

NEWSLETTER Friends of WMU JAPAN

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

MARCH 2005 No. 10

SMU Hosted the First WMU Sasakawa Chinese Fellows' Forum

WITH firm support from The Nippon Foundation and Ship & Ocean Foundation, Shanghai Maritime University (SMU) held the First WMU Sasakawa Chinese Fellows' Forum on November 2-3, 2004.

Twenty-four WMU Sasakawa Chinese Fellows from all over the country actively participated in the Forum. The delegation of The Nippon Foundation and Ship & Ocean Foundation, including Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of "Friends of WMU, Japan" and President of The Nippon Foundation, Mr. Masazumi Nagamitsu, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Managing Director of Ship & Ocean Foundation, and seven other delegates, were invited to attend the Forum. Senior officers and chief managers from the maritime industry, such as the representatives from the Shanghai Maritime Administration, China Ocean Shipping Company and China Shipping Groups and NYK also attended the Forum.



The delegation was cordially saluted by the students of WMU



Recent activities of WMU Sasakawa Chinese Fellows were highlighted at the welcome ceremony.

On the afternoon of Nov. 2, SMU specially held a formal and warm welcome ceremony, with the SMU Students' Orchestra playing a welcome song for Mr. Sasakawa and other representatives of the delegation.

The welcome ceremony was followed by a meeting between Mr. Sasakawa and the WMU Sasakawa Chinese Fellows, chaired by President and Prof. Yu Shicheng of SMU. Each of the Fellows introduced themselves to President Sasakawa and expressed their thanks to him as well. Mr. Sasakawa was very pleased to hear in the introduction about the studies and working status of these Fellows. He emphasized the aim of The Nippon Foundation is not only to provide scholarships to the Fellows, but also to encourage them to keep close

contact and communicate with each other about their experiences in their practical work and careers through the Forum and other ways.

The Opening Ceremony of the Forum was held on the morning of Nov. 3, chaired by Vice President and Prof. Gao Deyi of SMU. President Yu Shicheng addressed the Forum welcoming and thanking Mr. Sasakawa and other members of the Delegation from Japan, along with the guests from the maritime administration and shipping circles in Shanghai and all the participating Fellows in the Forum. He appreciated the great contributions made by Mr. Sasakawa to the whole world and expressed sincere thanks for his helping the Fellows from China to study at WMU, especially the seven from SMU.

Our hearts go out to those who suffered from the Tsunami.



A memorial shot at Shanghai Maritime University

SMU Hosted the First WMU Sasakawa Chinese Fellows' Forum



Many young SMU students also participated in the Forum

President Yohei Sasakawa also gave a warm and interesting keynote address at the opening ceremony. He emphasized the importance of the activities for this kind of Forum and explained the rapid changes and development of the shipping business in the world, including the security of the navigation of ships in the area of the Malacca Straits. He sincerely wished all Fellows from China good communications with each other, good progress, and continuous contribution in their different posts towards the shipping industry and other affairs.

Finally, Prof. Fang Quangen, the representative of the Fellows, extended sincerest thanks and best wishes from all the fellows to President Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation and talked about the current working status of the Chinese Fellows in his speech.

During the opening ceremony, on behalf of SMU, President Yu Shicheng awarded the Certificate of the "Honorary Professor of SMU" to Mr. Sasakawa to express the sincere thanks and friendship of SMU.

The presentations of the Fellows papers were held after the opening ceremony. Ten authors presented their papers about quality shipping, safe navigation, effective administration, proper maritime education & training, modern navigation aids and maritime legislation at the Forum. Apart from the Fellows, some of the postgraduates of SMU joined this academic activity. The participants made their own positive comments or asked questions during the presentations.

The Fellows had a discussion after the presentation in the late afternoon of the 3rd. They all appreciated the opening and success of the first Forum in Shanghai and put out the following suggestions and ideas:

a) This kind of Forum should be held regularly in different regions of China with the second Forum being held in Beijing in two years (2006).

b) To promote communication and contact between the Fellows, it is necessary to set up a better network between the Fellows.

c) It is necessary to improve the website of the Sasakawa Fellows in China for a closer and more effective link.

d) All Fellows should take an active part in the activities of the forum and contribute to quality shipping and safe navigation.

