

F NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU

JAPAN

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

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

September 2008 No. **24**

Sasakawa Students' Gathering

Gilbert Boleche (Philippines, 2009)
Poppy Sartika (Indonesia, 2009)



At 2.20 PM, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa arrived at the meeting room, and the emcee, invited Mr. Louie De los Santos to deliver welcoming remarks on behalf of the Sasakawa Fellows.

Then the presentation by countries began with the three representatives of Bangladesh, delivered by Mr. Mohidul Islam.

Mr. Leng Thun Kosal from Cambodia presented two members from his country. Mr. Bhim Singh Kothari from India, presented three members. Mr. Arizal Hendriawan from Indonesia presented four members. The Japanese presented themselves, one by one. Myanmar had 4 members, presented by Ms. Hlaing Thiri, while Mr. Adil Rashid from Pakistan presented 2 members. In the middle of presentations, Prof. Nakazawa delivered his remarks. He emphasized that the seminar held by WMU on the Silver Jubilee anniversary would be a good experience for the students. In particular, they could gain further knowledge with regards to the climate change impact on the shipping business, and seek the best solutions and alternative possibilities. Furthermore, he hoped that the Sasakawa Fellows would maintain their affiliations and continue to communicate in the future. Then, the presentations continued with Mr. Ronnie D. Gernato, who presented 9 members from the Philippines. Mr. Theerapong B. from Thailand, presented 2 members, while Vietnam had 6 members presented by Mr. Phung Trong Hieu. Remaining members were, Ms. Ofa from Oceania. Ms. Carolyn Graham from the Caribbean, Mr. Javier Gonzalez Plata from Colombia, Ms. Nana Quenshi and 4 members from Africa, and Mr. Ermal Xhelilaj and 3 members from Europe.

Mr. Kudo introduced Mr. Pedro de Lima from Brazil (former Sasakawa Fellow, year 2000) and Mr. Mohab Abou-Elkawam (Sasakawa Fellow, year 2003, continuing his PhD at Cardiff University, UK, also under the Sasakawa Foundation).

Afterwards, Mr. Sasakawa delivered his message, saying he was very happy to meet and greet all the Sasakawa Fellows, considering their tight schedules at the university. He mentioned that his life was dedicated to help people around the world have a better life and better future. His activities in the humanitarian sector have brought him to more than 107 countries over 1,990 days, and he would not rest until there was a better world. Therefore, he apologized for being unable to reply to letters from all the students. However, he was very excited to hear their recent news and progress.

He also invited the students to visit Japan, at least once during their studies at WMU. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of the next generation's professionalism for world development. He assured all that the scholarships will still continue as they are not a personal but a national matter. Mr. Sasakawa told the students to concentrate and pay more attention to their studies than focus on internal problems at WMU, which would be settled by the Board of Governors. He told them not to worry, but to inform him of any conditions which might affect their studies. He expected to see the Sasakawa Fellows graduate with pride.

Finally, he thanked Mr. Kudo for all his support and hard work for The Sasakawa Foundation and congratulated WMU on its Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

The meeting was followed by a tea party until 4.30 PM.



Impacts of Climate Change on the Maritime Industry - ICCMI2008

Sue Jackson
WMU Associate Registrar



Swante Arrhenius, eminent Swedish scientist and Nobel Laureate, first warned in 1898 that carbon dioxide emissions could lead to global warming. More than a century later, again in Sweden, the consequences of climate change for maritime and coastal activities were examined at the ICCMI2008 Conference, from June 2-4, 2008.

The impact of the conference theme and the importance of WMU's Silver Jubilee was reflected by the eminence of the Guests of Honour: HM Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden; Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation; Mr. E. E. Mitropoulos, IMO's Secretary-General; Ms. Maud Olofsson, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Enterprise and Energy; and Mr. Ilmar Reepalu, Mayor of Malmö.

