations from WMU Graduates



Dr. Prabhakaran Paleri  
Visiting Fellow (June to November 2008), OPRF  
Former Director General, Indian Coast Guard



The World Maritime University has been a trendsetter in the education of maritime administration and environment since its inception in 1983 under the aegis of IMO. Throughout the period it followed the principles of IMO to educate students from all over the world for “safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans.” IMO on the other hand has been busy setting up new standards for the shipping industry. It is celebrating its 60th anniversary with fond memories of past achievements. It was a pleasure to listen to Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, who spoke in the most relaxed manner at the meeting organised by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan to commemorate the 60th anniversary of IMO at The Nippon Foundation in Tokyo. There were also graduates of the World Maritime University, all of them Sasakawa Fellows, in rapt attention among the audience. The confidence of IMO and the principles for which it stands were reflected in the Secretary General's speech. He emphasised its activities and concluded that the only standardisation perhaps left was for breaking the champagne bottle on the ship's bow while launching it by gracious ladies. I agree with him. I have seen IMO functioning on various occasions. I was privileged to represent the Government of India as a delegate from the Indian Coast Guard. IMO is an establishment par excellence and the greatest hope for the maritime community. It has the credentials to face the challenges of the future.

WMU has been accredited by the performance of its students who have gone through its doors with excellent academic experience in maritime affairs related to administration and the environment, all for which IMO stands. They are highly qualified specialists available to the world to resolve global maritime issues and problems related to shipping and the environment. They are scattered in many countries and can turn into a great force in support of their governments if utilised effectively. The Nippon Foundation has been nurturing them.

The maritime world has always been associated with the perils of the sea not only restricted to the forces of nature. The sea has been a place for many unlawful activities and conflicts. The marine environment is seriously damaged by pollution and overexploitation of its living resources. Some of these issues are outside the mandate of IMO. There are other international bodies like the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to

handle them. While IMO could handle pollution of the marine environment by ship sources, the problem of pollution from land-based sources has to be seen by the respective governments. Together, the international community through their respective governments will be able to handle these issues if the will is there. It is in this respect that the graduates of the World Maritime University have important roles to play through their respective organisations. These experts are the effective links in the chain that could lead the world towards secure, safe and clean oceans, not only for shipping but for many other activities, with rights and jurisdiction under the Law of the Sea provided by UNCLOS.

Under the competent management of IMO, marine pollution by vessel casualties could become a thing of the past. However, biopollution by marine organisms transported by ships' ballast water to alien environments has become a serious problem, although it is more than a century since it was first reported. It came to the notice of IMO in 1988, and since then considerable headway has been made. But there is still no conclusive solution. The problem with biopollution by alien marine organisms that turn into predators or carriers of diseases in their new environment is that they cannot be removed once they are transferred. The only solution is preventing the transfer. The subject needs serious studies in ship design and transportation to resolve the issue. In the interim the ships could follow the guidelines of IMO and its ballast water management (BWM) regime.

Marine casualties where human lives are involved will rise with the increase in vessel operations not only limited to merchant ships. According to one study it is estimated that the world's most dangerous profession is that of a marine fisherman. The death toll is around 111.8 per 100,000. This may not be totally accurate, and there could be many other risky jobs. But the fact is that fishermen often get caught in adverse conditions at sea. The coast guards of the world and other similar organisations are extending help to those in distress at sea. But that is not sufficient. Search and rescue areas at sea have been globally allocated but many nations are yet to notify their areas through bilateral agreements and understanding. It also becomes a problem when there are maritime disputes between states. In such areas often help may not be forthcoming when vessels meet with distress. Often these vessels belong to fishermen in search of fish stock to harvest. The situation becomes worse when a littoral State cannot reach out to those in distress.

There are many such grey areas at sea that IMO cannot reach either by absence of mandate or without the support of local governments. These are the areas the graduates of the World Maritime University can examine to provide advice to their governments with inbuilt motivation to get things done. The problems faced by the maritime world are not in shipping alone.