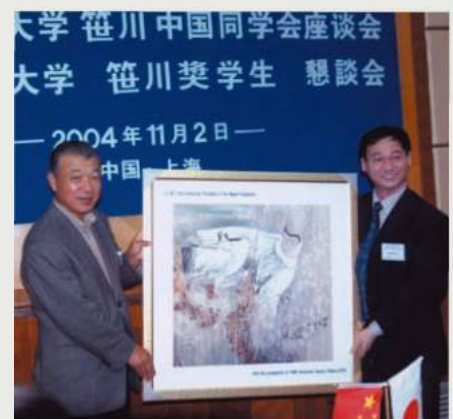
e) The Fellows welcome the delegates from The Nippon Foundation and Ship & Ocean Foundation to join all the activities of the Forum in China and wish to have a closer link with these foundations along

with their further support and cooperation.

During the Forum, the Japanese delegation had a tour of the SMU campus and a friendly talk and discussion about future cooperation. All the Fellows participating in the Forum offered their deep thanks for the successful organization of this Forum by the SMU.

Since 1989, there have been 49 WMU graduates in China who received Japanese scholarships, and 45 Fellows have finished their studies at WMU. Some of them have already become senior officers at the diplomatic mission, the ministry of communication or the local maritime administration, worked as professors or core staff at maritime institutions or other maritime units. Nearly one third of them have been working outside China. In fact, they are working actively and have already played very important roles in maritime affairs in China and around the world.

by Prof. Fang Quangen



A beautiful gift to Mr. Sasakawa from the Fellows

Cooperative Activities

WMU-MARINA Fellows and JICA-Experts met in Manila

Mr. Ramon C. Hernandez (1995)

A joint meeting of WMU-MARINA Fellows and JICA-Experts was held on October 15, 2004, at the Swiss Inn Restaurant, Garden Plaza Hotel, Manila.

A welcome speech was delivered by Mr. Ramon Coronado Hernandez (1995), followed by a brief message from Mr. Nobutaka Kimura, MARINA-JICA Long-term Expert on Domestic Shipping, who conveyed his congratulations to the WMU-MARINA Fellows for the technical knowledge and expertise they have contributed to the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the maritime community. Mr. Hajime Akiyama, General Manager of Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (Class NK), the guest speaker, presented the Status of Compliance of the Philippine-registered ships classed by NK to the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code, while Mr. Perfecto Amador, NK's Surveyor, ISM Lead Auditor and Maritime Security Auditor, gave a brief lecture on maritime security. The lecture was very informative and it provided the Fellows with an update on the implementation of ISPS. A few questions and clarifications were raised by the Fellows after the presentation.

Also present during the meeting was Atty. Brenda V. Pimentel, Regional Coordinator of the IMO Regional Presence for Technical Cooperation in East Asia, who also shared her expertise and experience relative to the implementation of the ISPS Code. After the discussion, Ms. Sonia Bautista Malaluan (1998), gave the closing speech. During dinner, a lively discussion followed on how Fellows could exchange views and experiences on various issues affecting the maritime community.



Fruitful exchanges among WMU Fellows and JICA Experts followed by an enjoyable dinner

Among the WMU-MARINA Fellows who attended the meeting were Mr. Primo C. Pimentel (1989), Mr. Bienvenido J. Ortiz, Jr (1990), Mr. Ramon Coronado Hernandez (1995), Ms. Sonia Bautista Malaluan (1998), Mr. Zaldy Gabuco Maquera (1998) and Mr. Samuel Llasos Batalla (2003). JICA Experts present during the meeting were Mr. Nobutaka Kimura, Mr. Hisashi Terada, MARINA-JICA Long-term Expert on Ship Inspection, and MARINA-JICA Short-term Experts Mr. Makoto Sato and Mr. Kosuke Takemoto, Ship Inspectors from Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation (MLIT), and Mr. Kiyotaka Tanaka, NK's Surveyor, ISM and Maritime Security Auditor.

The WMU-MARINA Fellows would like to thank the SOF for the continued support they have extended to the WMU Fellows, particularly the WMU-Sasakawa Fellows Philippine Chapter. Also special thanks to Mr. Kimura for organizing the program.