HM The King addressed the conference on its second day, and listened to presentations from Ms. Christel Wiman, of the Port of Stockholm, and Mr. David Whitehead of the British Ports Association. The King also lunched with the Governor of the County of Skåne, Mr. Göran Tunhammar, with a party that included Dr. Sasakawa, Mr. Mitropoulos, Admiral James Card, a WMU Governor, and Dr. Karl Laubstein, President of WMU.

The conference, which attracted over 220 delegates, made a unique contribution to current knowledge by bringing together wide-ranging experience and proposing measures to ensure the

sustainability of maritime industries. The conference attracted experts from around the globe to discuss how climate change is affecting maritime activities, and to evaluate current and proposed measures to respond to the consequences of climate change.

The Conference addressed three main themes:

- the scientific basis of our understanding of climate change
- the foreseeable impacts on operations in maritime sectors
- the legal, policy and governance frameworks needed to deal with the impact of climate change

The conference focused on the shipping and port sectors, including fisheries, and the framework was laid out during the first day in a series of keynote presentations. These included the 2008 Sheldon Kinney Lecture, delivered by Admiral Robert E. Kramek, President of the US Society of Naval Architects and Engineers, formerly Commandant of the US Coast Guard. The second day consisted of two parallel sessions, one related to the Baltic and North Sea, and the other to the Arctic Ocean.

The final day of the conference was a plenary session, with a keynote speech from Dr. Sasakawa on the theme of "Global Environmental Issues: a Perspective from the Sea". Mr. Mitropoulos also delivered a keynote speech, "A Global Program needs a Global Solution".



The plenary session resulted in conclusions and recommendations on how maritime industries, globally and regionally, can best cope with and adapt to the challenges arising from climate change.

For more information, photographs and copies of presentations please go to the ICCMI2008 Conference website at www.iccmi.info

Challenges of the World's Ports

Dr. Satoshi Inoue
Secretary General,
International Association
of Ports & Harbors



Uniting the World's Ports

When the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) formed in 1955, the world was nothing like the world we know today. No idea about "globalization" at all. Yet, it was thought imperative more than 50 years ago to foster close communication and dialogue among the world's ports, separated from each other geographically, culturally and linguistically.

Since then, the IAPH has developed as the truly global organization of the world port community. Today, the IAPH has a membership of some 220 ports and 140 port-related organizations from 90 countries. The member ports combined handle about 60% of world seaborne trade and 90% of world container traffic. Leading port-related companies and academic institutes, national and regional ports associations are also its active members.

The IAPH tackles a wide range of issues and challenges of common interest through technical committee activities, whose outcomes and recommendations are regarded as highly valuable guidelines and references. The IAPH also plays a proactive role in international arenas to address global issues. As the unique organization representing the world port industry, the IAPH is granted NGO Consultative Status by six inter-governmental bodies such as the IMO, UNCTAD, ILO and WCO.

Ports Transforming into Logistics Hubs

Maritime trade has been increasing tremendously over the past decades. To cope with such demands, ports are now facing serious constraints of time and space, not to mention the huge investments required. Unlike building ships, it often takes 5 to 10 years to develop new terminals even if one is lucky enough to find sufficient funds and space for such development.

Moreover, ports not only have to expand facilities, but they are also required to position themselves in a completely new environment of transportation, the emergence of supply chain management. This covers the entire process from production through transportation to consumption, as an integrated system rather than a set of separate and fragmented sub-systems. Ports now have to drastically transform from traditional transfer points between ship and land into integrated centers of global logistics systems.

To become a global logistics hub, a port needs to provide not only efficient terminal services, but also excellent connections to hinterlands, IT support and infrastructure, and high standards of safety and security, on top of a range of value added logistics services. In and around ports, therefore, integrated logistics zones are now being developed to accommodate activities of warehousing, processing, assembling, distributing, etc.

Port Security & Supply Chain Security

Since July 1, 2004, port terminals for international trade have strictly complied with requirements of the ISPS Code throughout the world. IAPH has been helping the world's ports implement the code properly and effectively. Our worldwide surveys revealed that terminals were generally in good compliance with the code, and awareness of port security has been significantly enhanced among port personnel.