There are many other faculties that may also affect shipping. Unlawful activities, disasters at sea causing damage to life and property, illegal research, maritime border disputes, etc., are a few. The World Maritime University could enlarge its field of education in these areas, too, to broaden the outlook of its students for a more proactive approach. They could make their nations aware of the problems through their respective organisations and provide practical support in implementation of suppressive measures and regulatory regimes. The ocean has to be seen as a single entity to collectively and proactively make it safe, secure and clean. IMO, WMU and its graduates, along with their governments, could achieve this collectively. I am sure it will have the full support of The Nippon Foundation.



## Maritime Security under the Microscope

ABE Ake Lazare (Côte d'Ivoire, 2009)



The 7th session of the “International Symposium on Selected Issues in Maritime Security” was held November 10-12, 2008 in Malmö, Sweden, hosted by the World Maritime University (WMU) and jointly sponsored by the Swedish Maritime Administration and the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building, and Urban Affairs. This symposium, which was attended by international experts in maritime security and the students from WMU and Lund University, aimed at addressing current issues in maritime security, specifically piracy, terrorism and illegal trafficking, and analysing the efficiency of the solutions implemented so far.

The Symposium started the first day, on November 10th, with welcome remarks delivered by Prof. Proshanto K. Mukherjee, Vice President (Research), ITF Professor of Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection, and Director of Doctoral Programmes at World Maritime University. He was followed by Dr. Marie Jacobsson, Principal Legal Adviser on International Law of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invited to deliver the keynote address, which emphasized the necessary link between maritime security and human rights. Then came three other speakers, Mr. Pottengal Mukundan, Director of ICC-International Maritime Bureau; Henri Fouche, Lecturer at Tshwane University of Technology in South Africa; and Uwe Jenisch, Honorary Professor of International Law of the Sea, who addressed respectively the issues of piracy in the high risk areas of Somalia and Nigeria, and in all other countries of Africa as well; and analysed the adequate responses needed concerning law enforcement and the legal framework.

The schedule on the second day was very busy with six presentations related to the prosecution of the Alondra

Rainbow hijackers, the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia, responsibility issues for asylum seekers in the Mediterranean, problems concerning the implementation of Port State Control, ISPS Code and Seafarers’ rights. This interesting series of topics was respectively presented by Sir Venkiteswaran, Senior Advocate in Mumbai, Mr. S. Menefee, Senior Associate, Center for National Security Law in Virginia, G. Noll, Prof. of International Law at Lund University, O. Özçayır, Assoc. Professor, Maritime Law Consultant, D. Blanchard, Staff Attorney, Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey, and M. Wengelin, PhD Candidate at Lund University.

The pure security and human rights issues developed the day before were followed on November 12th by two presentations regarding the relationship between security and shipping activities, which dealt specifically with the impact of maritime terrorism on supply chain management and marine insurance. These were respectively given by Mr. Kofi Mbiah, Chief Executive of Ghana Shippers' Council and Hermes Marangos, Head of International, Davies Arnold Cooper LLP.

Both presentations were followed by a panel chaired by Mr. Kofi Mbiah. The panel discussed two main points. The first one related to the necessity for the international community to come up with a definition of terrorism universally accepted, taking into account different aspirations and regional specificities. The second dealt with the need to ensure a global implementation of the existing legal framework related to safety and security and to update it where necessary in order to efficiently address new challenges. The final address of the Symposium was given by the Assistant Prof. Dr. Max Mejia, Jr., after having given thanks to all sponsors and participants.

## Report of the Sub-Regional Meeting to Conclude Agreements on Maritime Security, Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Meeting), Convened by the IMO

Taketsugu Shinobe

Director, International Shipping Division, Maritime Bureau,  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT)



A panoramic view of the meeting. (About 150 people attended.)

Held January 26-29, the Djibouti Meeting was attended by 16 countries from the maritime region around Somalia, as well as the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. The meeting adopted a Code of Conduct Concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and in the Gulf of Aden, and about half of the attending countries signed the Code of Conduct at the meeting. Japan, the United States, the U.K. and other countries from outside the region and several International organizations attended the meeting as observers.

