

# F NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU JAPAN

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## National Consultation Workshop on Domestic Ferry Safety

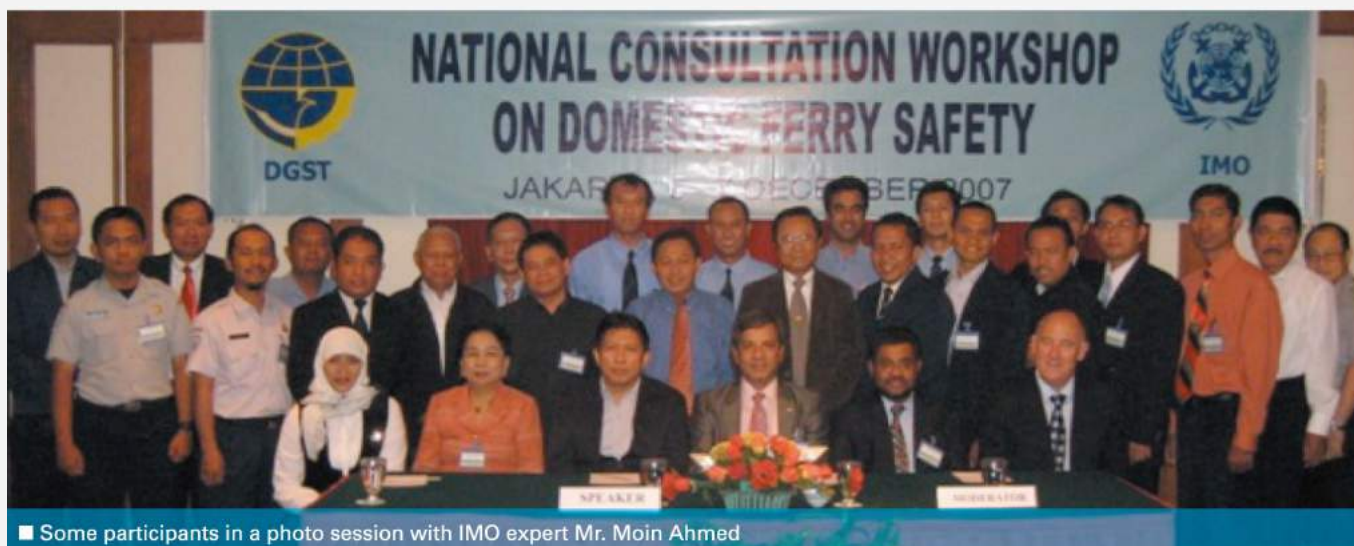
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Jakarta, Indonesia

December 5 - 7, 2007



■ Some participants in a photo session with IMO expert Mr. Moin Ahmed

Indonesia is an archipelagic state that lies between Australia and the Indian Ocean in the South, and the South China Sea and the Asian Continent in the North. It consists of thousands of populated islands, both big and small. To support the mobilization of people and goods, sea transportation is the most suitable type of transportation compared to land/rail transport or air transport, to the extent of volume, weight and cost.

There are many ferry operators that serve this area, such as PT PELNI, a government owned ferry operator, and PT JEMLA, PT Dharma Lautan Utama, PT JM Ferry, and so on. In some areas they have entered into agreements to offer ferry transport in mutual cooperation.

With the high volume of ferry service in this area, the possibility of accidents is also considered high. Between 2000 and 2007 there were several accidents with hundreds of lost lives. Some may recall at the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007 the MV Senopati Nusantara, with more than 200 passengers, sank on her voyage from the Port of Kumai in Kalimantan to the Port of Semarang in Central Java. Even now, the wreck of the Nusantara and several bodies have not been recovered yet.

The workshop itself was conducted in the Millenium Hotel Jakarta from December 5th to 7th, 2007 and was organized by the Directorate General of Sea Transportation under the administration of the Republic of Indonesia.

### *The National Consultation Objective*

To synchronize what the ferry industry in Indonesia needs to do to satisfy safety demands and to accommodate this to the administration point of view and all stakeholders involved in this industry is the main objective of the event. Views from all sides will be formulated into a project that enhances ferry safety, particularly in Indonesian waters.

The workshop also wanted to listen carefully to what the industry needs in relation to human resources, equipment, maintenance, policies and all elements that may contribute to the ferry industry safety performance. In total there were about 80 participants during the event.