Since the weakest link determines the security of the entire logistics system, no matter how ports tighten security at their terminals, global logistics can't be sufficiently secured until all other players in the logistics system are fully committed to security. IAPH has therefore worked with the WCO to develop the "SAFE Framework of Standards", which aims at enhancing supply chain security through the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) system, while providing AEOs with trade facilitation incentives such as fewer customs inspections and easier reporting.

In 2002, the U.S. put in place the CT-PAT, a precedent to the AEO scheme, though only applied to those involved in importing goods to the U.S. The AEO or similar schemes are now in operation for Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia and Singapore. The EU just started its AEO system January 1, 2008.

Clean Port Air and Climate Change

IAPH has been extensively addressing a range of environmental issues over the years.

It is now high on the agenda for the world's ports to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from port-related activity.

Adopting a significant resolution on "Clean Air Program for Ports" in Houston in May 2007, IAPH urges ports, members and non-members alike, to take active and effective steps towards clean air programs, while recognizing that no one-size-fits-all solution exists for ports' large variations in pollution level, emission sources, geographical and meteorological conditions. As part of its efforts, IAPH has just produced the "Tool Box for Port Clean Air Programs", a web-based guideline on air emission control planning and available measures.



(<http://www.iaphworldports.org/toolbox%201/toolbox%201.htm>)

In July 2008, over 50 major ports and cities discussed how to tackle global warming and adopt the World Ports Climate Declaration in Rotterdam. IAPH President Madam OC Phang urged the world port community to take action without delay, stressing the need for a worldwide and sustained approach to the abatement of global warming. IAPH is committed to take a lead in the world's ports endeavors to tackle this critical global issue.

With its motto - World Peace through World Trade, World Trade through World Ports - IAPH will continue to work for the betterment of the world port community and promote free trade across the globe, ultimately contributing to the realization of world peace.

Should you require any assistance or information, please feel free to contact us any time. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming you all at the 26th IAPH World Ports Conference to be held in Genoa, Italy, from May 25-29, 2009.

Unexpected Happend!!

Mohab Abou-Elkawam (Egypt, 2003)

Jabeth Dacanay (Philippines, 2003)

Conghua Xue (China, 2003)

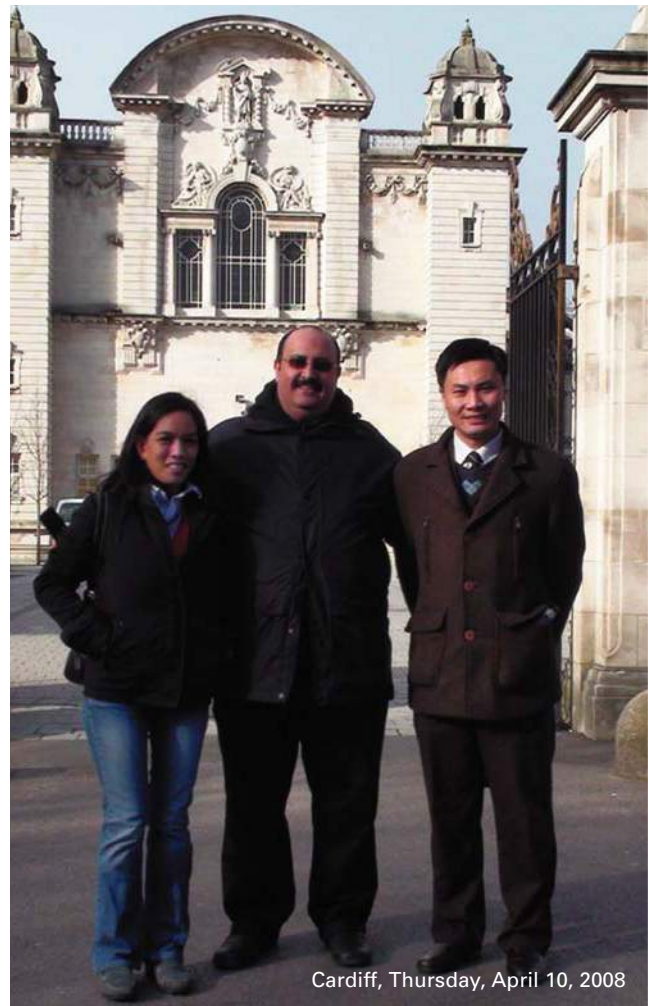
Teary eyes were a common feature among the 2003 WMU class on their graduation day back on October 12, 2003 while they congratulated each other and prepared to say their final farewells before leaving Malmö for good. Everyone had this sad feeling inside that they wouldn't see their classmates ever again and that this was the end of a happy and yet a challenging part of their lives. However, four years passed and the unexpected happened in the Welsh capital Cardiff when three of former WMU Sasakawa Fellows re-united in October 2007 as Nippon Fellows studying for their PhD at Cardiff University. Jabeth Dacanay from the Philippines, Conghua Xue from China, and Mohab Abou-Elkawam from Egypt, all from the WMU 2003 'Powerful' class happily were together studying under the auspices of the Seafarers International Research Center to earn their higher degrees in an established and globally renowned research center.

