

F NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU

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

J A P A N

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

MARCH 2007 No. 18

Big Boss is “After Us ”

During a hectic schedule of business visits to a number of countries, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation (Chairman of the Friends of WMU, Japan), took time out to meet with WMU-related personnel and deepen relationships with them. In addition to recent visits to Sri Lanka and Jakarta, he also visited Manila in the Philippines, where he received The Award of the Coast Guard Legion of Honor. Visiting WMU in Malmö after a very long time, he was treated to a grand welcome by the students there. We will report on news of his trip and other events.



I opened up my WMU web page as usual and found a wonderful mail stating that Mr. Yohei Sasakawa would be visiting WMU and address all the Sasakawa Fellows on January 17, 2007. This was an encouraging mail for me and a big New Year's gift that the Big Boss is “after us”. I mean, he has not forgotten us, and whenever he gets the opportunity, he showers us with words of wisdom.

We all gathered in the WMU conference room. After a few minutes, Mr. Sasakawa entered with his ever humble and smiling

face. Shaking hands with him again gave me an immense pleasure, and it gave me the sense of belonging to the Sasakawa Fellows, OPRF, and people like Mr. Sasakawa.

I cannot forget his words as he said, “The money which I spend on the Sasakawa Fellows is not a big deal. You can pay me this money back just by working hard and spreading the message to all the countries you belong.”

He also stressed the need for harmony and cordial relationships between

Sasakawa Fellows as well as humanity. He also praised the President of WMU, Dr. Karl Laubstein, for his untiring efforts toward the growth and development of WMU and bringing it to the EU universities' network.

It was a big day for me, and I hope to see the Big Boss again. We all pray for his health, and we promise to spread his vision when we go back to our countries.

Altat-Ur Rehman
(Pakistan, 2007)

An Award from the Philippine Coast Guard

Sonia B. Malaluan (Philippines, 1998)



Eleven Filipino WMU Sasakawa Fellows greeted each other with big smiles at the lobby of the Heritage Hotel in Manila on January 27, 2007. We were all happy to have a short talk with Mr. Sasakawa. Mr. Sasakawa, who has always been very active as the World Health Organization's (WHO) Goodwill Ambassador, visited Manila for the launching of the Global Appeal for the Elimination of Leprosy. We are very honored that every time he visits Manila, he never fails to spend time with the Filipino Fellows.

The meeting that day may have been short but definitely memorable. Sasakawa Fellows proudly reported their recent promotions and achievements in their respective offices. After an exchange of

information and updates on the activities of each Fellow, Mr. Sasakawa was given the Award of the Coast Guard Legion of Honor (Degree of Maginoo). The Award was presented by Admiral Tamayo of the Philippine Coast Guard.

The Award was given in recognition of the outstanding service and contribution of Mr. Sasakawa towards improving the quality of maritime experts around the world, thus providing immeasurable contributions to the educational advancement of PCG personnel. The WMU education, made possible by the Sasakawa Foundation, has truly upgraded the knowledge, skills and competence of PCG personnel, further increasing their competence and professionalism in performing far more challenging roles in the PCG, and for the maritime industry of the country, in general.

WMU-Sasakawa Fellows present during the meeting were composed of six Fellows from MARINA: Sonia B. Malaluan, Jean Ver Pia, Jabeth Dacanay, Teresa Mamisao, Ronaldo Bandalaria and Rodolfo Diawa, and five Fellows from PCG: Rolando Ricafrente, Jerry Nibre, Rogelio Villanueva, Teotimo Borja, and Enrico Evangelista. We were also happy to have met the staff members of The Nippon Foundation who were with Mr. Sasakawa during the visit, Mr. Yoshihiko Yamada and Ms. Michiko Taki.

The meeting was concluded with the traditional group picture-taking.

Welcomed by Sri Lankan Sasakawa Fellows in Colombo

G. Sriharan (Sri Lanka, 2003)



Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of Friends of WMU, Japan, as well as The Nippon Foundation, was warmly welcomed by "Sri Lankan Sasakawa Fellows" at Colombo Cinnamon Grand Hotel on the 31st of January, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone who participated in the meeting, while introducing themselves, mentioned their current positions in their respective institutions and their contribution to the advancement of the maritime industry of Sri Lanka.