### *The Participants*

Most Indonesian ferry industry stakeholders were invited and joined this event. Ferry operators were represented by GAPASDAP (The association of domestic ferry operators), the Shipyards and Offshore Industry Association (IPERINDO), the Indonesian Seafarers' Union (KPI), Indonesian Meteorological and Geophysics Officials (BMG). The administration was represented by the delegation from the Directorate General of Sea Transportation, and the Education and Training Agency sent two speakers.

Law enforcement forces such as the Indonesian Navy, the Indonesian water police and the Coast Guard all were under the

new umbrella of the BAKORKAMLA (Coordination Body for Sea Security) to hear and to convey their ideas at the event.

An official from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), which has conducted a similar pilot project in Kupang, Nusa Tenggara, Timur, was also looking for the possibility of joining with IMO in a similar and bigger project, in order to assist Indonesia in enhancing domestic ferry safety.

World Maritime University Indonesia alumni sent two speakers to offer their ideas and share opinions with the industry.

## The Outcome

Two IMO experts, Mr. Moin Ahmed, Head of Asia & Pacific Geographical Focal Points at the Technical Co-operation Division of the International Maritime Organization, and Mr. Milhar Fuazudeen in technical cooperation summarized and offered possible solutions to meet the industry's needs. However, any project proposal needs comprehensive thought and careful consideration before being implemented.

Mr. Ahmed talked about a similar project in Bangladesh, and with IMO's recommendation it was offered to Indonesia as a model to follow. Nevertheless the problems of the domestic ferry industry in Indonesia are not exactly similar to the problems in Bangladesh. Therefore, further discussions are needed to formulate the needs of the Indonesian domestic ferry industry before it becomes a project proposal.

At the end of the event, it was recommended to form three working groups to work on different issues: the first group will focus on regulations, guidance and administration; the second working group on education, training and safety awareness; and the third group on design, construction, surveys and operations.

These three groups will have till February 2008 to come up with recommendations. The IMO delegation promised to facilitate the next meeting to continue this work.



## The World Maritime University - Sasakawa Fellows' Roles

An interesting fact was discovered at the event. Mr. Ahmed of the IMO delegation is a WMU alumni, as is Mr. Heru Prasetyo, the administration representative at the opening session.

The Head of the Education and Training Agency, Mr. Dedy Darmawan delegated Mr. Wisnu Handoko and Mr. Antony Arif Priadi, both WMU graduates, to speak about the efforts of ETA to design a method that effectively disseminates a safety culture among seafarer candidates.

Mr. Mugen S. Sartoto and Mr. Iqbal Fikri, on behalf of WMU Indonesia alumni, talked about the concept of a safety culture and the need to rebuild a safety culture in the ferry industry at all levels. One sentence is interesting to quote: "the problem is not out there, but it is inside us; let's think and do everything safely."

Several of the moderators of the presentations were also WMU graduates: Mr. Ahmad Irfan, Mr. Rifanie Komara and Mr. Anthony Arif Priadi. And a majority of the WMU alumni involved in the event were WMU-Sasakawa Fellows.

## Closing Remarks

All in all, the roles of WMU alumni, particularly the Sasakawa Fellows, contributed much to this consultation event. It is expected that in the future the involvement of WMU Sasakawa Fellows in enhancing maritime safety, particularly in the Indonesian maritime industry, will be improved and have a wider scope. Support from the OPRF will always be meaningful in making this happen.

**Mugen S. Sartoto** (Indonesia, 2007)  
**Wisnu Handoko** (Indonesia, 2007)



## WMU SAR Information Platform

### Bringing Search and Rescue Experts Together

World Maritime University (WMU), an institution of the IMO (WMU graduates and alumni remember it as an institution par excellence in creating experts in all fields of maritime activity) has recently taken on the arduous task of coordinating all Search and Rescue (SAR) related research activity under its fold to assist the IMO in its work on SAR policy and safety issues at sea. After researching global SAR systems and identifying gaps in implementation, it has realized that research activities that are ongoing in premier research institutes and organizations are not reaching the concerned SAR agencies, leading to a situation where individual states were not able to provide correct responses to SAR events, which caused loss of life and exposed SAR crews to various risks and undermined many SAR efforts.