But how did the success story start for each of the three Fellows and what was the role of the Sasakawa Foundation and The Nippon Foundation in the promotion of their successful and highly specialised maritime careers? In the following paragraphs a brief biography of the three Fellows shows how their personal, professional and academic lives were drastically changed by being granted such prestigious fellowships.

Jabeth Sena Jepath A. Dacanay is one of the few female maritime lawyers in the Philippines. Graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Laws degree from the Far Eastern University in Manila, she later obtained her Master of Science in Maritime Affairs specialising in Maritime Administration in 2003 at the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden. She headed the Maritime Legal Affairs Office of the Philippine Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) before joining the PhD program of The Nippon Foundation and the Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) at Cardiff University, Wales, United Kingdom.

In her ten years with MARINA, Jabeth has dealt with various issues affecting Filipino seafarers, a significant sector which now makes up almost a quarter of the world's seafarers. She recognizes that Filipino seafarers belong to a vulnerable industry as they leave their families and risk their lives on perilous seas to enable the movement of people and goods for the benefit of the rest of the world.

In July 2007, Jabeth was part of a team that began drafting the Philippine Merchant Shipping Act, a proposed law that seeks to incorporate both international and local laws into a single maritime shipping legislation. Their goal was to come up with a comprehensive law that addresses the diverse issues affecting the shipping industry and the Filipino seafarers. Apart from researching and synthesizing the inputs of the private sector in the draft law, Jabeth also served as a legal adviser to the maritime manpower sector during the consultation meetings with stakeholders prior to the drafting of the proposed law.



After finishing her MSc at WMU through the generosity of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa and the Sasakawa Foundation, Jabeth realised she wanted to undertake research and hopefully make a difference in the Philippine maritime industry. She is deeply committed to finding ways to alleviate the plight of seafarers whose health, safety and welfare are often relegated to the sidelines due to competitive pressures in the highly globalised shipping industry.

When she learned from Associate Professor Max Mejia of WMU about the PhD program being offered by SIRC and The Nippon Foundation for those interested in undertaking academic research about seafarers and the human element of shipping, she knew in her heart that joining the program would make her lifelong dream of contributing knowledge and making a difference in the lives of the seafarers become a reality. And here she is now in the occasionally vibrant city of Cardiff reading, writing and researching the Maritime world.

Following graduation from Nantong Shipping College (NSC) with a diploma in Navigation, Conghua Xue had worked on different types of ocean-going ships flying flags of different nations as an OS (Ordinary Seaman), AB (Able Seaman) and eventually second deck officer for the unlimited ocean regions.

Following his seagoing career, Conghua worked ashore for the NSC as a maritime instructor in 1996. Conghua obtained a Bachelor's degree in English Education from the Peking Normal University in China in 2001. Then he was nominated by the Ministry of Communications of China and sponsored by The Nippon Foundation Sasakawa Fellowship to further study at WMU. He completed his Masters degree in Maritime Affairs specialising in MET(N) in 2003. As a lecturer at the NSC, he mainly taught nautical students STCW related professional courses including maritime communications and maritime English. He was also the deputy director of the foreign affairs office and the head of maritime English section for the college since 2004.