The Code of Conduct designates focal points where the signatory countries will gather information about piracy, and calls for cooperation to prevent piracy, as well as the establishment of centers (in Yemen, Kenya and Tanzania) for sharing information about piracy and a training center (in Djibouti). Patterned after ReCAAP (the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia),

these measures will serve to build a framework for regional cooperation. IMO aims to conclude a regional agreement that has binding force within two years.

At the meeting, Japan explained its internal efforts regarding anti-piracy measures. In addition, Japan provided financial assistance for an IMO-sponsored workshop held at the same time as the meeting. At the workshop, a presentation highlighted, the framework for regional cooperation in Southeast Asia that was established under the leadership of Japan (ReCAAP) and Japan's other achievements in supporting improvements to that region's capability of maritime law enforcement.

In the future, Japan can be expected to use its experience in tackling anti-piracy measures in cooperation with Southeast Asian countries to help to the efforts of countries around Somalia to improve their capability of maritime law enforcement.



Courtesy call to Minister of Equipment and Transport Bahdon (center).  
(The author is second from left. Mr. Shiga is at left.)

## Aids to Navigation Fund Underway : Calling for Further Contributions by Stakeholders

Tetsuo Kotani

Research Fellow  
Ocean Policy Research Foundation



The Nippon Foundation and the Round Table of International Shipping Associations convened the International Symposium on Safety and Protection of the Marine Environment in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 24th, 2008. The purpose of the Symposium was to discuss the various contributions by stakeholders, including the shipping industry, under the framework of the Co-operative Mechanism to ensure safety and protection of the marine environment at the 2007 IMO Singapore Meeting.

In the past, the cost of navigational safety in the Straits was

entirely covered by the three littoral states of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and The Nippon Foundation, which has been funding navigational safety in the Straits for over 40 years. However, given the fact that more than 90,000 ships yearly pass through the Straits only in transit or without benefitting the littoral states, Chairman Yohei Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation has called for voluntary contributions under the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility by all stakeholders, including the shipping industry, to ensure sustainable safety and protection of the marine environment in the Straits.

At the Symposium, The Nippon Foundation pledged to contribute US\$2.5 million to the Aids to Navigation Fund in early 2009, in accordance with its commitment to cover one third of the total cost of the Fund for the first five years. Also, the Middle East Navigational Aid Service (MENAS) pledged US\$ one million and the Japanese Shipowners' Association US\$700,000.

Recognizing the strategic significance of the Straits for the regional and global economy and the importance of enhancing safety and protection of the marine environment in the Straits, The Nippon Foundation and the Round Table of International Shipping Associations noted the need to continue the dialogue and agreed to strengthen their joint efforts to promote understanding among the parties concerned.

## Building a Better Asia: FUTURE LEADERS RETREAT

M G S Kumara (Sri Lanka, 2007)



This program was held at Peking University, Beijing, from October 26th to November 2nd, 2008, with the patronage of The Nippon Foundation, the Asian Dialog Society and Peking University, in the hopes of making Asia a better place for everyone.

The Nippon Foundation and its affiliates (NFG) have promoted this international conference, called Building a Better Asia (BABA), as a new path-breaking activity aimed at nurturing Future leaders Asia. The NFG has been conducting human resources development by implementing a wide variety of programs over the past few decades. Producing almost 30,000 capable alumni across the globe, the BABA China retreat was held to discuss various international issues such as Poverty, Human Security, Sustainable Development, Common Security, Globalization, Capacity Building and Efficient Governance concerning Asia. BABA India is also scheduled to be held in February 2009 to conduct further discussions based on the agenda described above.



Mr. Shuichi Ohno of The Nippon Foundation

Twenty-one members from thirteen different Asian countries participated in this retreat. The first evening, after our arrival, we were given an official welcome dinner and orientation. The official opening program took place on the second day following a photo session. After introductory remarks by Mr. M. Rajaretnam, Program Director, Building a Better Asia Retreat, Mr. Takeju Ogata, President of The Nippon Foundation, and Prof. Min Weifang, Chairman, University Council, Peking University, conveyed their welcome addresses. An Interactive



Session III entitled, "The Nippon Foundation Group and Case Studies of Global Philanthropy" was conducted by Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director, International Relations Department, The Nippon Foundation. In his speech he described traditional herbs of countries and their effective use.