The participants were as follows:

1. Mr. G. A. Talagala (1992), Chief Manager (Logistics), Sri Lanka

Ports Authority;

2. Mr. Ajith Dehipola (1998), attached to Ceylon Shipping Corporation as a Deputy Manager (Technical);
3. Ms Susari Yamuna Wettasinghe (1999), working as a Marketing Manager at Ceylon Shipping Corporation;
4. Mr. K. M. Mithrapala (2002), (Non Sasakawa fellow): Engineering Manager attached to Lanka Marine Services Private Limited;
5. G. Sriharan (2003), Chief Superintendent (Logistics), Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Mr. Sasakawa greatly appreciated that Fellows from Sri Lanka are contributing immensely to the development of the Maritime sector of Sri Lanka, especially in the field of Port and Shipping activities.

All Fellows were very thankful to Mr. Sasakawa and his Organization for their continued support to the staff of the Port and Shipping sector to pursue their higher studies at the "World Maritime University", which helped them to be at these prominent positions.

Further, all the contributions made by Mr. Sasakawa for the upliftment of the world maritime community were remembered at this event.

Finally, on behalf of Sri Lanka Sasakawa Fellows, Mr. G. A. Talagala expressed the Fellows' gratitude to Mr. Sasakawa for meeting us in Colombo in the midst of his very tight schedule during his visit to Sri Lanka.

Pleasant 10 Minutes in Jakarta

Ahmad Irfan (Indonesia, 2006)



I received an email to meet Mr. Yohei Sasakawa in Jakarta during his visit to Indonesia, and informed my superior, Mr. Jimmy AB Nikijuluw, Director of Sea Traffic and Transportation, regarding the meeting. In response Mr. Nikijuluw asked me to send his regards to Mr. Sasakawa, and to deliver the traditional Papua tribe's handicraft with his compliments.

The meeting with Mr. Yohei Sasakawa and Sasakawa Fellows in Jakarta, unfortunately, was cancelled, and the opportunity to meet Mr. Sasakawa at that time was gone. However, I had a duty to deliver

the message and the handicraft to him. Therefore, I contacted the hotel where he stayed during his visit to Indonesia. I asked the hotel operator to find the contact number of Mr. Sasakawa's assistant to leave the message and the handicraft, but by mistake Mr. Sasakawa himself got on the phone. I introduced myself as WMU Sasakawa Fellows Class of 2006 and requested 5 minutes of his very valuable time, and Mr. Sasakawa very kindly allowed me to meet him in the hotel.

I was accompanied by Mr. Nikijuluw's secretary, Ms. Een. Unfortunately, we were trapped in heavy traffic in the heart of Jakarta Business Centre, and we were late by 25 minutes. I was very sorry about that, but as usual, Mr. Sasakawa still gave his very valuable time to me and warmly spent 10 minutes with me.

I offer my appreciation to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa for his kindness towards Sasakawa Fellows, always.



Is Maritime English the Weakest Link?

Clive Cole

(Assistant Professor at World Maritime University)

Japanese proverbs such as “silence is golden”, “the mouth is the door of all evil”, and “the nail that sticks its head up will surely be hammered down” may be useful, even necessary, to heed in certain situations, but when the need to communicate may save lives or protect our environment then remaining silent becomes a much more sinister colour. In this respect communication at sea and in ports requires a particularly high level of competency. For international employees today this inevitably means communicative competency in the English language, especially the variety we call Maritime English.

In recent years Maritime English has attained the status of a “hot topic”, reflecting the general consensus that most accidents at sea, whether causing loss of life, damage to property or environmental pollution, are attributable to the human factor and in particular to failings in the communication between crew members and in ship-to-ship / ship-to-shore communications. As a result, global standards governing communicative competency have been strengthened by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through its central legal instruments. In addition, with Mr. Mitropoulos at the helm the Human Element has been placed at the top of the list of IMO priorities.