Conghua has been actively involved in the foreign affairs of the NSC, and his understanding of global MET has been enhanced by his visit to some maritime colleges/universities for the purpose of academic exchanges and cooperations in Singapore, Australia, Canada and the U.S. in recent years. He has maintained his membership in the IMLA (International Maritime Lecturers Association) since 2003. In 2006, he was appointed an Internal and External Auditor for Quality Assurance Standards of Maritime Education and Training in China, which is authorized by the China Maritime Safety Administration.

With the rapid development of the world shipping industry, safety, security and efficiency at sea have become major concerns. The call for the creation of a safety culture at sea has been the main focus in recent years, particularly by IMO. It is this initiative that inspired Conghua's research interests in investigation and analysis of the factors that shape a positive maritime safety culture. Once again and luckily enough, he is able to conduct his research at the SIRC under the auspices of The Nippon Foundation, and be one of the countless people who share Mr. Yohei Sasakawa's vision, 'The World Is One Family: All Mankind Are Brothers And Sisters'. This vision deeply affects people around the world. As a student, he clearly understands his role - to study hard and live up to Mr. Sasakawa's expectations.

Mohab Abou-Elkawam had quite a long seagoing career (from 1983 to 2000), working mostly on board Very Large Tankers roaming the world's oceans. When he decided that it was time for him to pursue an academic career, he joined the teaching staff at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in his home country Egypt. Merely two years later he was at WMU among distinguished Sasakawa Fellows studying for his MSc. He had the privilege during his time at Malmö to meet personally with the Honourable Mr. Yohei Sasakawa who impressed him with his vision for the maritime world. This vision has inspired his thinking since then and helped him decide to research the vital link between seafarers and their global work place, the marine environment. Again, The Nippon Foundation under the command



of Yohei Sasakawa agreed to fund his research project at Cardiff University proving the continued vision of the imminent need for tackling this link, especially among maritime educators and educational policy makers.

After two and half years as one of the distinguished Nippon Fellows at the Cardiff based Seafarers International Research Center (SIRC), he can see more clearly his way ahead, not only through research, but also through his future career, a career in Maritime Education sharing the vision of Mr. Sasakawa, benefiting from the network of global maritime experts at SIRC and the WMU alumni, towards a truly better, more modern, and comprehensive education for seafarers, leading inevitably to a safer shipping industry and cleaner seas.

The above accounts show the path of these Sasakawa Fellows, their dreams that have come true and their vision for a future maritime industry and healthy clean oceans, as all three of them carry the message of a great man - Yohei Sasakawa - in their heart and mind.

The 2nd International Maritime Conference (IMC2008) on Maritime Threats & Opportunities in 21st Century

Asghar Ali
(Pakistan, 2006)



The National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (NCMPR), Bahria University organised the 2nd International Maritime Conference (IMC2008) on Maritime Threats & Opportunities in the 21st Century from March 25-27, 2008 in Karachi, Pakistan. The theme for this annual 3-day conference was: Sustainable Economic Exploitation of Ocean Resources: Technological and Educational Needs and Solutions

A major portion of the surface of the earth is covered by oceans. One of the major uses of the oceans in last few centuries has been the transportation of goods. Shipping flourished exponentially during the last two centuries and the seafaring profession became international, stream-lined and acknowledged.

Now the 21st century is witnessing an enormous shift in our approach to how we visualize the oceans and the seafaring profession. With new and advanced technologies at the disposal of human beings, ships are hi-tech machines with reduced needs for manpower. Highly qualified seafarers are required to run advanced ships. Use of the oceans has expanded beyond of shipping, and new areas of study have evolved like the environment, sea-bed resources, fisheries, marine biology, coastal zone management, etc.