The third day's session was "Leadership: The Challenges", chaired by Prof. Yonosuke Hara, Member, Academic Committee, BABA. There was a very interesting dialog with Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). It also happened to be his birthday! In the afternoon our group has divided into four sub-groups and sent to explore daily life in Beijing. The afternoon of the fourth day of the retreat was a great day for everyone, as we visited Olympic venues and the Great Wall, great examples of architectural masterpieces of the modern and ancient world. We saw a Chinese cultural acrobatic show on the sixth day, which was wonderful and very impressive.



Dr. Pranee Thiparat, Member, Academic Committee, Mr. Tay Kheng Soon, Principal Partner, Akitek Tenggara, Singapore/Malaysia, Mr. Harsha Kumara Navaratne Founder/Chairman, Sewa Lanka Foundation, Sri Lanka, Ms. Sri Nuryanti, Commissioner, Commission on Elections, Indonesia, Dr. Anupam Saraph, Chief Information Officer, Pune City, Maharashtra, India, Mr. Hiru Bijlani, India, and Mr. Gordon Flake, Executive Director, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, USA, were the other resource people in this program.

This was the 4th program in the series and was the first time members from the maritime sector were selected. Naoki Saito (Japan, 2004) and I were the first members of this group representing the maritime sector and it was an honor to be in such a program. Most of the group were unfamiliar with the maritime field and were fascinated with it. Mr. Saito suggested implementing a seafarer training program connected to the BABA program, which most members appreciated.

A BABA communiqué (Building a Better Asia - Communiqué) and BABAVC (Building a Better Asia Volunteer Community) are the final results of the program. If you are interested please refer to the link <http://www.babavc.org> for more information. Finally, I would like to convey my gratitude to The Nippon Foundation and OPRF, especially Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Mr. Eiji Sakai and Mr. Ichikawa for their generosity and assistance.

# Participating in the Inauguration Ceremony of the Shanghai Maritime University New Campus and Meeting Sasakawa Fellows in Shanghai



## Inauguration of SMU New Campus



Yu Hongrong (China, 2007)

October 18, 2008, opens a new page in the history of Shanghai Maritime University (SMU). It is at this very day that the SMU new campus was inaugurated.

The new campus is located at Shanghai New Harbor City, covering an area of 1.3 million square meters. With colorful flags, stimulating music, joy and enthusiasm everywhere, the inauguration was held in the bright October morning at the main hall of the multi-functional sports center. Warmly greeted by SMU leaders and the student band, over 600 guests, including 100 from overseas, witnessed this memorial event, together with 4000 SMU faculty, administration and students. Overseas guests include Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Secretary-general of IMO, Mr. Robert Lorenz-Meyer, BIMCO President Designate, Prof. Shuo Ma, WMU Vice President, Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Executive Director of OPRF, as well as top officials from ICS, INTERTANKO, INTER-CARCO, presidents (principals) from maritime universities (academies) of Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania, CEOs and senior managers from overseas shipping companies.

The Inauguration Ceremony was chaired by SMU President Yu Shicheng. Mr. Mitropoulos, Mr. Xu Zuyuan, Chinese Vice Minister of Transport, and Mr. Shen Xiaoming, Vice Mayor of Shanghai Municipality, addressed the 4000-strong audience of maritime community members respectively. They all lauded the impressive SMU new campus and the important role SMU has played in the development of both, international and domestic shipping industry. Other speakers included Capt. Wei Jiafu, President & CEO of COSCO Group and Prof. Romuld Cwilewicz, Rector of Gdynia Maritime University of Poland. The Ceremony came to an end when Mr. Mitropoulos, Minister Wang Jiarui and Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng sounded the whistle, marking the inauguration of the new campus.