To bring about an awareness of ongoing SAR research and the positive results for implementation, WMU has created a web based portal, [www.sar-info.net](http://www.sar-info.net). The objective of the platform is

to collect reports about research and similar developments, the need for cooperation and issues of interest for future research. The focus of this platform is analytical. This means that the information provided to the platform will be analysed, summarized and reported back to the organization in order to facilitate discussions in relevant committees and sub-committees, if needed. The most important part of the platform is the reports section where project reports, guidelines, articles, and other publications (e.g. WMU MSc. theses on SAR) will be published. The reports section includes events (e.g. training, courses, seminars) and a section on SAR tools involving software solutions.

WMU graduates and other SAR experts can benefit immensely from this portal and also can contribute to it. A full-text of the report can be downloaded from the "Friends of WMU, Japan" website at: [www.wmu.sof.or.jp](http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp)

**Donny Michael**  
(India, 2004)





# Account of My Visit to the Indian Ocean Rim

**Eisuke Kudo**  
Executive Director  
Ocean Policy Research Foundation

## Vast amounts of e-mail message exchanges

December in Japan is called “Shiwasu”, which stands for “Teacher’s running”, and it is a particularly busy month. In addition to my regular tasks I was ordered to go overseas to Indonesia at a time when the end-of-year pressure was mounting. To extend an overseas business trip at this time of year in particular is rather difficult unless one has a good excuse to be away for a long period.

Taking the opportunity I was given, I decided to use it to make a whirlwind tour to South Asian countries as many as possible, where our Sasakawa Fellows reside and where I have never been before.

My decision was made around the end of October. In the following weeks I exchanged a continuous stream of e-mail messages with Sasakawa Fellows, including Mr. Iqbal Karim (Bangladesh 1992), in the countries I intended to visit.

## Areas where Sasakawa Fellows are active

In New Delhi, I had meetings with Mr. S. K. Shahi (2002) and Ms. A. Varma (2004) on the Dec, 10th. In Mumbai, I had a meeting with Mr. A. Prasad (1997) on the 12th. I had the chances to promote the WMU Sasakawa Scholarship program to the Ministry of Shipping and the Indian Coast Guard Headquarters where the Sasakawa Fellows were working. I was also given the opportunity to look around Mumbai Port, which continues to develop as a multi-purpose port.



New Delhi



Mumbai (Mr. Prasad: left)



Colombo

In Colombo, we held a small meeting attended by Mr. G. A. Talagala (1992), Mr. Y. A. Tilak D. K. Jayasinghe (1997), Mr. Ajith Dehipola (1998), Ms. Y. S. Wettasinghe (1999), Mr. M. G. S. Kumara (2007), and Mr. K. M. Mithrapala (2002), where we exchanged ideas and opinions on: a) improving networking activities, b) regional meetings, and c) utilizing newsletters and websites.

### Mr. M. G. S. Kumara wrote:

Just after my graduation in October 2007 I received an email from OPRF mentioning Mr. Kudo's visit to South Asia, which included Bangladesh, India & Sri Lanka. Unfortunately the visit to Bangladesh was cancelled due to an unexpected disaster caused by a cyclone. Forming a South Asian Sasakawa chapter was the main purpose of this visit.

Sri Lanka is a country located in the center of South Asia, and Colombo is its capital. Therefore Sri Lanka is the best place for a South Asian Sasakawa Network Meeting. For this season Mr. Kudo was interested in visiting South Asia, especially Colombo. On December 14th, 2007, he visited the Port of Colombo for sightseeing. It was a delightful visit for him, and the photograph was taken at the control room of Jaya Container Terminal where several Sasakawa Fellows are working.



In the afternoon of December 14th all present Sasakawa Fellows in the country had a meeting with him at the Hilton International Hotel in Colombo. It was an exciting moment and all the members enjoyed it very much and gave a hearty farewell to Mr. Kudo.



In Jakarta, on the 18th, We held a meeting attended by Capt. Yan Risuandi (1990), Mr. Heru Prasetyo (1992), Mr. Rusman Hosein (1994), Mr. Subagio Hari Moeljanto (1996), Mr. Roy Kasiono (1996), Ms. Retno Windari (2001), Ms. Dyah Umiyarti Punamaningrum (2004), Mr. Rifanie Komara (2007), Mr. Mugen S. Sartoto (2007), Mr. Teguh Santoso (2007), Mr. Wisnu Handoko (2007) and Mr. Lian Indra Mukti (2007).