More generally, the globalisation of maritime services, including the supply of seafarers, has led to the widespread adoption of Maritime English as a career tool that today permits mobility, flexibility and competitiveness. This in turn has put pressure on national authorities and training institutions to develop more effective training strategies to satisfy the demands of their students and the end-users. In short, the law states, and the customers demand, proficient communicators in today's global market, where trade and transport are the central elements. So how is this “reserved and shy” nation coping?

During several recent visits to Japan, a daily dose of Japanese WMU students and

a Japanese Professor in the office next door, I am beginning to see a picture emerging. It is clear that the Maritime English need has been recognised at both the institutional and governmental levels, although how best to accommodate the demands seems still to be a matter of conjecture.

In this respect, it was gratifying to be invited in the summer of 2006 to the National Institute for Sea Training, and to reunite with Big Tom Okamura, MET, 2002, to review and to advise on their Maritime English onboard programmes. Here was a proactive organisation, obviously willing to strengthen and promote this area, by seeking outside assistance on the steps to be taken to ensure communicative competency is attained both amongst its own training crews and the national and international cadets they train.

Several recent visits to Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology have similarly revealed a deliberate and concentrated effort to provide short courses for cadets and officers where real time English training on board is also a component.

The main advantage of both these activities is that it awakens the young trainees, many of whom do not understand the relevance of learning a foreign language, to the real life/situation of international seafaring where English is a premium career tool. In each case considerable thought and effort has clearly been invested into the design and delivery of the Maritime English courses. It has to be assumed that Japanese MET institutions elsewhere are taking similar initiatives but here I am still somewhat ignorant.

What is clear, nonetheless, is that while technically, and as persons, the quality of most Japanese cadets is regarded as exemplary on graduating, their grasp of English is perceived as relatively poor, a weakness which gives concern when they are about to enter the ship manning market. Indeed, the overriding impression I have gained is that the oral/aural competency of the majority of cadets



under training leaves much to be desired. The challenge within Japanese MET is clearly how to upgrade cadet competency in Maritime and general English to come into line with the higher levels of competency in the other skills, to the extent that at graduation, the new professional will be fully equipped to embark upon a competitive international career in seafaring. Here the Japanese education system at large has a key role to play in laying the foundation in the formative years of all future cadets.

And what about the competition? Recent evaluations in other seafarer-provider nations have revealed that where English is not a native language the biggest stumbling block to seafarer employment is, like in Japan, a lack of competency in the English language. However, unlike Japan, the Chinese, the Vietnamese, and the youngsters of many other developing Asian countries are fully aware that a sound grasp of English will automatically bring significant career rewards. Perhaps the biggest problem today is to convince Japanese cadets that the effort is worthwhile.

In short, English language competency is an essential career tool aboard today's merchant marine vessels where multinational crews are common, and any lack of professional and/or social skills may not only lead to isolation but also endanger the safety and general well-being of a ship. Today trade is global, just like the businesses that drive it, and those who remain silent are unlikely to benefit from the golden outcome.

IMO Finalizes Performance Standard for Protective Coating

Istanbul

The 82nd Maritime Safety Committee (MSC82) was held in Istanbul, under the great hospitality of the Republic of Turkey, from Nov 29 to Dec 8, 2006, due to refurbishment of the IMO headquarters building in London.

Istanbul is a magnificent place where the two continents of Europe and Asia meet and embrace across the Strait of Istanbul. It has long been a meeting place of people from different regions and cultures, as well as an important point for vessel traffic. It was a great chance for IMO to build bridges over a number of difficult issues on maritime safety.

One of the outstanding adoptions which MSC82 achieved was the 'performance standard for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers' and the related amendments to the SOLAS Convention.

