

NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU

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

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A NEW DISCOVERY OF JAPANESE "WAY OF LIFE"

December 2008 No.

25

Japan Field Study Trip in 2008 September 7-14, 2008



Twenty-five WMU Sasakawa Fellowship students and WMU Vice-President Bruce Browne landed at Narita International Airport on Sunday, September 7. Each September, WMU Sasakawa Fellowship students are invited to come to Japan - the country of the fellowship donor - and experience and learn about the country's culture and society while taking a field trip related to maritime affairs.

The weather on the day of arrival was sunny, marking an auspicious start to the trip. First, the group headed to the Museum of Maritime Science. There, an orientation was held for about an hour. Then the group took a tour of the museum. From an observation room about 70 meters high, they could enjoy a 360-degree view of Tokyo Bay and the Tokyo skyline. From the museum's Mr. Ono, they also received an informative presentation about the history of Tokyo Bay and the surrounding area.

On the second day, the group first visited the National Maritime Research Institute. There they observed research facilities such as the 400 Meter Towing Tank, the Deep Sea Basin & High Pressure Tank, and the Bridge Simulator for Navigational Risk. They were given special treatment particularly when visiting the 400 Meter Towing Tank. This was very rewarding for them, and they were extremely pleased about being able to have such a valuable experience.

That afternoon the group boarded the *Seiun Maru*, a training ship belonging to The National Institute for Sea Training. First they were welcomed by the captain. Then they visited the captain's cabin, the ship's deck, the engine room, and elsewhere. A Sasakawa Fellow affiliated with

the institute, Mr. Emi Yutaka, gave a presentation on board.

On the morning of September 9, the group paid a courtesy call to Mr. Shigeru Ito, Director General of the Maritime Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. In a welcoming speech, Director General Ito noted that Japan, being an island country, has had a long and deep relationship with the sea, and that he believes it to be the government's solemn duty to facilitate marine transport, both domestically and internationally, while working for maritime safety, protection of the marine environment, and peacefulness on the seas. Afterwards, Mr. Shinichiro Otsubo, Director for International Regulations of the Maritime Bureau's Safety Standards Division, gave a presentation, followed by a period of questions and answers. Despite the fact that it was lunchtime, Mr. Otsubo and a Japanese Sasakawa Fellow, Mr. Naoki Saito, courteously answered in detail each of the students' many questions. We would like to express our gratitude to them.

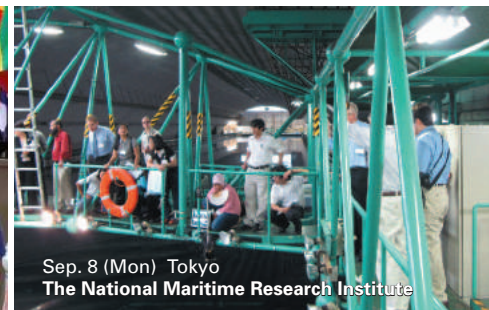
Next, the group paid a courtesy visit to The Nippon Foundation. Mr. Masazumi Nagamitsu, the foundation's Executive Director, and Mr. Hiroshi Terashima, Executive Director of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, both delivered welcoming addresses. Then Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, entered the room. Amid the silence, the room filled with an air of tension. However, the Chairman's smiling face and welcoming words relaxed the students. They seemed to be drawn forward by his speech - as if enchanted by his words - and to forget their tension completely. In his welcoming speech, the Chairman said that an ability to see the world in relative



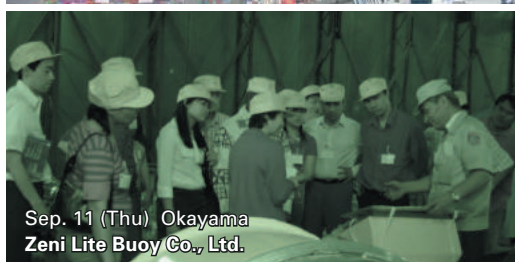
Sep. 13 (Sat) Osaka
Osaka Port



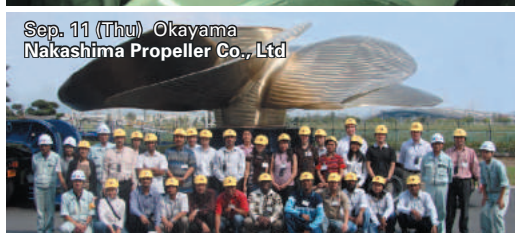
Sep. 12 (Fri) Kyoto
Kiyomizu Temple



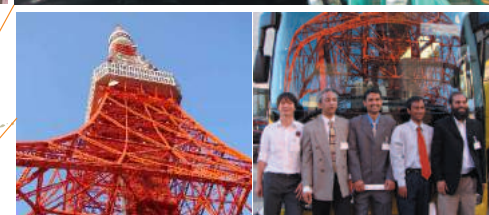
Sep. 8 (Mon) Tokyo
The National Maritime Research Institute