I also had the opportunity to visit Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP), the Maritime High Education and Training Institute of Jakarta, where Mr. Hosein is the principal. I visited the school guided by him and Capt. Yan Risundi. Observing the energetic group of young people moving about, I was convinced that they will protect the future safety of the seas.

## The world is one family

The number of graduates may vary from country to country, regional groups may be small or large, and graduates may be scattered in remote areas, but irrespective of these circumstances, I came home feeling satisfied that Sasakawa Fellows are well aware of each other's existence.

As the pace of globalization continues to accelerate, I think that the mission carried by Sasakawa Fellows in their respective countries is very weighty. When I witnessed with my own eyes, however, evidence of all members taking pride in the fact that they are graduates of WMU and devoting themselves to the welfare of their countries and the maritime community, I realized that our WMU support based on the initiatives of Chairman Sasakawa are now manifesting themselves in remarkable ways.

The neighboring countries are sometime their competitors, and it is only natural for friction to occur between countries when their national policies differ. This is a habitual occurrence in international society. However, a family can still be considered a healthy family despite quarrels among siblings and arguments between parents and children. So long as relationships are underpinned by trust and love, quarrels need not lead to breakdowns in those relationships. Perhaps the world that the late Ryoichi Sasakawa was seeking was such a world.





# A New Initiative from Asian Shipbuilding Experts toward Marine Safety and Environmental Protection

**Shin Imai**  
Japan Ship Technology Research Association

The first session of the Asian Shipbuilding Experts' Forum for International Maritime Technical Initiative (ASEF) was held at the Museum of Maritime Science, Tokyo, Japan from November 15 to 16, 2007. The Forum was organized by Japan Ship Technology Research Association (JSTRA); advocated by China Association of the National Shipbuilding Industry (CANSI), the Korean Shipbuilders' Association (KOSHIPA) and the Shipbuilders' Association of Japan (SAJ); and sponsored by The Nippon Foundation.

It was attended by more than 140 experts involved in Asian shipbuilding industries (including ship machinery and equipment manufacturing) and relevant activities from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It also included participants from governmental organizations and classification societies, etc., who were interested in the issues.



The main items discussed at this first session were Goal Based New Construction Standards (GBS), Ship Recycling and Corrosion Prevention, which are the current hot topics for the shipbuilding industry in IMO as well as ISO.

Throughout the discussion, the participants unanimously agreed to continue to hold the forum to establish clear channels of communication and to engage in dialogue concerning common matters related to international technical regulations and international standards, which can significantly affect shipbuilding industries. They also agreed to enhance mutual understanding among shipbuilding engineers throughout Asia; to express internationally relevant opinions; and ultimately to promote maritime safety and environmental conservation. The Forum will explore the possibility of establishing an NGO with IMO-Consultative status in the future.

In closing the session, KOSHIPA acknowledged its willingness to host next year's Forum in Korea, which was highly welcomed by all the participants.

## Cooperation for Improving Quality of Seafarers

**Li Yong (China, 1999)**  
President  
Shanghai Maritime Academy

I had the chance to attend "The Expert Meeting on Improving Quality of Seafarers in Asia", which was held on November 12-13, 2007 in Tokyo, Japan. During the meeting, I was so glad to meet Professor Toshio Hikima, Capt. Eisuke Kudo and other Japanese friends from OPRF.

The meeting was held by the Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan. The meeting was attended by experts who are familiar with seafarer matters from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify existing problems in the field of seafarer matters in Asia and to consider a reasonable way to internationally solve these problems. The Japanese experts gave a presentation entitled Purpose of the Experts Meeting and a Proposal of a New International Cooperation, Seafarers' Maritime Education and Training in Japan and The Current State and Challenge of Japanese Shipping Companies. Presentations by the Philippines and Vietnam followed. The meeting identified concerns that could be summarized into three major points: (1) need to improve performance of education and training system; (2) shortage of capable instructors; (3) insufficient information about seafarer matters. To overcome the concerns mentioned above, the meeting selected key points for discussion on how to improve education and training systems in licensed mariners' education and training, how to improve



From left: Li Da Ze, Li Yong (1999), Htay Win (1998), Prof. Hikima (former prof of WMU), Mr. Harunari (Director General of Maritime Bureau, MLIT), Naoki Saito (2004), Leng Thun Yuthea (1995), and Thang Duy Vo (2001)

instructor quality and how to share information about seafarer matters. The experts discussed and suggested many ideas for possible solutions.