Sasakawa Fellows at JSMEA Seminar in Hanoi

Junichi Hirata

The Japanese Marine Equipment Association



Happy reunion after the seminar

On October 27, 2004, the New Marine Products and Technologies Seminar was held by JSMEA (Japanese Marine Equipment Association) in Hanoi, Vietnam. Upon the invitation of the association, five Sasakawa Fellows currently living in Hanoi, including Mr. Vu The Quang (2000), also attended the

seminar. The seminar drew a crowd of over 200 attendants from the government and the private sector marine industry. Observing the keen interest of the audience as they listened to the presentations, I could feel the enthusiasm and zeal for the future marine transport and marine industries in Vietnam.

At a reception held after the seminar, the participating Fellows had the opportunity to mix with President Tamura of JSMEA, the President and CEO of Vietnam Shipping Lines (VINALINES), and the Vice President of the Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (VINASHIN) and engaged in friendly conversation with them. The reception provided a venue for meaningful exchanges through maritime affairs between Vietnam and Japan.

Some of the participants of the Seminar, including Ms. Megumi Takagi of The Nippon Foundation, made a visit to Mr. Trinh Quang Tuan (2001), a Sasakawa Fellow living in Ho Chi Minh City. Mr. Trinh had also contacted other WMU graduates whom he occasionally gets together with when time allows, and we talked with them about the careers of the various graduates and the state of distribution and marine transport in Vietnam's south. We heard that the WMU graduates of Vietnam have set up a website (<http://www.wmu-vn.com>).

A meeting of experts on "Seafarer Policy Cooperation"



(from left to right) Mr. Sirisaiyas, Capt. Zeya, Mr. Risuandi, Mr. Leng Thun

Sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), a meeting of regional Experts on "Seafarer Policy Cooperation" was held at Tokyo on November 9 - 10. The meeting was organized as part of MLIT's efforts to strengthen the alliance with ASEAN member countries in various areas of transportation.

It was attended by the representatives of the ten ASEAN member countries and an official from the secretariat of the organization. The representative of Myanmar, Capt. Kyaw Zeya (Myanmar, 1996), is a Sasakawa Fellow. He is director of the Nautical Division, Department of Marine Administration,

Myanmar Ministry of Transport. The representatives of Cambodia, Mr. Leng Thun Yuthea, and Thailand, Mr. Surat Sirisaiyas, are also WMU graduates. And another Sasakawa Fellow, Mr. Yan Risuandi (Indonesia, 1990) - the First Secretary of the Indonesia Embassy in Tokyo, was invited to join them at the reception party. At this meeting, the participants gave presentations on the current state of seafarers and the overview of seafarer policy, the challenges in each country, as well as exchanging information and views on education for seafarers, recent developments at IMO and ILO in terms of related international conventions, and other topics related to seafarer policy. They shared the recognition that it is imperative to discuss seafarer policy, as human elements have been spotlighted in discussions on such issues as safety and security at sea and marine environment protection.

Based on the views exchanged and the common recognition that ASEAN and Japan are bound to continue to be major stakeholders in international shipping and the provision of seafarers, the representatives agreed to continue discussions on the following specific topics:

- Effective implementation of STCW conventions and the use of simulators aimed at advanced education for seafarers
- Technical problems on seafarer ID and other related problems
- Principal issues in ILO Comprehensive Maritime Convention

PSCC14 in Shanghai

Zhang Wei (China 2004, Sasakawa Fellow)
Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration

Members of the Port State Control Committee (PSCC), the executive body under the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo MOU), gathered in Shanghai, China, from November 22 to 25, 2004 for its fourteenth meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. J. N. K. Mansell, New Zealand Maritime Safety Authority, and several Sasakawa Fellows of WMU attended.

The Tokyo MOU was concluded in December 1993 and came into operation in April 1994. At present, the Tokyo MOU consists of 18 member Authorities and some countries and organizations participating as observers.

The Committee considered and adopted a new set of amendments to the Memorandum which includes revised, more comprehensive qualitative criteria for membership.