Sep. 11 (Thu) Okayama
Zeni Lite Buoy Co., Ltd.



Sep. 11 (Thu) Okayama
Nakashima Propeller Co., Ltd.



Sep. 10 (Wed) Okayama
Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.



Sep. 13 (Sat) Osaka
Suminoe Kyotei



Sep. 8 (Mon) Tokyo
National Institute for Sea Training (Seiun Maru)

rather than absolute terms, and continuing to try to view everything with curiosity, were extremely important in international society. He emphasized that today's commonsense assumptions about the world will have to change with the advancement of society and science. Finally, he told the 25 students that he was extremely proud that such excellent people as themselves had been awarded fellowships and were pursuing their studies at WMU. The students, who had been tense at the start, were all smiles as they took a commemorative photograph with the Chairman following his speech.

After leaving The Nippon Foundation, the students enjoyed some sightseeing in Tokyo, visiting the Imperial Palace and Tokyo Tower, among other places. And in the evening, a welcoming reception was held for them at The Nippon Foundation Building. About 150 people attended, including Executive Director Nagamitsu and the Maritime Bureau's Director General Ito. The students were able to meet and converse with Japanese guests in the maritime field.

On September 10, the group traveled to the Okayama region. There they went to the Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co.'s Tamano Shipyard, whose various factories - for shipbuilding, large marine engines, and more - are among the finest in the world. The students visited factories for erecting berths and assembling engines. During their visit, they received detailed explanations from General Affairs Department Manager Masayuki Nakata and other persons in charge. The knowledge that they gained will undoubtedly prove to be a valuable asset for them.

The next day, Thursday, the group first went to the Nakashima Propeller Co. This company produces about 350 propellers a year, making each one to order. The group received a presentation covering subjects such as the company's propeller production system, which relies on superior craftsmanship and cutting-edge technology, and the efficiency of industries in seaside regions. Afterwards, they observed the propeller casting process, the grinding process, large-blade surface processing equipment, a large inverting machine, and more. They were also greeted by Executive Director Noboru Asahara, who was

visiting from Tokyo that day in order to attend a meeting at the company's Tamashima Factory. Being able to observe Nakashima Propeller's world-class production system was an enormously valuable opportunity. Not only the students but also the people from the Ocean Policy Research Foundation were deeply impressed.

That afternoon, the group visited the Zeni Lite Buoy Co. Upon arriving, they were led to a conference room, where they were welcomed by Mr. Satoru Akiyama, General Manager of the company's Okayama-Tamashima Works. Inside the factory, they were able to observe a wide range of manufacturing processes, including the production lines for marine beacons and for control boxes used in wharf lights and in shinkansen (bullet trains) and other vehicles. At a presentation about an AIS (Automatic Identification System) that uses buoys, many of the students avidly asked questions. On the day of the visit, Mr. Takuo Iriguchi, the company's Tokyo Branch Office Manager, also came all the way to the Tamashima Factory expressly to help the students. The students and the foundation people were sincerely grateful for the warm reception provided by the entire company.

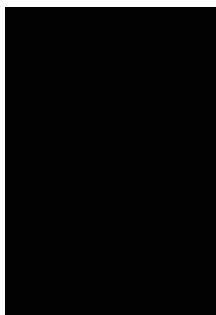
On September 12, the group visited the Korakuen Garden in Okayama. Afterwards, they went by shinkansen to Kyoto, where they visited Nijo Castle and the Kiyomizu Temple. As in previous years, Ms. Miyoko Wada provided her excellent services as an interpreter and guide.

On September 13, the group went to the Suminoe Motorboat Race Stadium, where they were afforded the invaluable experience of visiting inside the pit. They were also treated extremely cordially in being allowed to watch the races from the guest seats. By visiting the Race Stadium, they were able to recognize the source of the WMU Sasakawa Fellowships. That was extremely important.