The reason for the shortage of high quality seafarers is that the shipping industry is developing faster than seafarers' training. A new ship can be built in one or two years, but a qualified captain needs more than ten years' training. In my opinion, high quality seafarers are trained by both MET institutes and ship owners. The MET institution needs to improve its own MET system continually to comply with the requirements of STCW, ship owners and governments. On the other hand, the ship owner needs to give seafarers' training on board. As you know, high quality seafarers can not be trained in the MET institute directly. To become qualified seafarers they need to practice on board for a long time. So both efforts from institutions and ship owners are the best way to cultivate high quality seafarers.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the improvement in quality of seafarers in Asia needs cooperation between countries, institutions and ship owners.

## Remarkable Support from The Nippon Foundation

**Mohd Fairoz Bin Rozali** (Malaysia, 2006)

The Meeting between Littoral States and The Nippon Foundation held in Tokyo, Japan on January 15, 2008 showed the remarkable international support from The Nippon Foundation to the littoral States. With the Co-operative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore presented and agreed upon during the Singapore Meeting in 2007, the meeting concluded successfully with a strong support and commitment from The Nippon Foundation towards the establishment of the Aids to Navigation Fund in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (Straits). In addition to that, The Nippon Foundation also announced



additional funds of US\$ 1.5 million for the assessment survey of aids to navigation in the Straits.

The meeting was attended by the representatives from the littoral States (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) and also observers from



From left: Abdullah Yusuff Bin Basiron (1991), Mohd Fairoz Bin Rozali (2006 Sasakawa Fellow), Yuri Gunadi (1990), and Mohd Halim Ahmed (2002)

MLIT, Japan, Malacca Strait Council, Japan International Transport Institute (JITI) and Nippon Maritime Center. The Malaysia delegation was represented by Mr. Abdullah Yusoff Basiron, Mr. Muhammad Razif Ahmad, Capt. Mohd Halim Ahmed and myself.

That morning, the delegation had the privilege to meet Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, and we had a fruitful discussion on the Co-operative Mechanism. One of the paramount statements from Mr. Sasakawa concerned the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the stakeholder towards the enhancement of Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits.

In conclusion, it will be a historic event in the international calendar of 2008 when Malaysia will be the first host of the Aids to Navigation Fund. The secretariat (Malaysia) will play an active role in the establishment of the fund, manage day-to-day work and organize related meetings to attract potential contributors to allocate their monies to the fund. Last but not least, we highly appreciate Mr. Sasakawa's interest and determination towards the success of the Co-operative Mechanism.

## The 1st Anniversary of the Indonesian Maritime Security Coordinating Board (IMSCB)

**Retno Windari** (Indonesia, 2001)

On December 29th, 2007 the Indonesian Maritime Security Coordinating Board (IMSCB, or in Indonesian, BAKORKAMLA) celebrated its first anniversary at its headquarters in Jakarta. As the biggest archipelago in the world, with more than two-thirds of its territory being sea and its strategic location in the Asia Pacific, it is inevitable that Indonesia develops a strong, independent and advanced maritime sector which is based on its national interests. Such efforts must be supported by comprehensive security measures at sea.

IMSCB itself was actually established by the Indonesian Government in 1972. However, due to past and recent developments domestically, IMSCB has been revitalized by Presidential Decree No. 81 of 2005, with the function of coordinating 12 ministerial level agencies. Since its revitalization, IMSCB within its mandate has conducted efforts to coordinate and to synergize all the stakeholders, in forms of joint patrol operations and non-operations.