Associated professions like port management, shipping management and international law require dedicated experts and scholars. A new world order demands new emphasis on issues like marine security, terrorism, piracy and maritime fraud to ensure world peace in the 21st century. Keeping this in mind, there is a dire need to study and discuss recent trends in Maritime Education and Training (MET) worldwide and evaluate a strategy whereby Pakistan can cope with these new developments in the maritime sector. Only then will we be able to remain abreast with the world in general and the region in particular and use our marine resources for the betterment of our people.

Pakistan has to realize the importance of new emerging study areas linked with the seafaring profession. We need to educate our young generation in professions like the environment, insurance, law, security and financial management linked with the maritime sector. Only through these measures, will we be able to maintain our pace of progress and expand our operations in the maritime industry.

If you would like to have more information on the conference, please go visit at: http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp/IMC2008_ali.pdf

WMU Sasakawa Fellows meet in Japan - What a Small World!

Joseph B. Badajos (Philippines, 1999)



A Working Level Meeting of the Heads of Asia Coast Guard Agencies was held in Tokyo, Japan on June 25-26, 2008. The Japan Coast Guard hosted the meeting under the auspices of The Nippon Foundation and with the cooperation of the Japan Association of Maritime Safety. The participating countries and areas were: Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The Working Level Meeting is an interim forum prior to the staging of the 4th Heads of Coast Guard Agencies Meeting, which will be hosted by the Philippine Coast Guard from October 8-10, 2008 in Manila, Philippines.

The Meeting discussed issues of capacity building and information exchange. Through the discussions, the participants shared the view that:

- Recognizing that the capabilities and systems of Coast Guard Agencies are varied, in order to promote the fundamental capacity of the Asian Coast Guards as a whole, it is important that the capability of each Agency attain a certain level.
- In developing efforts of capacity building, it is important to explore measures to enable each Coast Guard Agency to raise their capacity under their own initiatives and in a sustainable manner.
- Recognizing the importance of capacity building, it is necessary for all Coast Guard Agencies to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in order to promote sufficient and effective capacity building.

In a not so surprising sidelight to the meeting, four WMU graduates, CDR Joseph B Badajos PCG (Philippines, 1999), Sukhin Ratanasathien (Thailand, 1991), Thet Htay (Myanmar, 2002), and Norhasliza Mat Salleh (Malaysia 2006) found themselves face-to-face during the discussions. Not so surprising in the sense that WMU graduates are indeed increasingly playing significant roles in their own governments towards advocating the IMO-WMU goal of promoting better cooperation and understanding in the maritime community by providing a common framework of understanding among student participants in the academic field. Of course, this would not have become possible without the benevolence of The Nippon Foundation headed by no less than the man himself, Mr. Sasakawa.

As ever, the ebullient, jolly, and ever-hospitable Mr. Eisuke Kudo, ably assisted by the indefatigable Shinichi Ichikawa, both from the Ocean Policy Research Foundation, treated the four WMU graduates to a night of simple, yet enjoyable fun over a few rounds of Japanese beer after the meeting. Truly, the chance meeting among the Fellows proved true to the adage: "What a small world it is for WMU Sasakawa Fellows!" KAMPAI!

(Note: The author is presently the Station Commander of Coast Guard Station Dumaguete in the central part of the Philippines. He graduated from WMU in 1999 with the degree of MSC in MSEP. He also served as the Vice President of the Student Council.)

Sharing the excitement of the WMU Silver Jubilee Championship

Nelli Norit (Estonia, 2008)



As we all know it is the Silver Jubilee of the World Maritime University and to celebrate it we have already had two important conferences, "Empowering Professional Women in the Maritime World" and "Impact of Climate Change on the Maritime Industry". These conferences were very important not only for the university, Students, and graduates, but also for the whole international maritime community.

On a more unofficial level the WMU Student Council Sport Committee decided to organize WMU Silver Jubilee Championship games between the class of 2008 and class of 2009. The main organizer of the games is the chairman of the sport committee, Mr. Phung Trong Hieu (Vietnam, 2008). These Championship games consist of five different sport activities: volleyball, billiards, basketball,

football and badminton. At the end of the games the winner will get the cup of the WMU Silver Jubilee Championship games, sponsored by the Vietnamese students.