Furthermore, the Committee approved the revised PSC Manual. The amendments to the Memorandum and the revised Manual will take effect on February 1, 2005. The Committee approved the establishment of the MOU Detention Review Panel and the related guidelines for dealing with complaints by Flag States or recognized organizations against a detention order by the Port State Authority. The Detention Review Panel will become operational from January 1, 2005. The Committee considered the Ministerial Declaration "Strengthening the Circle of Responsibility" of the Second Joint Paris MOU/Tokyo MOU Ministerial Conference on Port State Control, held on November 2-3 in Vancouver, Canada. The Committee agreed to further consider a list of actions emanating from the Declaration jointly with the Paris MOU and review it at every meeting to monitor progress on



(from left to right) Mr. Zhang, Mr. Kubota (MLIT, Japan), Mr. Yang (China Maritime Safety Administration), Mr. Ning (Tokyo MOU Secretariat), Mr. Ganguli (Indian Ocean MOU Secretariat)

matters assigned by the Ministers. The Committee was informed of primary results of the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on maritime security which took place during the period of July-September 2004. For the CIC next year, the Committee decided to conduct a CIC on the control of operational requirements from September to November 2005. The Committee took note of the on-going implementation of technical co-operation programs and expressed its appreciation to Authorities and the Secretariat for their active participation and successful organization of the training and technical co-operation activities and to The Nippon Foundation for kindly providing the funds. Since the term of office of the current Chairman, Mr. John Mansell, expired at the end of the meeting, the Committee elected unanimously Mr. Lim Ki-Tak, a graduate of WMU in 1991, Investigator General, Korean Maritime Safety Tribunal, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, as the new Chairman for its next three sessions. The fifteenth meeting of the Committee will take place in Thailand in November 2005.

International Maritime Information

One of the hottest topics in the IMO: Goal-based construction standards for new ships



2nd International Maritime Conference on Design for Safety sponsored by SOF in Osaka

GOAL Based Standard is one of the hottest topics in the IMO, and we have no doubt it was the hottest topic at the 79th Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 79) last December, and it will be at the MSC 80 in May this year.

The discussion of Goal Based Standard (GBS) started at MSC 78 (May 2004), and at that time it seemed very complicated and difficult to understand. Even now it is very difficult, but it has been made easier due to Mr. Tom Allan, chairman of the MSC, who contributed largely to clarifying the concept of GBS.

However, it is still too difficult to explain GBS in simple terms to people who have not been involved in the discussions so far. In this article I will try to explain this concept simply, so that most people will be able to understand it.

At first I will try to explain the biggest difference between traditional regulations and GBS. Traditional regulations were made to apply to the specific length, height, or other scales which ships should comply with; however, usually the philosophy and the purpose of the regulations, which are discussed during the regulation-making process, are not explained on the legal instruments. On the other hand, Goal-based construction standards for new ships will be made to indicate only the philosophy and the purpose of the regulations.

The next point which I would like to comment on is why the discussion of GBS seems complicated. I would simply say "because we don't have a clear view on what the goal for GBS is at this moment". Actually the concept of the goal was developed at MSC 79, along with working

descriptions, which address safety and environmental friendliness with respect to structural integrity and strength, dismantling and recycling, and the need for design and construction to provide for safe access, inspection and proper maintenance. They include provisions regarding operating and environmental conditions and specified design life. However I think a more detailed view on the goal is necessary, and it will be discussed at MSC 80.

Now, I would like to give additional information, which may help you to understand GBS more.

Working plan for GBS is divided in to five tiers:

- Tier I: Goals
- Tier II: Functional requirements
- Tier III: Verification of compliance criteria
- Tier IV: Technical procedures and guidelines, classification rules and industry standards
- Tier V: Codes of practice and safety and quality systems for shipbuilding, ship operation, maintenance, training, manning, etc.

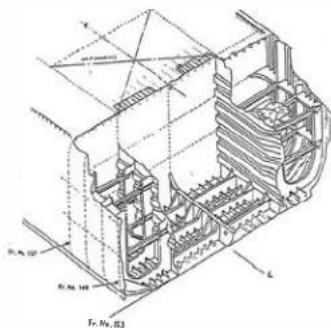
History of discussion

The 89th session of the Council (C89) <November 2002>

The Bahamas and Greece suggested that IMO should develop initial ship construction standards. The Council referred the proposal to the 77th meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee for in-depth discussion.

The 77th Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 77) <May/June 2003>

MSC 77 considered the issue as requested and recommended that the 90th session of the Council should consider the matter further in the context of the development of the Organization's Strategic Plan, and the



Broken-out section of Nakhodka (Oil Tanker) sunk in Sea of Japan on 2/1/1997

Committee also agreed to include a new item on "Goal-based new ship construction standards" in its work program and agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

The 90th session of the Council (C90) <June 2003>

C90 approved the strategic directions for the Organization regarding the development of goal-based standards for the design and construction of new ships.