During 2007, IMSCB has conducted 3 intelligence operations, named Gurita (Octopus) 1, 2 and 3, with positive outcomes that have saved millions of US dollars in the State's potential loss from illegal fishing, smuggling and illegal ship-to-ship fuel



transfers. In terms of non-operations, in addition to a number of working visits domestically and overseas for courtesy calls and promoting co-operation, IMSCB among others has successfully conducted a national seminar to enhance maritime security in Indonesia. The seminar "The Bureaucratic Reformation in Indonesian Maritime Security to Commemorate the 10th anniversary of Indonesian Reformation" was held on December 17-18, 2007 in the Novotel Hotel, Bogor City, West Java. The seminar, which was attended by representatives of domestic stakeholders throughout Indonesia, was also made possible by the generous support from the Ocean Policy and Research Foundation (OPRF) and the Japan Coast Guard. We welcomed the presence and presentations of Mr. Eisuke Kudo of OPRF, Capt. Yuri Furusawa, Cdr. Yasushi Soda and other JCG delegates. We greatly expect that such excellent cooperation will be enhanced further in the future. IMSCB, as a newly operating institution, must be empowered, either institutionally or corporately in order to be able to perform its duties and functions to the highest extent possible. Support from OPRF and JCG, for example, is highly appreciated.



# Japan: Assisting in Jamaica's Maritime Development

Carolyn Graham (Jamaica, 2008)



Japan and Jamaica's good friendship became official in March 1964 when both countries entered into diplomatic relations. This was two years after Jamaica gained independence from the British. This relationship has remained strong and today Jamaica benefits from much assistance from Japan. Many Jamaicans can be found in Japan, in areas such as education, teaching English to Japanese students.

Japan operates mainly through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to assist developing countries such as Jamaica.

JICA is also responsible for the Japan Overseas Cooperation



MAJ's Training at Catherine Peak in Blue Mountain  
(Photo by Karasawa in Feb. 2002)

Volunteers (JOCV) program. Through this program volunteers from Japan work in many areas of need in Jamaica such as special education programs with the disabled, sports and cultural exchange programs. It is through the JOCV activities that Jamaica's maritime capacity has been strengthened.

Japan has been very supportive of Jamaica's maritime development. In the early years of the establishment of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ), Mr. Karasawa, a naval architect, was on secondment and was very instrumental in the establishment of the technical department of the MAJ. Mr. Karasawa also gave assistance to the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI).

CMI is the training institution for seafarers in the Caribbean region as well as personnel in shore-based and affiliated organizations. This institution gained much assistance with the provision of lecturers in the deck and engine departments. Japan also, under its technical cooperation program, provided a boat for the CMI which is being used for training and research.

The fellowships offered by The Nippon Foundation to Jamaican nationals to attend the World Maritime University represents another way in which Jamaica is benefiting from the benevolence of Japan.

## A Memorable Visit to The Nippon Foundation

Jens-Uwe Schröder (Associate Professor, WMU)



Last December I was invited by Germanischer Lloyd, the leading classification society in the area of container ships, to give a seminar in Tokyo. Quite naturally, as one of the three Nippon Foundation Chairs at WMU, I was looking forward to this opportunity as it allowed me to visit Japan and to pay a courtesy visit to The Nippon Foundation.

After working at WMU since 2000 I was appointed as The Nippon Foundation Chair in 2006. I have to admit that I did not know much about The Nippon Foundation. Of course I knew that they are one of the largest supporters of WMU and had a very strong focus on maritime research and are linked to a number of important projects in the maritime world, such as shipping routes in the Arctic. However, I did not have a very specific idea about other involvement and non-maritime specific interests of the Foundation. I was therefore very grateful when Mr. Kudo, the Executive Director of the Ocean Policy Research Foundation offered to arrange for a visit of The Nippon Foundation during last graduation at Malmö. It was an unexpected, but very pleasant surprise that Mr. Sasakawa himself would make a few minutes for a short conversation available. Before the meeting with Mr. Sasakawa I was given a more elaborate overview about all the different initiatives that are supported by The Nippon Foundation. I had no idea how widespread the activities of The

Nippon Foundation were: starting from a global fight against leprosy; continuing with support to students worldwide who want to study Japanese culture; facilitating young talented musicians; many, many more fields of interest; and finally coming to maritime research, the area that WMU benefits most from.

After this introduction I met with Mr. Sasakawa personally and was very pleased and honored that despite the wide focus of The Nippon Foundation he was very well informed about current and future developments at the university and in Sweden, the host country of WMU. He also showed a very active interest in WMU through a number of questions focussing on important events at WMU, such as the "Women in Development" conference in April 2008 and the 25th anniversary of the university in June 2008.