This mandatory standard for corrosion prevention intends to provide a target useful coating life of 15 years, which is considered to be the time period, from initial application, over which the coating system is intended to remain in "GOOD" condition. It specifies:

- pre-qualification test of coatings, e.g., two months field exposure followed by six months simulated wave tank test;
- grade of steel surface preparation, e.g., edge rounding, cleanness and dust removal;
- job specification, e.g., tools to be used;
- dry film thickness;
- inspection and verification scheme and procedure; and
- coating technical file to be kept on board and maintained throughout the life of the ship.

The discussion on protective coating started at MSC76 in 2002, and went through six MSC sessions and four Design and Equipment Sub-Committee (DE) sessions. It concerned all the stakeholders, such as shipowners, shipbuilders, coating manufacturers, classification societies and Administrations. In particular, the shipbuilding industry, which was opposed to a high standard that they believed to be excessive and impractical, strongly argued against the shipowner side, which urged a high-level standard to enhance corrosion protection. IMO finally developed an acceptable standard to those parties concerned.

Another controversy emerged between the industries and the classification societies in terms of their involvement in the coating inspection process. The solution agreed to was the introduction of a "coating inspector" who is certified to NACE Coating Inspector Level 2, FROSIO Inspector Level III or equivalent, as verified by the Administration. Coating inspections will be carried out by these inspectors, who may not necessarily be the inspectors of the Administration or classification societies. While this is a new concept under the SOLAS regime and would extend the scope and enhance the level of the inspectors, there is still a big shortage in the number of certified inspectors in the world to meet future demand when the standard will be applied to ships contracted on or after July 1, 2008.

Shin IMAI

Japan Ship Technology Research Association



MSC82 in Istanbul



Inspection at shipyards during construction



Corrosion in seawater ballast tank

The 7th Fellowship Training on Port State Control in Japan

Rolando Lazor N. Punzalan, Jr.
(Philippines, 2002)



I recently attended the 7th Fellowship Training on Port State Control held in Japan from November 10-24, 2006. In accordance with the “integrated strategic plan for training and exchange of Port State Control Officers” adopted by the Port State Control Committee (PSCC) at its 4th meeting in 1996, fellowship training commenced in 2000 as an advanced course over basic training courses and expert missions.

For this fellowship training, the participants undertake two weeks of practical PSC training in PSC advanced Authorities. Up to the present, six fellowship trainings have been convened in Japan and this is the 7th training. The training has been conducted in collaboration with Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The fellowship training aims to provide middle level PSCOs with the opportunity to learn practical PSC procedures. Thus, the training concentrates on inspection practices and not on theoretical lectures.

Expectedly, the fellowship training was very fruitful and successful. Introductory discussions were arranged by Mr. Seizo Furuya of the Shipbuilding Research Centre of Japan (SRCJ) on the first day. Thereafter, co-participant Li Guodong of China and I were

assigned to the Kyushu District at Fukuoka prefecture and every day of our stay was devoted to PSC inspections. Inspections of ships at the ports of Hakata and Moji were arranged by Mr. Shinjiro Okabe, Mr. Yutaka Inamitsu and other PSC Officers of the Kyushu District. Our knowledge and skills in PSC inspections increased significantly because of the training.

I was with Lt. Gary Dale C. Gimotea, a co-participant and also an officer of the Philippine Coast Guard. And just before our short but meaningful stay in Japan ended, I was able to have dinner with Mr. Ravindra S. Samarajeewa (Sri Lanka, 2002) and his wife, Nasko. Both of them are based in Japan. Ravi and I nostalgically shared stories of our experiences at WMU and respective endeavors since we graduated.

Last but not least, I had the chance to once again express my gratitude to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa for my studies at WMU as a scholar of the Sasakawa Foundation. My having graduated at WMU was instrumental to my participation in the fellowship training in Japan.

To all of you, “Domo arigato gozaimasu” and “Go-shinsetsu ni domo”!

WMU Alumni Gathering at International Seminar on ILO Maritime Labour Convention



(from left) Mr. Xiaojie ZHANG (China, 1999), Mr. Yeong Woo JOEN (Korea, 1985), Mr. Htay WIN (Myanmar, 1998), Mr. Yuthea LENG THUN (Cambodia, 1995), Mr. Surat SIRISAIYAS (Thailand, 1996), Mr. Vo Duy THANG (Viet Nam, 2001)

The International Seminar on ILO Maritime Labour Convention was held by the Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in Japan under the sponsorship of the OPRF on October, 2006 in Tokyo. In attendance were 140 participants from Japan and abroad.