After the Inauguration Ceremony, guests were shown around the campus, visiting the brand-new maritime simulators designed and developed by SMU professors, the modern library, the lighthouse jointly built with Shanghai MSA, and the salvage helicopter apron jointly built with the Donghai Rescue Bureau of China. With the beautiful campus and state-of-art facilities, SMU, "which is already one of the world's leading seats of learning in the maritime field, is now set to make an even greater contribution in the years ahead", as Mr. Mitropoulos said in his speech at the ceremony.



LI Yong (China, 1999)

We, WMU Sasakawa Fellows in Shanghai, China gathered at the beautiful Huangpu River on October 16, 2008. Capt. Eisuke Kudo and Mr. Eiji Sakai told us much new information about other WMU Sasakawa Fellows' status. 10 years ago, I got financial support from The Nippon Foundation and had a chance to enroll in the MET master course at WMU. After graduating from WMU in 1999, I came back to China and engaged in maritime education & training, as well as doing some research programs, contributing my knowledge and skills to promote these fields in China. This was all due to my studies and training at WMU and the support I got from the Sasakawa Scholarship.

Fang Quangen (China, 1991)

I was so pleased I had the chance to study at WMU from 1990 to 1991 with a Sasakawa Fellowship. The learning background and knowledge which I learned at this university helped me so much in my professional work and academic activities as a professor in maritime education and training.

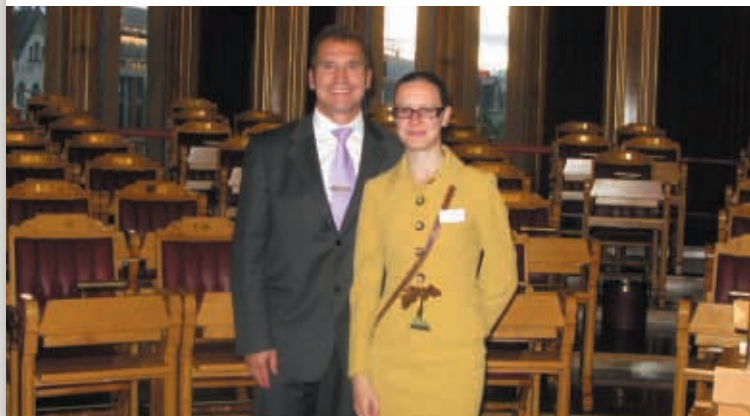
As we all know, Chairman Yohei Sasakawa has made a great contribution not only for the promotion and development of friendship between the Chinese and Japanese people, but also for people around the world. As a WMU Sasakawa Fellow, I offer my deepest thanks to Mr. Sasakawa and The Nippon Foundation. It is my duty and pleasure to make every effort towards the development of China's and the world's shipping industry and also towards the continuing friendship between the Chinese and Japanese in the future.

GU Weihong (China, 2006)

Oct. 16th was an unforgettable day for me because on that night I had a chance to meet our Japanese friends, Mr. Kudo and Mr. Sakai, from the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, in Shanghai, China. We hadn't seen each other since I graduated from WMU in the autumn of 2006. I was so glad to see them again. They came to attend my university's Inauguration Ceremony of the New Campus on Oct. 18th, and we chatted for about three hours at a very nice dinner hosted by OPRF. It made me recall my happy times I spent in Malmö and my gratitude to The Nippon Foundation for sponsoring my Master's degree at WMU. I learned a lot and made a lot of friends there. It was an invaluable experience which will benefit me forever. Please allow me to express my sincere wish for Mr. Sasakawa's good health and happiness. Also to all the Sasakawa sponsored WMU students, I wish you all the best. Missing you all tonight, my dear classmates at WMU!

# International Conference on Marine Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Oslo, Norway, 2008

Javier Plata (Colombia, 2009)



The Fridtjof Nansen Institute, a Norwegian independent foundation that researches in global governance, marine affairs including biodiversity and biosafety, and law of the sea, among others important topics, celebrated its 50th anniversary with the International Conference on Marine Affairs and the Law of the Sea, carried out in Oslo, from 21 to 23 of August 2008.