After the visit of The Nippon Foundation I had a chance to meet with Mr. Terashima, Mr. Kudo, Mr. Sakai, and Mr. Ichikawa from OPRF and the WMU Friends of Japan. This too, was a very good opportunity to see the strong commitment and support towards WMU. In summary, my visit to Japan, although short in time, had a very interesting program confirming the supportive spirit of the WMU Friends of Japan. I left Tokyo with a feeling of pride and honor to be a Nippon Foundation Chair and I am looking forward to the next opportunity to visit Japan, whenever that will be.

# It's Wonderful to be a Contact Family

**Annica and Arne Nordström**  
Malmö, Sweden



Our family first got in touch with the World Maritime University through good friends who had been a contact family for a couple of students. It seemed so nice, we had to try it ourselves! Now we are hosts to our fourth student from Japan. We were interested in hosting Japanese students because our son studied Japanese and has travelled for quite some time in that fascinating country. We love travelling ourselves and although we have been to many places, we haven't visited Japan yet. So now we have many good reasons to pack our bags soon and meet our friends in their home country!

Our first student was Miss Tomomi Okubo who graduated in October 2006. We had many happy times together with her and even had the chance to invite her mother to our home when she was visiting Sweden. Her visit was unforgettable as she demonstrated the wonderful tea-ceremony for us in our home. As she holds a diploma in the art of the ceremony from Hiroshima, her visit is a cherished memory for us and our children. We also had the honor of meeting Tomomi's father at her graduation.

The students after Tomomi were Yutaka Emi - who came to Sweden with his wife and three adorable children - and Yukinori



Matsui, both of whom graduated in October 2007. We had so many good times. Emi's wife Yoko taught us how to prepare sushi and now I feel quite an expert! Yoko's sister was also able to come to one of our outdoor parties while she was visiting. Yoko learned Swedish and was very clever at speaking the language, but the children even learned to speak it with the local accent! They attended the same kindergarten our children had gone to 15 years earlier, so we had that in common as well. Sometimes it can be hard to find suitable times to meet up, as our Japanese students are so diligent with their studies.

Each time a student goes home to Japan, they leave a real void behind them. They have become friends for life, and we are trying to keep in contact as much as possible.

Now we are hosting our fourth student, Tokimasa Yokoi, who has his wife Kana with him in Malmö. We have already established a nice relationship with them and look forward to happy times ahead. The students are easy to socialize with as they are just as positive and curious as we are! So we exchange thoughts and experiences, and learn from each other.

WMU always arranges a number of pleasant occasions each year when contact families are invited to attend. We try to go to most of these and never miss the wonderful graduation ceremony. This autumn we were lucky enough to be specially invited to a reception hosted by the Ocean Policy Research Foundation at the Japanese Consulate in Malmö, where we had the pleasure of meeting Mr Kudo. We look forward to continuing our contact with our WMU students, with WMU and the OPRF.

## Swedish Christmas

**Seiji Tomokuni (Japan, 2008)**

I'm sure you know of Santa Claus. However, do you know Tomten? If you meet an old man who wears red clothes and has a white beard like Santa Claus in Sweden, that's Tomten.

In December 2007, a Swedish family, Anna and Jonny, kindly invited us to Christmas dinner. We sat around eating a lot of nice Christmas dishes and they told me the story of Tomten.

"A long time ago, Tomten was a gnome looking after the houses and cattle of farms. However, it was believed that if people saw him, it would cause bad luck. Therefore, people treated him well and gave him rice porridge on Christmas."

Later, the Swedes got influenced from European Catholic culture. The tradition of Tomten and Santa Claus came together.

Now Tomten is an old nice man giving "jul klappar" (Christmas presents) to children. Actually, the father of the child disguises himself as Tomten and brings presents, so the child should



pretend not to recognize him even if the child knows who he is.

Jonny has a long white beard; he looks just like Santa Claus or Tomten. I've heard that Jonny and Anna wear red clothes and bring Christmas gifts to children in many kindergartens and many families every year. They are so popular that their schedule book at Christmas is always full. In addition, they give their handmade Christmas gifts to WMU students every year.

Tomten is a very hard worker who brings invaluable memories not only to children but also WMU students.