The 23rd Assembly (A23) <December 2003>

A23 adopted the Strategic plan for the Organization for 2004 to 2010 and, inter alia, resolved that "the IMO would establish goal-based standards for the design and construction of new ships" [resolution A.944(23)]. This decision was also reflected in resolution A.943(23) on the long-term work plan of the Organization.

The 78th Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 78) <May 2004>

MSC 78 considered submissions by various Members regarding goal-based new ship construction standards and discussed a number of important issues raised in the documents submitted. It was agreed that a Working Group should meet at the next session, in December (MSC 79).

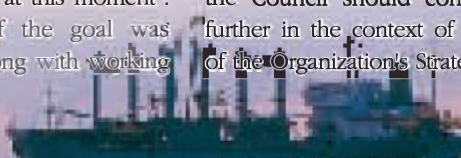
The 79th Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 79) <December 2004>

MSC 79 agreed, in general, that work on goal-based new ship construction standards would be based on the premise that the standards should be broad, over-arching goals against which ship safety should be verified at design and construction stages and during ship operation. They are not intended to set prescriptive requirements or to give specific solutions. The main objective is to introduce a system whereby the standards would be a measure against which the safety of a ship could be assessed during its design and construction, as well as later on during its operation.

Conclusion

I think the discussion on GBS is quite new in the IMO, however I believe it will open a new door to the regulation-making process in this Organization. Therefore we need to pay a lot of attention to this discussion, because it might be the fundamental basis of the regulation-making process in the future.

Naoto Nakagawa
The Shipbuilding Research
Association of Japan



Happy Reunion

Getting together in the storm



(rear from the left) Lt. Punzalan Jr., Ms. Pia, Ms. Malaluan, Ms. Daguio-Mamisao, Lt. Cdr. Ursabia, (front from the left) Ms. Dacanay, Mr. Sasakawa, Commodore Liwag

At the time of Mr. Sasakawa's last visit to the Philippines in early December 2004, a super typhoon was unfortunately raging over the island nation. Actually on December 2, all government officials in Manila were obliged to leave work at noon, and on December 3, schools at all levels and government offices in the Philippine capital were closed temporarily.

Nonetheless, seven Sasakawa Fellows braved strong winds and torrential rain, arrived at the Diamond Hotel at 07:30 a.m. on December 3, and met with Mr. Sasakawa. They were Ms. Sonia Bautista Malaluan (MARINA, 1998); Ms. Jabeth Sena Jephath A. Dacanay (MARINA, 2003); Ms. Jean Ver Pugal Pia (MARINA 2003); Ms. Maria Teresa Daguio-Mamisao (MARINA, 2006); Commodore Ramon Liwag (PCG, 1996); Lt. Cdr. George V. Ursabia, Jr. (PCG, 1999), and Lt. Ronaldo Lizor Narag Punzalan, Jr. (PCG, 2002).

The Fellows were indeed very happy and grateful that despite his hectic schedule, Mr. Sasakawa still found time to meet with them. They found Mr. Sasakawa "so kind, humble and very warm." Although their meeting with him lasted for barely 30 minutes because his flight home was at 8:00a.m., it was still quite an experience talking with "such a wonderful and down-to-earth man," according to one of the Fellows. Mr. Sasakawa expressed his sadness for the casualties caused by the super typhoon. He gave the Sasakawa Fellows CDs, while Ms. Malaluan, Ms. Pia and Ms. Dacanay gave him with a "barong tagalog", a native sarong for men, and Ms. Daguio-Mamisao gave him a coffee mug with his name printed on it. They said that for their part, rain or shine they would not miss any opportunity to meet with Mr. Sasakawa.