Representatives from ASEAN countries and Ms. Cleopatra Dombia-Henry, Director of the ILO's International Labour Standards Department, attended the Seminar to exchange information and opinions with a view to promoting the ratification by Asian nations of the Maritime Labour Convention, which was adopted in February 2006. The participating countries showed a very positive attitude regarding ratification of the convention and engaged in constructive discussions about future challenges and ways in which they can be resolved. Attendants also confirmed that cooperation and solidarity are essential for the convention to come into force and function as expected, and that every country would devote wholehearted efforts to realize ratification of the convention by as many countries as possible in the Asian region in the future.

The conference was attended by Sasakawa Fellow Mr. Htay Win (Myanmar, 1998) and a number of WMU graduates from Asian countries. Their attendance was greatly appreciated by the conference participants.

2nd e-Government SI Course (Seoul, Korea 2006)

Jerry A Nibre
(Philippines, 2003)



Mr. Jerry A Nibre (Philippines-MSEP 2003) with Mr. Yeongi Son, Ph. D., KADO President/CEO

Having been invited to attend the 2nd e-Government SI Course under the Korea IT Learning (KoIL) Program of the Korean Agency for Digital Promotion and Opportunity (KADO) held in Seoul, Korea from November 22-30, 2006 with 18 other participants from 14 countries was both an intellectually and socially enriching experience.

The participants were warmly welcomed in a formal ceremony by a delegation from KoIL/KADO, Federation of Korean Information Industries, Korea IT Industry Promotion Agency (KIPA), and other stakeholders from the ICT industries, held at the Mayfield Hotel.

The course aims to provide practical examples of how to establish a big scale system integration project. Through this course, participants can obtain practical knowledge and experience in Korean agencies that have performed many e-Government projects, and can get some ideas of what to do first and how to do it successfully in delivering e-Government projects.

Lecturers from the government, academe, and the corporate world took turns in imparting their expertise on the subjects of: Korean e-Government, Problems and Opportunities; Case Studies for Korea's e-Government Building (i.e. LG CNS, Samsung SDS, MOMAF); Best Practice for Security Systems in Korea; and Korea's National Information Policy. Early on, emphasis was put on the role and determination of the Government to bridge the national digital divide. Thus with the Government providing a clear

vision and a solid direction, Korea is now about to transcend e-Government towards u-Government, and for the next leap forward, "RFID/USN (Ubiquitous Sensor Network) System". This is the same track we in the Philippines are trying to follow: an ICT which is government enabled, private sector led, and market based.

In today's world where seemingly all information is just a click away, the participants could not help but be concerned about the issues of personal privacy, identity theft and safety. But Korea seems to have solved this with the use of PKI/digital signature, which theoretically is fail-safe and can not be copied. The participants were also introduced to great advances in technology through study visits to the futuristic "Innovation", a ride on a "Wireless Broadband Bus", and to the SOFT exposition, where the latest in technological gadgetry was on display.

The presentations of country reports have shown the disparity of ICT advances among the participants. Some are already way ahead, others are trying to catch-up with the leaders, while still others are just starting to jump-start theirs. This is an inevitable reality due perhaps to differing government policies on ICT, cultural differences, and economic status, but what is inspiring is that the Korean Government has taken the initiative to bridge the gap between the digital divide so that one day we may wake up to a "u-World".

To have a respite from CDMA, RFID, B2C, etc. our host treated us to cultural and social tours. It was really a culturally enriching experience visiting the Cheong Wa Dae (Blue House) - the Presidential Residence, National Folk Museum, Gyeongbokgung Palace, walking through the 3rd Invasion Tunnel at the Demilitarized Zone, climbing up the Seoul Tower and its famous men's restroom, but what stole the show is the hilarious NANTA performance! It was during this time outside the confines of the lecture room where the atmosphere was less formal that the participants learned more about each other, as a nation, its people, and its cultural heritage.