In this regard, four 2009-MSc students at the WMU had the great opportunity to attend this valuable convention: Nelly Akhmedzhanova from Russia, Elissa Gibson from Belize, Anete Logina from Latvia and Javier Plata from Colombia. The three ladies from the Maritime Law and Policy (MLP) and the latter from the Marine Environment and Ocean Management (MEOM), two specializations of the master programme in marine affairs at the University.

This was a wonderful Nordic experience, travelling by train during the night between Sweden and Norway, and being ready in the morning for the respective inauguration. Furthermore, it became more exciting when arriving at the Telenor Expo Conference Centre, the venue of the meeting, I immediately recognized some very kind, friendly and eminent persons like Judge Vladimir Golitsyn of the International Tribunal for the Law - ITLOS, whom I met in 2004 when he was the Director of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS) in New York (USA), during my internship regarding conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources under Part V Exclusive Economic Zone and Part VII High Seas of the United Nations Convention and the Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS, 1982).

In addition, we were able to greet Judge Tullio Treves from ITLOS; Mr. Tomas H. Heidar, Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland and Director of the Law of the Sea Institute (Iceland); and Ms. Nilüfer Oral, from the Marine Law and Policy Research Center, Law Faculty of Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey), who are prestigious lecturers of the Session of Oceans Law and Policy of Rhodes Academy that is held annually with the support of the University of Virginia (USA), in this famous Greek island.

As a MEOM student at the WMU working for the protection of the marine environment, I take this opportunity to invite all of you to have a look of the Compendium of Summaries of this International Conference, donated to our library by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in its 50th anniversary; or online at <http://www.fni.no>. In this concern, I would like to write a few words about some of the lectures regarding the protection of living marine resources and ecosystems that were exposed at the Conference in Oslo.

Firstly, the lecture on Uses of Marine Biodiversity on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), addressed by Joanna Mossop, Senior Lecturer of the Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand), highlighted the fact that sedentary species such corals, sponges and

clams regulated along with non-living resources by Part VI Continental Shelf of the UNCLOS (1982), are being affected by bottom trawling fishing activities, normalized by Part V and VII of the UNCLOS (1982). Although these inactive organisms are not targeted by those trawling nets, they might be damaged or grabbed as by-catch. Studies concerned on the protection of marine biodiversity have become more relevant earlier this year 2009, when Australian scientists have just announced the discovering of new oceanic life, nearly 300 species, at four kilometers deep in the ocean floor of Tasmania.

Secondly, in relation with two speeches: International Law and Genetic Resources of the Deep Seabed by David Leary, Senior Fellow of the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales (Australia); and Some Reflections on Bioprospecting of Genetic Resources in the Polar Regions by Harlan Cohen, Advisor of Ocean Governance and International Institutions of IUCN, USA & Caribbean Multilateral Office, Washington (USA). These two lectures, closely connected with the previous topic on marine biodiversity, gave details, among other relevant aspects and information, why it is essential to continue working in the clarification of concepts like genetic resources and bioprospecting under UNCLOS (1982), and related treaties; since activities in this regard should be better organized encouraging a higher and appropriate sustainable use of living marine resources inside and beyond of waters of national jurisdiction, and in the seabed, as well.

Finally, with this article I would like to express our special thanks, on behalf of the four 2009-MSc students at the WMU who attended this International Convention, to Mr. Claes Lykke Ragner, Project Administrator at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and Head of Conference Secretariat, who kindly provided assistance and supported our participation in this significant and productive event.

The world of the brilliant ocean endows refundable experiences to those who work daily with enthusiasm towards the conservation and sustainable use of its resources and services, providing memorable moments during these international conferences, where we meet as just one global group: The Sea Family.





Dang Ben NGUYEN (Vietnam, 2007)

One moment that I'll never forget is the time I became a father. After 22 hours of nervous waiting at the hospital, at 11.00AM on November 30, 2008, my wife (Thuong -MET2007) gave birth to our first baby, a boy. He weighed 4.2kg. We call him Benny at home, but officially his name is Nguyen Tran Dang Quang.