We hope that the 25 students who came to Japan can apply what they experienced and learned on this field study trip in their own countries. We wish them every success in the future.



My Recollections of World Maritime University



Mr. Mitsuo Abe
Chairman and President of ClassNK
from 1993 to 1996

First, as someone who has been involved, albeit in a small way, with the affairs of WMU, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to WMU for celebrating its Silver Jubilee in 2008.

Over 13 years ago, on June 15, 1995, I visited the World Maritime University and was welcomed by the then rector, Dr. Danny Waters. That morning, as a visiting professor, I gave a lecture entitled "Introduction of ClassNK." And that afternoon, I attended the opening ceremony for the new ClassNK Computer Room, where computers which ClassNK had donated over the years were installed, and which students used for research. On that occasion, I expressed my gratitude that the room with the computers donated by ClassNK was named after our organization, and offered my congratulations on the opening. In response, a member of WMU expressed his gratitude for ClassNK's contributions to the school. Then Dr. Waters introduced me to the guests as a representative of ClassNK and as a visiting professor, saying that I was "a great friend of WMU," and adding that the ClassNK Computer Room was "a tangible contribution" from Japan to WMU.

My connection to WMU did not begin at this time, but rather trace back to 1989, when I served as chairman of the IACS Council, and to 1990, when, as a representative of ClassNK, I served as a visiting professor and lectured on IACS, ship classification, and the activities of ClassNK. Even now, after all these years, the people that I met, talked with, and enjoyed meals with in those days - Dr. D. Waters, Rector; Dr. G. Zade, Vice Rector; Professor Adachi; and others - all come vividly back to life in my memory.

I have since parted ways with ClassNK. However, for over half a century, since 1951, I've been engaged in the management of ship surveyors and ship classifications. Especially after becoming involved with the management of ClassNK, I was blessed with the opportunity to meet people related to government agencies in the home countries of WMU students, and also numerous ship owners and ship builders. Of those many people, Sir Goad, a former Secretary-General of the IMO whom I met, and Mr. P. K. Srivastava, who contributed greatly to the establishment of WMU, made a strong and lasting impression on me.

Many people who have studied at WMU have, through their extensive knowledge and experience, contributed immeasurably to world shipping and international shipping affairs. But what I would especially like to emphasize regarding WMU is the fact that its many students, who come from countries throughout the world, are able, through living together, studying together and talking together in the quiet, beautiful city of Malmö, to establish friendships that transcend nationality, and that those friendships become for them a treasure that is in no way inferior to the knowledge and experience that they gain at WMU.



It is said that the world is becoming smaller due to the development of transportation and communications, and that the barriers between countries are continuing to come down. Nevertheless, in certain places of the world, conflict has yet to cease. Would friends who have shared and studied together fight to the point of risking their lives just because their nationalities are different? While the people who have studied at WMU take pride in their home countries, I believe that they will not forget the friendships and camaraderie that they developed here, and I also hold the hope that they will do their utmost to create a world without war by contributing to the maritime world, which by its nature has no national boundaries.

Finally, I would like to express my great respect for WMU, which has provided such a wonderful place as this, and offer a sincere wish that WMU will continue in the future to contribute to the enrichment of maritime education, and to the cultivation of the type of capable people who are indispensable for building world peace.

International Maritime Information

Current news of the International Maritime Organization

Ship Recycling Convention Saga



Shin Otsubo

Director for International Regulations

Maritime Bureau, MLIT

(Coordinator for the MEPC Correspondence Group on Ship Recycling)



Trial project on ship recycling in Japan

IMO insiders say that it normally takes as long as 10 years to adopt a new Convention or Protocol after the issue has first been brought up. This pattern seems to apply to the IMO's International Convention on Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. While the Convention will be adopted at Hong Kong, China, in May 2009, the first proposal to MEPC on this issue dates back to late 1998.

In the late 1990s, environmental NGOs drew the attention to safety and environmental problems in ship recycling facilities in South Asia, and tried to mobilize the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal as a tool to stop end-of-life ships coming to these countries. In their view, ships are “waste” under the Basel Convention, and their movement over national boundaries, i.e., the export and import for recycling purposes, would be strictly regulated: in practice, ship recycling would be impossible in those countries.