On November 30, 2006 we had our graduation with no less than Mr. Yeongi Son, Ph.D., KADO President/CEO as the Guest of Honor. The date was especially unforgettable for it was also the first day this year that snow fell in Seoul.

On a personal note, I would like to express my gratitude to our host KADO for giving me this opportunity to learn new things about ICT and the Korean people as a whole. As our guide put it, the Dorasan Train Station is not the last station in the South but rather the first station towards North Korea. So, to all my new friends, especially to Jihno and Ines, our goodbyes will not be the last but rather the start of a new, lasting friendship!

Life in Second Hometown with Swedish Host Family

Mugen Suprihatin SARTOTO
(Indonesia, 2007)

To have social contacts with local people while you are studying somewhere is important to everyone. Once you come and join a society with a completely different culture, surely you will encounter culture shock, and you have to have a good attitude to harmonize your way. One way to do this is getting in touch with the very original local people.

WMU is well aware of this and with the help of student service officer Ms. Lyndell Lundahl, they provide the students with many activities to aid this socialisation process. For example, a city excursion after the students' arrival introduced the university's vicinities that would be our neighborhood for the next 22 months. More city excursions continued with familiarisation of the city library, sport centre and how to open a bank account. Students adapted to the environment, and finally life became easier.

Not only providing the students with public access, the student service officer also helps students to obtain a local host family. There is much benefit to having one, and learning local culture is one of them. We can learn the local language (for free!!!), we can taste original recipes first hand, and so on.

Unfortunately, I was not lucky enough to get a host family right away, but finally got one about one month before my



holiday. He is a young Swede (which makes me wonder why he spends time hosting someone like me instead of hanging around with his buddies), single and working for a local company.

He invited me to have dinner at his apartment with special Swedish food (he confessed that he himself wasn't sure if it was an original Swedish meal or not) and we hung out there from 19.00 till 22.30 talking about many things. There were so many topics discussed, from light to serious ones.

I'd like to thank the university, especially the student service officer, for helping us students adapt to our second hometown and home. After eleven months, I can say that life in this second hometown is not that hard, and hopefully, everybody will be fine and survive till graduation day next October. It will be so beautiful with all of this year's students wearing graduation clothes, receiving their Master's award from the IMO Secretary General at the Konserthuset like previous students have.

Celebration of St. Martin's Eve

Yu Hongrong (China, 2007)
& **Ramon Lopez (Philippines, 2007)**

During our studies at WMU, we not only increase our knowledge in maritime affairs, but also have a better understanding about varieties of cultures and traditions, especially those of Sweden. Last November, we were very fortunate to have an opportunity to join our Swedish host parents (Jonny & Anna, Leif & Ute) for a celebration of Saint Martin's Eve at the Ribersborg Restaurant in Malmö.

While waiting eagerly for the famous dinner of roasted goose, we were delighted to hear the story on the origins of this tradition. We learned that St. Martin was a French bishop in the 4th century. According to legend, he was reluctant to become a bishop and hid in a goose pen. Eventually he was betrayed by the cackling of the geese. As revenge, St Martin killed one of the geese and ate it for dinner. Since then, goose has become the traditional food on Saint Martin's Eve (Nov.10). The celebration of St. Martin's name day in November coincided with when the geese were ready for killing. It was an important medieval autumn feast and the custom spread to Sweden from France. This



tradition is popular in southern Sweden, where we are now, because geese are typical farm animals in the region.

We were interrupted by the sweet aroma of bowls and plates successively served at our table. The dinner began with a bowl of sweet and sour 'black soup,' prepared from goose blood and seasoned with a variety of spices. It was served with goose-liver sausage, mashed potatoes and prunes. The main dish was the enchanting roasted goose stuffed with apples and prunes. It was capped by an apple cake for dessert.

We are all grateful to our host parents for that memorable dinner.