JICA Training Course

Seizo Furuya

JICA Training Course Leader
and SRC General Manager for Training

Mr. Chainarong Bongkarn (Thailand, 1999) and Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman Apu (Bangladesh, 2003) participated in a group training course on International Maritime Conventions and Ship Safety Inspection held at JICA Yokohama International Center from July 26 to November 11, 2004. JICA (Japan International Cooperation Center) is one of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) implementing bodies and mainly responsible for implementing technical cooperation for developing countries. JICA invites engineers and government officials from developing countries to Japan for training in a variety of fields. The training course they participated in was arranged and implemented by the Shipbuilding Research Centre of Japan (SRC), and commissioned by JICA under the direction of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Japan. The training course consists of classroom lectures on international maritime conventions, including SOLAS, MARPOL, Load Lines, Tonnage Measurement, COLREG, and on the international standards and criteria required by the regulations of the classification societies, and also consists of training at the



(from left to right)
Ms. Suzuki, Mr. Arifur, Mr. Kumara, Ms. Castilla, Mr. Bongkam, Mr. Nibre

local government offices on domestic ship inspections for both new construction and existing ships, as well as Port State control to the foreign ships. They renewed their old friendships with Mr. Kumara H.J.K.U. (Sri Lanka, 2003), who participated in another JICA training course, Mr. Jerry A. Nibre (Philippines, 2003), who was taking a training course on Oil Spill Combatting of JCG, and Ms. Yasuko Suzuki (Japan, 2003). Ms. Jeraldine V. R. Castilla, from Peru, who was taking the same course in Yokohama, joined them as one of their good friends.

Essays

IMLA13 Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia

Tomonori Okamura

(Japan 2002 Sasakawa Fellow)

National Institute for Sea Training

The IMLA13 (International Maritime Lectures Association) conference was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from September 14 - 17, 2004. The conference was organized by the Admiral Makarov State Maritime Academy, and about 80 persons involved in maritime education from 22 countries were in attendance. Also in attendance at the conference were the MET2004 (first year students) who participated as a part of their field studies.

The IMLA Conference is held every two



years. Because it is jointly organized by the WMU, it is a particularly familiar conference for MET-related people. Many of the Sasakawa Fellow members may have attended this conference while they were students or after graduation.

The topic of this conference was "Safety at Sea through Quality Assurance in MET Institutions. Quality Assurance in Action", and there were many presentations on the current situation and initiatives of maritime education institutions in the various countries. There were lively discussions, and valuable opinions were expressed at a workshop in regard to the results of a questionnaire on the topic of "Quality Audit for MET institutions". Results indicated that a

number of countries were taking their own independent measures but many institutions in many countries had taken up the challenge of the ISO9000 series.

The IMLA, where many WMU-related people attend, always makes us feel at home. At the reception and the farewell party, we were able to see small groups of graduates, current students and instructors here and there further deepening their friendships.

Because this IMLA Conference is attended mainly by persons involved in maritime education, it may give the impression of more of a family gathering.

All the participants left for their home countries looking forward to meeting again at the next IMLA.

See you all again at the IMLA14!

ASEAN – Japan Cruise Promotion

Wanna Waiwingrob

(Thailand 2003

Sasakawa Fellow)

Maritime Promotion
Bureau



The ASEAN region consists of 10 member countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Each member country has long coastlines, full of beautiful and diversified marine resources, which makes ASEAN a new area for the cruise industry. ASEAN-Japan cruise cooperation is promoting travelling by cruise in ASEAN and Japan. Thailand is situated in the heart of the Southeast Asia Mainland. The Thailand border is close to Lao PDR and Myanmar in the north, Cambodia to the east, Myanmar and the Andaman Sea to the west, Malaysia and the gulf of Thailand to the south. Thailand is also aware that the cruise industry helps earn foreign currency and create employment, especially in the service staff of marine tourism. In addition, it creates jobs around the port,

besides travel agencies. Both passengers and crew spend money in shopping complexes, restaurants, and by land transport to other tourism areas. It is expected that by promoting travelling by cruise, it will make an impression on passengers to come back to Thailand and spend a longer holiday.

Since the benefits from promoting the cruise industry are outstanding, Thailand currently supports port calls in many ways, such as facilitating visas, customs and immigration procedures for the passenger as soon as the cruise arrives in port. Furthermore, it focuses on investing in the infrastructure and easy use of the port. Thailand also provides a port dedicated to passenger cruises at Laem Chabang terminal A1, which is operated by the private sector company Star Cruise, and Bangkok terminal OB, by the Port Authority of Thailand. However, some ASEAN member countries are already moving forward in considering to prepare their infrastructures and ports to serve worldclass cruise lines. Some still are concerned about environmental effects, funds to be invested in the ports and training of people in this area. Moreover, the passenger's life and property are

incomparable assets; therefore, it is very important to increase the travel safety and security both on board and at port. Thailand has already prepared for the ISPS Code to ensure that the ports and ships are in compliance with the international requirements.