Japan shared the concern raised but did not believe that the use of the Basel Convention was a right approach. The bottom line was how to encourage improvement in ship recycling practices, and how countries with shipping and recycling interests could work collaboratively. Ships move over national boundaries by nature. A regulatory scheme to block the movement of ships over boundaries would not solve any problems, in a global perspective. The strategy that Japan took at that time was to try to shift the forum of the discussion to our “home ground”, IMO. At IMO, we could have a balanced discussion: considering how to improve current practices in view of the necessity for adequate global recycling capacity for the smooth withdrawal of aged ships, so as not to disturb the shipping and shipbuilding market.

IMO made the first major step by adopting the Guidelines on Ship Recycling at its Assembly in autumn 2003. The shipping industry showed its positive attitude towards the mandatory application for the first time at MEPC 52 in October 2004. Then discussions on mandatory requirements became active. The 1st Intersessional WG in July 2005 spent all of its 3-day session in discussing the elements of the new Convention, based on the Japanese submission that I drafted. Since then, IMO had to go through three more sessions of intersessional WG and 5 sessions of MEPC before its approval of the Convention text at MEPC 58 in October 2008. It was a long and winding road. During this time, as one of the original drafters of the Convention, I tried to lead the discussion at IMO, attended many times the “away ground” at ILO and Basel Convention, and traveled around in coordinating with other countries.

The reason that we are successfully reaching the point of adoption next year is that we have kept to fundamental principles. The Convention should take a “cradle-to-grave” approach, balancing obligations on ship design and construction, operation and ship recycling. The current situation of developing countries should also be attended to: too high standards which might demand considerable capital investment should be avoided.

Japan will continue being committed to developing the workable instrument. We are looking beyond the adoption, and have been working hard on developing various guidelines, including one on ship recycling facilities. This work is based on extensive field surveys at Asian facilities that Japan has conducted, as well as a trial ship recycling project in Japan using a government-owned vessel.

Cleaner Air for Coastal Area

Great Achievement against Air Pollution by MEPC



Shinichi Hanayama
Senior Research Fellow
Maritime Technology Department
Ocean Policy Research Foundation

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in their 58 session held on October 2008 unanimously adopted amendments to the MARPOL Annex VI regulations to reduce harmful emissions in exhaust gas. I will talk about the points covered in the amendments and also the rationale and future scope of air pollution from ships.

To sum up, these amendments require stricter emission reduction from ships to achieve cleaner air near port and coastal areas. From the perspective of atmospheric environmental protection, the amendments should be clarified as “a monumental decision in IMO's history”, expressed by the IMO Secretary-General Efthimios Mitropoulos. All the people in the maritime sector can be proud of these reduction levels, which are almost the same as the reduction levels of emissions on land. We can now state that marine transport will truly become an environment-friendly mode.



The original MARPOL Annex VI Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships entered into force in May 2005. However, the original Annex VI regulations were adjusted to past reduction technology levels of the 1990s and also past sulfur global averages, so that some countries, who were suffering from emissions from ships near their ports and sea lanes, proposed its modification right after its entry into force.

The member states and stakeholders have discussed the items in MEPC from 2006. And it only took 2 years for these significant improvements to transpire under the strong and fair chairmanship of Mr. A. Chrysostomou (Chairman of MEPC) and Mr. Bryan Woodthomas (Chairman of WG).

There are two main changes in this amendment. One is the reduction of NOx (Nitrogen Oxides) and the other is the reduction of sulfur content in fuel. The former mitigation would introduce the reduction of both NO₂ and ground level ozone concentration. And the latter mitigation would

introduce the reduction of both SO₂ and particle matter concentration, respectively. This time, MEPC is not only concerned with gas phase pollutants but also particle matter transferred from NO_x and SO_x.

Also, the revised Annex VI will allow for an Emission Control Area to be designated for Sulfur and/or NO_x, where much more strict regulations will be applied (for NO_x 80% reduction, and for S contents 0.1%). If your local port authority would like clearer skies, your administrators can take a chance on the proposal for Emission Control Areas. I feel that almost all port authorities, with serious atmospheric problems will be satisfied with these regulations for ECA.