Organizing the games will offer a great opportunity for WMU students to relax and enjoy the excitement of sports. While being away from home and work, students do not have many things to do here besides concentrating on their studies. Therefore, having these games is a very good way to take a break from books and do something different. It is a great pleasure to see everyone coming to play and others coming to cheer for the players.

Although at the end of the games only one team will be the winner, we can say that every one of us is winner by sharing moments of excitement and joy!

Best Wishes for Your New Future

祝



Nguyen Dang Ben (Vietnam, 2007)

I went to Malmö for a Master course in SM, and I got more than a degree. I found my wife at beloved WMU. She was a MET student of 2007.

She was the first WMU student that I met at Copenhagen airport on my first day, and I also was the first student that she met. We are both from Vietnam, but it was fate that let us meet because in Vietnam, we lived 2000km away from each other; I lived in the South, and she lived in the North. We did not know that we would belong to each other.

We studied different courses at WMU but we had a chance to help each other because we came from the same country. From friendship, our feelings developed into love. We overcame difficulties in studies and in life together, and our love has blossomed. Now I'm very happy to say that after 2 years, 1 month and 2 days since we met each other, we got married on February 17, 2008. We are building a happy family and hoping to have our love last forever.

Now we live in Hochiminh City, Vietnam. I work at Saigon Premier Container Terminal (SPCT) which is a joint venture between DP World (80%) and Tan Thuan Industrial Promotion Company (20%). My wife, Thuong, changed from the headquarters of Vietnam National Shipping Lines (Vinalines) in Hanoi to a branch of Vinalines in Hochiminh City.

WMU gave us more than what we expected when we came to study at this beloved university. We would like to send our special thanks to all Professors and staff who always supported us while we studied there. We hope to have a chance to come back to WMU in the future.



Do Cong Bien (Vietnam, 2009) & Mai Thi Anh Tuyet (Vietnam, 2008)

Last Christmas was a special day for both of us. It was the day that we became husband and wife officially. We had been in love with each other for a long time and planned to marry in 2008 because she was studying at WMU while I was still working in my home country; therefore we intended to get married after her graduation.

However, in November 2007, thanks to Mr. Sasakawa and The Nippon Foundation, I had the golden chance to become a WMU student. This brought our happiest day to us earlier than expected. On December 25, 2007, our wedding was held at our home town in a warm, traditional ceremony with our parents, relatives, friends, and especially friends from WMU. 20 days after our wedding ceremony, we flew together to WMU and as of now we are the only married student couple here.



Tomonori Okamura (Japan, 2002)

It is my great pleasure to inform you that I got married on March 8th at Yokohama, one of the biggest ports in Japan. I was still living on the Training Ship SEIUN MARU of the National Institute for Sea Training as First officer for Japanese and Asian cadets. The day of my arrival at the Port of Tokyo I left the ship and rushed to my wedding ceremony.

At the wedding reception, Mr. Eisuke KUDO (Ocean Policy Research Foundation) and Professor Toshio HIKIMA (Marine Technical Education Agency, my professor at WMU) kindly congratulated us. We also received a congratulatory message from Friends of WMU, Japan with a large toy balloon. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you.

After the reception, I immediately went back to the ship for the next training voyage.

That's Sea Life!



Norhasliza Mat Salleh (Malaysia, 2006)

Things in my life have been moving favorably after graduating from WMU in October 2006. Right after coming back from Malmö I was promoted to Head of Unit of my department. After that, I was given more and more responsibilities (and scolded a lot by my boss) and a getting busier. But apart from those ups and downs, I found the greatest happiness. I met Hafiz Mukhtar. He is a wonderful person, and a great life companion. So I finally said yes to his marriage proposal. The 22nd of March 2008 was the most amazing day of my life when Hafiz and I became husband and wife in front of our parents, relatives and friends.