Last but not least, information about destinations and port calls is a critical factor for accessing the market and promoting the cruise. The more the information is clear and updated, the easier the cruise can be promoted, which in turn makes the passenger spend more at the destination port. Thus, cooperation in ASEAN is the key to success in promoting the cruise industry, taking into account that ASEAN has very beautiful marine resources and diversification as a cruise destination. Establishing the cruise industry and making ASEAN a new cruise development area is not out of reach and will be achieved sooner or later.

Also, concerning the Tsunami disaster, I would like to express my deep sadness toward this unprecedented event, which involved millions of people from across the world in the catastrophe. I would like to thank the world citizens for their support and help.

The Nippon Foundation was honored by PCG



The celebration of the 103rd anniversary of the Philippine Coast Guard was grandly held on October 15, 2004, in Manila with PCG commandant Arthur N. Gosingan, as well as Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza as guests of honor. At this celebration, the remarkable support and contribution offered to PCG by

individuals and organizations was lauded by Sec. Mendoza. The Nippon Foundation was given the highest prize for foreign people (and/or organizations) as well as the Norwegian embassy in Manila, and the Philippine branch of JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

Secretary General of IMO and Mr. Sasakawa exchanged views on their missions



On October 21, 2004, IMO Secretary General Mr. E. Mitropoulos paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Sasakawa at his office in The Nippon Foundation. Mr. Mitropoulos arrived in Japan a day behind schedule due to inclement weather brought on by a typhoon. The flight delay cost him many visits and interviews he was looking forward to. Nonetheless, the two men fortunately did not miss a chance to renew their friendship.

Mr. Mitropoulos appreciated notable contributions made by The Nippon Foundation toward the international maritime community, such as their efforts to achieve safety along the Malacca Straits, as well as their generous support of WMU and the undertaking of projects supportive to expert discussions at IMO.

Mr. Sasakawa referred to The Foundation's new support for IMLA, IAMU and Cardiff University,

saying that he deems maritime human resource development to be one of the most important missions of the Foundation. He also expressed his hope that IMO take a stronger initiative to address increasingly complicated challenges facing the international maritime community.

Toward the close of the meeting, Mr. Mitropoulos revealed his organization's readiness to offer an opportunity for Mr. Sasakawa to speak at IMO about the importance of maritime human resource development.

It has been arranged by IMO that Mr. Sasakawa will give a lecture on "Maritime human resource development and its future (tentative)" at the IMO headquarters on the evening of June 21, 2005. For further information, please contact the "Friends" secretariat.

Message from the Secretariat



Happy Marriage!

Mr. Nguyen Hai Nam (Vietnam 2002) married to Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen (WMU graduate, 2001) on March 9, 2004. Mr. Nam works for the Port Authority of Ho Chi Minh City. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy family!

Condolences

Mr. Ahmed Kamal Alavi, Class of 1992 Sasakawa Fellow, passed away on Oct. 29, 2004. He was General Manager at Port Qasim Authority, Karachi, Pakistan.

Our deepest sympathy to the Tsunami/Earthquake victims

Upon hearing the news of the great quake and tsunami that struck the nations on the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, the Secretariat contacted the coordinators of the national chapters of Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, etc., and confirmed to our relief that all the Sasakawa Fellows and their families were safe. Thank you, national coordinators, for your quick response.

Editor's Postscript

The earthquake and tsunami that struck in the waters off Sumatra Island in Indonesia last December have wrought an unprecedented level of damage on the countries around the Indian Ocean. I would like to express my deepest condolences to the families of those who perished in that disaster and my sincerest sympathy to all of the nations and people who have been affected by this terrible tragedy.

I heard IMO will start to discuss countermeasures against tsunami, but unfortunately I'm not sure of the details at this moment.

However, I believe it is a very important issue which should be taken up by the maritime sector.

As you know Japan is very famous for earthquakes in the world. The word "tsunami" is a Japanese word, meaning waves which strike ports. Japan has taken many kinds of countermeasures against tsunami for a long time, and so now I believe we will be able to contribute to the discussions of the IMO in this area.

Naoto Nakagawa

The Shipbuilding Research Association of Japan

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