The revised Annex VI will enter into force on July 1, 2010, under the tacit acceptance amendment procedure. For details, IMO has a brief introduction URL:

http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=10262



Capture for picture
(from IMO GHG study report phase I)

- 1** The plume of exhaust gas from ships is determined by its body shape and speed. Pollutants directly affect people near coasts before dilution.
- 2** Sea routes in the North Atlantic are clearly seen in satellite images, due to their high SO_x concentration in exhaust gas. This phenomenon would completely disappear with the revised Annex VI.

Graduation 2008

Sue Jackson

Associate Registrar
World Maritime University



On Sunday, October 5, WMU's Chancellor and IMO Secretary General, Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, conferred postgraduate degrees on the World Maritime University's Class of 2008. 100 students from 43 different countries graduated from the Malmö-based MSc programme in Maritime Affairs, along with 27 from the distance-learning Postgraduate Diploma in Marine Insurance.

Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, was the guest of honor. In his speech, he remarked: "You are about to enter an incredibly exciting time in the maritime industry. There are many challenges which demand collaborative action. As World Maritime University graduates, you will be a part of the solutions - solutions that mitigate risks and lead to new opportunities that benefit all mankind."

The Chancellor gave the graduation address, in which he observed: "Your generation has a full part to play in helping Governments and civil society to address maritime issues at the international level. As the administrators, policy-makers and regulators of the future, you have been provided with strong qualifications to participate in and shape this process with success."

Mr. Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö, WMU's host city, announced plans for further co-operation between the city and WMU in the coming years. "The thought that this University has been working in our city for 25 years is breath-taking. And it has done so with great success... We have just begun to discuss a more long term and sustainable solution regarding the University's future premises."

During the ceremony, the annual special awards to students were announced:

- Bhim Singh Kothari of the Indian Coast Guard won the Chancellor's Medal for Academic Excellence;
- Thomasi Cama Kete of the Fiji Institute of Technology won the C. P. Srivastava Award for International Fellowship;
- Carolyn Graham of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica won the Pierre Léonard Prize for the Best Female Student;
- Mohamed Ahmed Mahmoud Essallamy of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport won the Lloyd's Maritime Academy dissertation prize;
- James Crawford Crawford of Chile's Directorate-General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine won the Informa Law dissertation prize;

Three MSc in Maritime Affairs degrees were awarded with

distinction to Bhim Singh Kothari, Carolyn Graham and Ermal Xhelilaj of the Technological State University of Vlore, Albania. All three graduates are Sasakawa Fellows.

Also at graduation, the newly elected officers of the Student Council formally took office. Ahmed H. H. Moursy of Egypt is President, and will also serve as a member of the Board of Governors. He will work alongside his colleagues, Khandaker R. Hasan of Bangladesh (Vice-President), Mya Thida Lin of Myanmar (Secretary), Sasakawa Fellow Victoria Paraggua of the Philippines (Treasurer) and Saman De Silva Hamuddura of Sri Lanka (Auditor).

The ceremony was attended by a group of graduates from the China-based MSc programmes, who enjoyed a special programme with a special seminar and field visits before the ceremony.



Tree-planting ceremony 2008

For the fifth year running, the graduating students presented a gift to the City of Malmö. This year the gift was two maple trees, planted near the University in Slottsmöllan Park. A large group of students took part in the ceremony on September 25, where the City of Malmö was represented by Mr. Anders Rubin, local government commissioner, and the University by Professor Patrick Donner, Associate Academic Dean.

This year's trees bring the total of WMU trees to 80. The trees symbolise the living and growing friendship between the students of WMU and the people of Malmö.



Award Ceremony for Sasakawa Fellows, Class of 2008



Lyndell Lundahl

Student Services Officer, World Maritime University

“Graduation weekend” is a busy, exciting time: parties and preparations, friends and family, greetings and goodbyes. Among all this is the happy occasion when the students of the graduating class funded by the Sasakawa Fellowship Programme are awarded their certificates and confirmed as Sasakawa Fellows.

Traditionally held on the night before graduation in the imposing Frithjofsborg mansion overlooking the Öresund, the ceremony draws a large crowd of distinguished guests, World Maritime University staff, first-year Sasakawa-funded students and, not least, the graduands themselves and their families. This year's ceremony was no exception, with Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, Mr. Masazumi Nagamitsu, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, and all four of the WMU Vice-Presidents in attendance.

Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Executive Director of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, greeted all his guests warmly. Speeches were also made by Mr. Nagamitsu and Professor Shuo Ma, Vice-President (Academic) of the University, congratulating the graduands on the successful completion of their degree courses and wishing them well in the future. It then fell to Mr. Nagamitsu to hand over the certificates to each of the graduating students, thus confirming their new status as Sasakawa Fellows. A special mention was made of Mr. Pedro De Lima Filho of Brazil, who completed his first year at the World Maritime University as a Sasakawa-funded student in 2000. Forced to resign his fellowship for personal reasons, Mr. De Lima Filho returned to the University



in 2008 to complete his degree. He was named an “Honorary Sasakawa Fellow”, which was a great delight: the road to his degree had been particularly long, but worth every step.

The first-year students performed the World Maritime University song, supported by many of the graduating class and staff in the audience. A generous and delicious buffet dinner was then enjoyed by everyone, as was the chance to chat with the students and other guests. First year students, fresh from their field trip to Japan, looked forward enthusiastically to their continued studies, while graduating students looked back on their time at WMU, which had, at times, passed all too quickly.

As the gathering started to disperse in anticipation of the big day to follow, many promises were made to keep in touch and to utilize the network of Sasakawa Fellows in the future. While graduation marks the end of many things, it is the beginning of many more.

Swedish Host Family

Mai Thi Anh Tuyet (Vietnam, 2008)

One of the culture shocks for students, when studying abroad, is the difference between their home country and new living place. This creates some difficulties for living and studying. In order to help foreign students studying at WMU get used to local Malmö life, the Student Services Department has organised a lot of activities, such as encouraging students to take part in local festivals, excursions, and the Swedish host family program.

Annually, hundreds of Swedish host families who are interested in WMU and its students are introduced to them. In general, Swedish host families invite the students to visit their house for sightseeing around their neighborhood or joining local festivals and other interesting activities.

I and one of my Indonesian classmates, Ms. Dessy, were accepted by a host family, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf, who live in Falsterbo about 30 km from Malmö. Both of them are retired and spend most of time travelling around the world.



Normally, when we have free time, we are invited to have dinner at their house. This is a great opportunity for us to talk with Swedes, who seem cool at first, but in fact are very kind and warm. In addition, on these occasions, we also have a chance to exchange information about our habits, customs, as well as other cultural topics with each other. Along with the maritime knowledge I learned from WMU, the great impression about Sweden and its people will stay in my mind forever.

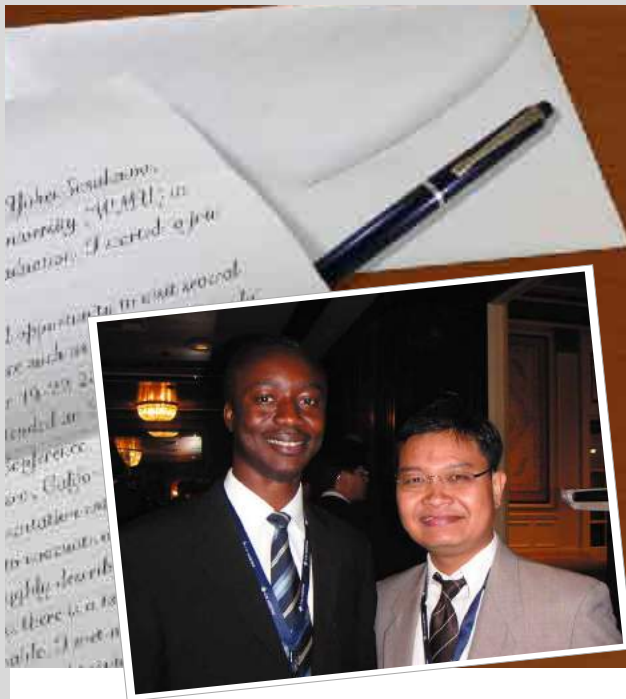
Surprise Reunion

Trika Pitana (Indonesia, 2005)

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, who allowed me to further my studies at the World Maritime University (WMU) in 2004. Then, in October 2006, after graduation, I joined the PhD Program at Kobe University, Japan.

While studying at Kobe, I had the opportunity to visit several countries and attend international conferences in Singapore, Canada and the United States. On October 19-22, 2008, my supervisor, Prof. Eiichi Kobayashi and I attended the International Association Maritime University (IAMU) Conference, Annual General Assembly (AGA) 9th, held in San Francisco, California. At that time, I gave a presentation entitled: "Some Recommendation to Ship Masters in order to evacuate Cruise Ships during a Tsunami".