Sarit Sritip (Thailand, 2005)

In March 2008, my wife gave birth to our first child after ten years of marriage. We are very glad and our families are so happy, too. Although our boy has a Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD), we positively believe that the doctor can help us eliminate this serious problem. At the previous examination, the doctor said that he is in very good condition (relatively tall and strong, weighing 6.9 kilograms and measuring 64 centimeters). In other words, there are no negative signs that call for a medical operation.



Kentaro Furuya (Japan, 2003)

Well, it was an absolutely amazing moment when I first met my son. It was on February 14th, right after my birthday and 10 years into our marriage.

Around midnight, my wife started to have pains and we went to the hospital where she stayed for a week. A nurse said it would take time because it was our first baby, and it really did take long.

Finally, the time had come. It was 08.37 when our baby was born. To tell the truth, my wife had several examinations before the delivery, and, the doctor told us it would be a girl. However, the baby turned out to be a BOY, and we named him "Kohto" from the French pronunciation of "coast".

I am so glad that I can share my happiness with all of you and my special thanks to the OPRF staff, who encouraged me to send in my news.



Ahmad Faizal (Malaysia, 2008)

On October 17, 2007 my wife Zura gave birth to our second child, a son, while I was in WMU's hostel. The good news came from my mother, and when I was told that both were in good condition, it was a big relief. We named him 'Firdaus'.

The first time I met my son was during the break in December 2007, and he is a mixture between me and my wife. Anyway, it is too early to tell. Now, we are a family of four. My eldest child Nurin, was happy to have a little brother. I hope she will be a good sister and willing to share some of her things. I hope to finish successfully my studies at WMU and rejoin my family in Malaysia in October 2008.



Mohd Rosli Bin Abdullah (Malaysia, 2008)

March 4th, 2008 is a very special day for me and my wife. At around 10:50am my wife gave birth to our first baby. The new member of our family is a boy and was named Ikhmal Arfizan. As we have been waiting for this moment for nearly 5 years, there are almost no words to explain how happy and grateful we are. The birth of Ikhmal Arfizan has brought more light and joy to our life. The most important thing is, it also started a new episode in our life as both of us are parents now. Hopefully we can carry out the responsibilities of father and mother with dedication and wisdom. This wonderful event has marked this year as one of the great years of our life. But even better things are still to come, especially the graduation ceremony in October 2008. So far I can say that the opportunity to study at WMU through the Sasakawa Fellowship program has provided me with very precious and memorable experiences, knowledge and much more.

Editor's Postscript

The revision of SOLAS chapter II-1 adopted at MSC 80 in May 2006 enters into force on January 1, 2009, and the revised provisions in parts A, B, and B-1 become applicable to new ships built after this date. This revision brought amendments to the national rules, and I had an opportunity to attend the seminar for Japanese flag surveyors to understand the amendments and the probabilistic method of determining damage stability. Compared with the traditional deterministic method, the probabilistic method is considered more realistic - it is based on statistical evidence of what actually happens in collisions and related accidents, which was recorded by IMO through detailed research and scientific assessment. The provisions under the probabilistic method seem more complicated and harder to understand, but I deeply appreciate the concept and the decade-long effort. Science and technology continue to explore all the possibilities for safety at sea.

Ms. YAKABE Fumi (Japan, 2004)



Dr. Karl Laubstein visited the OPRF office on July 23, and enjoyed a brief talk with Mr. Yoshio Kon, President of OPRF. Dr. Laubstein is going to leave his post as president of WMU at the end of July and will be bestowed "President Emeritus". Mr. Kon expressed his deep appreciation to Dr. Laubstein for his twelve and a half years of devoted service to WMU. Both exchanged their opinions about human resource development in the maritime field, and agreed that the role of maritime education and training should be much greater than ever to cope with the demands for capable human resources toward the sustainable development of the maritime industry.

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. Mitsuhiro Ida, Ms. Fumi Yakabe, Ms. Masako B. Otsuka and Ms. Sue Jackson.

Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat, Ocean Policy Research Foundation
Kaiyo Senpaku 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/>