## Exchanges with Sasakawa Fellowship Members in the Philippines



From left: Ninfa D. Martinez (1997), Maria T. Daguio-Mamisao (2006), Zaldy G. Maquera (1998), Ronaldo P. Bandalaria (2005), Sonia B. Malaluan (1998), and Jean Ver P. Pia (2003)

I visited Manila city in the Philippines on January 21, 2008 to undertake ASEAN-Japan Maritime Security Joint Exercises for the 2007 Overseas Exchange Fund Project.

In view of the increasing need for anti-terrorism measures worldwide, the joint exercise is an initiative of Japan aimed at strengthening security measures at ports through international cooperation, and on this occasion, focused on communications training in security information between Japan and ASEAN countries. Adopting a scenario in which stowaways and bombs are discovered, the communications training took place at a container terminal in the Port of Manila.

I paid a visit to MARINA (Maritime Industry Authority) of the Department of Transport and Communications and met with members of the Sasakawa Fellowship.

Appreciating the great efforts made by the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat, Philippine Sasakawa Fellows wished to be informed on every occasion of Mr. Sasakawa's visit to the Philippines.

They enjoyed very much Mr. Kudo's unique hospitality at the meeting. And all of them expressed their wish that the next session of the Regional Network Meeting be organized by the Philippine Chapter.

## Information from the Secretariat

### **Chapter Blog for Sasakawa Fellows in Your Countries:**

We, the "Friends of WMU, Japan" Secretariat, have slowly been creating a WMU Sasakawa Chapter Blog ([www.wmu.sof.or.jp/chapterblogs.html](http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp/chapterblogs.html)). As you can imagine, this is our first attempt to create a chapter blog, and we are hoping to develop and expand this blog page little by little. So far, four chapter blogs have been created in Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia. If you wish to have your own WMU Sasakawa chapter blog in your country, please contact us at: [wmu-japan@sof.or.jp](mailto:wmu-japan@sof.or.jp)

### **"Fellows' Contributions" page on the Website:**

This "Fellows' Contributions" page on our website ([www.wmu.sof.or.jp](http://www.wmu.sof.or.jp)) is created for Sasakawa Fellows and current Sasakawa Fellowship students who would like to share information/stories with the viewers. And very recently, we have received two wonderful contributions from Sasakawa Fellows:

1. Htay Win (Myanmar, 1998) has contributed a report on "ASEAN Twenty-Fourth Senior Transport Officer Meeting and ASEAN Transport Dialogue Partners Meetings" which were held on October 29-31, 2007 at the Raffles City Hotel in Singapore.
2. Donny Michael (India, 2004) participated in the "WMU Search and Rescue Research Workshop" that was held at WMU, Malmö on December 11-12, 2007, and he contributed a report on the workshop-related issues.

### **"Fellows' Directory" page on the Website:**

Our "Fellows' Directory" page on our website is for WMU Sasakawa Fellows and current WMU Sasakawa Fellowship students only. If this pertains to you, you will need to contact us in order to get your own "username" and "password."

When you e-mail us for the username and password, please do not forget to write down your date of birth. We need to confirm before the username and password are given to you. For more information, please e-mail the "Friends of WMU, Japan" Secretariat at: [wmu-japan@sof.or.jp](mailto:wmu-japan@sof.or.jp).

## Editor's Postscript

As mentioned in the article on page 5, The Experts Meeting on Improving Quality of Seafarers in Asia was held in Tokyo in November 2007. As you can see in the photographs, many of the WMU graduates and Sasakawa Fellows attended this meeting.

Recently when I attend international meetings relating to maritime affairs, I inevitably meet up with WMU graduates. These graduates hold important positions in their countries, and while this achievement is a reflection of the efforts they have made in their careers after graduating from WMU, it is also indicative of the recognition of WMU in the field of maritime affairs.

At this meeting I felt a strong sense of joy and pride in the concerted efforts of the WMU family members to improve the quality of Asian seafarers who are indispensable in the Japanese

shipping industry. As a person working in an institution of maritime education in Japan, I was strongly convinced that I must make further efforts to ensure that the results of this meeting develop and bear fruit.

At this time, I also wish to inform you that Ms. Emi Senuma of the secretariat, with whom I have been working at the editorial board meeting, has tendered her resignation from the Ocean Policy Research Foundation. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for her dedication to her work and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

**Prof. Toshio Hikima**  
Marine Technical College

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