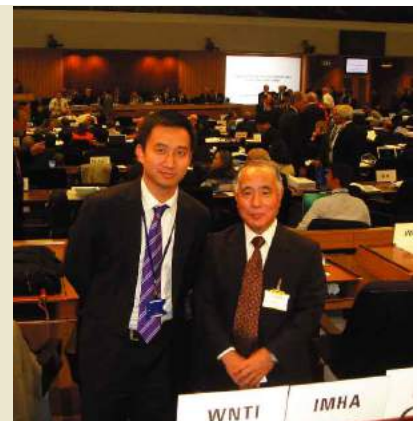
At that time, unbelievably, I met a classmate, Michael Manuel. Then, I met a professor and former professors of the World Maritime University, Prof. Takeshi Nakazawa, Prof. Kenji Ishida and Prof. Malek Pourzanjani, respectively. I thought how small the world is. I could not imagine that I would meet them at an international conference. This conference was partly sponsored by The Nippon Foundation whom I would like to commend for



A Pleasant Encounter in London

Sun Jun (China, 2005)

On Oct. 6, 2008, the first day of MEPC 58 in London at IMO Headquarters, I encountered my old friend, whom I hadn't seen for a full three years after graduating from the World Maritime University. Mr. Eisuke Kudo! It was a real pleasant surprise to see him in the very warm atmosphere of an IMO reception especially considering the chilly air outside in the London streets. Mr. Kudo hadn't changed, still very energetic and devoted, qualities I always aspired to. We talked a lot, about my time in Malmö and my excellent field study in Japan. I told him that last October I welcomed my lovely daughter, Jiajia - meaning "good and good" in Chinese -, one of the most important and happy moments in my life. Mr. Kudo had just participated in the WMU Graduation Ceremony 2008, at Malmö. He encouraged me to work hard and contribute to the world maritime family. Afterwards, Mr. Kudo introduced me to some new friends, like Mr. Shinichi Ichikawa, when I had communicated with by email several times. It was a very pleasant encounter with a very kind, old friend in London, and it was a wonderful and memorable evening!



Invitation to 8th IASST International Conference in Alexandria!

Ehab Othman (Egypt, 2004)

The International Association for Safety and Survival Training (IASST) would like to invite proposals from persons or organizations to present a technical paper for its 8th International Conference, which will take place in Alexandria, Egypt at the Maritime Safety Institute (MSI) of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASST&MT) from October 19-21, 2009.

The theme of the 8th IASST International Conference will be "Safety and Security for Passenger Ships and Offshore Installations". Submissions of proposed papers and or presentations are invited on any of the following topics: Policy & Regulations, Training and

Training Standards, Design and Construction, Risk Management, and Evacuation and Rescue.

An abstract of the paper or presentation consisting of around 300 words should be submitted to the conference chair by no later than March 31, 2009. The abstract should be submitted by email as a Word or PDF document with a brief biography of the presenter. The result of the selection will be announced by June 15, 2009 and a final transcript of the selected paper should be submitted to the conference chair by no later than August 31, 2009. For more information please contact Captain Ehab Othman, at etmanehab@yahoo.com or safety@aast.edu.

Editor's Postscript

This year, too, twenty-five Sasakawa Fellowship students came to Japan for the Japan Field Study Trip. I accompanied them to Osaka Aquarium, "Kaiyu-kan" and the Port of Osaka. I was happy to find that two among this year's students had received training at Marine Technical College (MTC) where I teach. Actually, every year I find two or so ex-MTC trainees among the Fellowship students. It makes me happy and proud to know that the training they received at MTC is giving them what it takes to advance them further along their career.

I was happily surprised to be welcomed in Japanese, "Hello Hikima-sensei (Professor Hikima!)" by MTC trainees in October when

I was invited to give a lecture in the Philippines to Ship Security Officers from five countries preparing to board the Japanese fleet. These are the times when a teacher feels so blessed to have loving students at many ports. I recognized their faces, now ten years later, showing dignity and confidence that accompany experience. They certainly inspired me to renew my resolve to keep learning with them. It was good to feel that the maritime world is a small world after all.

Toshio Hikima

Marine Technical College

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.



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