I cannot express enough how happy I am at being a father, even though I understand that from I will have more responsibilities. My wife and I will try our best to bring up our son the best way we can.

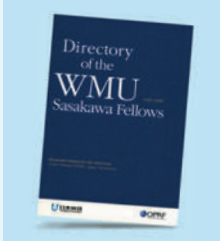
Benny brings happiness and smiles to our small house every day. I feel happy each time I see him, and every day I am eager to come home right after work. He really makes our life and our family more meaningful.

We hope that one day in the future we can bring him to Malmö, where my wife and I met. Maybe he will become a WMU student some day.

### “Vietnamese Sasakawa Fellow's Outstanding Work” on the Website:

One of the Sasakawa Fellows from Vietnam, Dang Ben Nguyen (2007), wanted to share his presentation material that he gave at the "Cardiff University Conference on the Globalization and its Implications for Shipping in the 21st Century" in January, 2009, and the “Friends of WMU, Japan” Secretariat decided to post his PDF material on the website. Therefore, if you have a chance, please take a look at his outstanding work at: <http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp>

### WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Directory:



The “Directory of the WMU Sasakawa Fellows (1989-2008)”, which contains personal information on 353 Sasakawa Fellows, was originally distributed to you with the 22nd issue of the “Friends of WMU, Japan” Newsletter in March, 2008.

However, we have heard that some of the Fellows didn't receive them; therefore, we would like you to inform us if you haven't received the Directory. For more information, please contact the “Friends of WMU, Japan” Secretariat at: [wmujapan@sof.or.jp](mailto:wmujapan@sof.or.jp)

\*This Directory was published for Sasakawa Fellows, current Sasakawa Fellowship students, and for the Secretariat, and will have a limited distribution.

## Damien Dutton Award 2008 to The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation



The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation were awarded the Damien Dutton Award 2008 at a ceremony that took place at the Tokyo American Center on October 10, 2008.

Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, received the Award from Dr. Douglas Walsh, Director of the Damien-Dutton Society for Leprosy Aid Inc. At the same time, Prof. Kenzo Kiikuni also received the Award as the Chair of the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation.

This award was considered and given to these two Japanese foundations in particular for providing significant financial support for leprosy care in countries, tackling the underlying social and humanitarian aspects of leprosy, playing a key role in reducing the number of people with active leprosy due to their major provision of multidrug therapy, and so on.

Winners of the Damien Dutton Award include John F. Kennedy (USA) in 1965 (posthumously), Mother Teresa (India) in 1984, and now Mr. Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation in 2008!!

## Editor's Postscript

“Yes, we can.” Most of you have heard this phrase at least once. This is the famous phrase that the new U.S. President Barack Obama used many times during his campaign. Now, I took several minutes to think of this phrase in relation to maritime issues. “Can we reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships?” This is a question that I have considered many times as I've been involved in discussions at IMO on the greenhouse gas agenda. Of course, I would like to say, “Yes, we can,” although the challenge before us seems quite difficult. No one will know the answer to

this question until it is achieved, but unless we try we will never get what we want to achieve. In mid-March, I'll join the intersectoral meeting of the greenhouse gas working group at IMO and would like to contribute to moving discussions forward. If you'll be attending the meeting, let's work together and say “Yes, we can.”

Mitsuhiko Ida  
Japan Ship Technology Research Association

**This newsletter is published under a grant from The Nippon Foundation** to promote communication among the Sasakawa Fellows of WMU (World Maritime University) and edited by the Ocean Policy Research Foundation in cooperation with Prof. Toshio Hikima, Mr. Mitsuhiko Ida, Ms. Fumi Yakabe, Ms. Masako B. Otsuka and Ms. Sue Jackson.

Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat, Ocean Policy Research Foundation  
Kaiyo Sempaku Building, 1-15-16 Toranomon Minato-ku, Tokyo JAPAN 105-0001  
Tel. 81-3-3502-1876 Fax. 81-3-3502-2033 URL: <http://www.sof.or.jp/>