Lithuanian WMU Alumni Meeting

On November 2006, a Lithuanian WMU alumni gathering took place in Klaipeda, Lithuania. This was the fifth annual gathering and it happily coincided with the arrival of a new alumna, Karolis Kuzmarskis, after her graduation from WMU in October, 2006. Eleven out of nineteen alumni participated in this event, with graduation dates ranging from 1994 to 2006. A good time was had by all in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reminding us of our days at WMU.

Among many, four topics came to the fore during the gathering. First, without exception, all agreed that all issues associated with student life have improved tangibly throughout the years at WMU. The University has made great achievements in its education curriculum, technological advancement, scientific research and the Henrik Smith hostel construction.

Second, it was noted by most that WMU has changed its recruiting strategy to enroll students who are younger but nevertheless both academically talented and well-rounded.

Third, there was a discussion concerning how their course work prepared them for the workplace. "Experiential learning", namely field trips and visiting professors' lectures, were



mentioned by most as of great professional value, even though several felt that the curriculum in their respective majors could have offered a more realistic expectation as to what they would ultimately do as professionals.

Last, but not least, the WMU community portal got a clear recognition from a significant component of the group as 2006's top event. It was agreed that the vast and supportive network of alumni, academic and faculty staff has a high potential to enable members to meet and greet each other virtually, while forming valuable worldwide networking relationships and continuing the quest for excellence.



Rifanie Komara (Indonesia, 2007)

I would like to bring you the wonderful news that during my winter break in Indonesia, my wife and I were blessed with a new 'junior member' Sasakawa Fellow. It was a boy, 3.3kg, 50cm, born at 9:09 am on December 18, 2006. We named him 'Athaya Razan' which means 'a gift that is calm and firm'.

For this 2nd time, my wife did not have to suffer too much as it took 'only' 7 hours since arriving at the hospital until the baby was born (it needed 19 hours for our first baby). Fortunately, both mother and baby were doing all right, and he was born naturally.

Our first daughter, Hanna Nashita, is about to

have her 2nd birthday next March. She is now able to tell her own stories, but sometimes I need my wife to translate all her words. Once, I asked a Japanese Sasakawa Fellow (Mr. Matsui - MLP '07) about the meaning of 'Hanako' (abbreviated from Hanna Nashita Komara) in Japanese and now I know that it means 'female cow'. Therefore, I am thinking of bringing her a 'cow' doll as a souvenir at the end of my studies.

As I am writing this letter, my wife has restarted her practice as a dentist after having a leave of about 2 months. Meanwhile, I have some assignments to accomplish, some exams to prepare for as well as some field studies to go through.



Wisnu Handoko (Indonesia, 2007)

To all Friends of WMU, from Indonesia I would like to pass my New Year's warm greetings. This picture was taken during my vacation after finishing my first year at WMU last December. It was wonderful to meet my lovely family after one year apart from them. My daughter "Shaula" (5

years old) is sitting close to me and my son "Zidan" (4 years old) near his mother "Erli". Now, I have come back to Malmö for my second year of study, and through this newsletter I would like to ask all of you, let's establish a network in the future.

Editor's Postscript

In 1997 I had the opportunity to engage in fun conversations with one of my students, soon to be a dear friend, during his training at the Marine Technical College in Japan. We also had the opportunity to meet once again at WMU in 2000. The sad news came to me from one of his classmates. In the classroom at WMU, I once told him that because he was in his 30s, he was still young and could do anything in the future. When he responded that in his country the average life expectancy was in the 40s, I was startled by the severity of this reality. Once again I am reminded of his words.

I heard from a number of sources how important a person he was in his country. I also firmly believed that one day he would be a great educator. I deeply regret the loss of such a promising life.

It is important for us to use our remaining time in a very meaningful way, I believe. And I think that I am not alone in holding this view.

*Prof. 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 Mr. Shin Imai, Prof. Toshio Hikima, Ms. Masako B. Otsuka, Ms. Fumi Yakabe and Ms. Sue Jackson.

Secretariat: Maritime Technology Department, 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/>