

NEWSLETTER

Friends of WMU

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

JAPAN

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NOVEMBER 2003 No.

Sasakawa Fellows Celebrated the 20th Anniversary of WMU



Sasakawa Fellows with Mr. Sasakawa at the Japanese Honorary Consulate, Malmö

A unanimous consensus among frequent visitors to Malmö may be that June is the best time to visit the third largest Swedish city blessed with rich greenery. The time is June, and the scene is Malmö. What else is missing to make commemorative events a great success, which mark the 20th anniversary of WMU, now a significant educational landmark in Malmö?

The 20th Anniversary Celebration of WMU (June 3-4) was preceded by another memorable event, and the evening of June 2 added to the festive mood of the week. Sasakawa Fellows, graduates and current students, welcomed Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of "Friends of WMU, Japan," to a

reception at the Japanese Honorary Consulate building. Representing the current students, Mr. Mohab Mahmoud Ahmed Abou-el Kawam (Egypt 2003) gave a welcoming speech. "Our gratitude to this great man (Mr. Sasakawa) will not only be in the form of words, but also by sharing his great vision. Ladies and gentlemen, as Sasakawa Fellows, we promise Mr. Sasakawa that his aim and vision is extended by every one of us throughout our careers," he said.

Notwithstanding the long flight from Tokyo, Mr. Sasakawa talked intimately with each participant. In his greeting, Mr. Sasakawa called on the current students to help each other not only while studying in

Malmö, but also after graduation by working together for the international maritime community.

The graduate Sasakawa Fellows who attended the reception were Mr. Gao Deyi (China 1995); Mr. George Reynolds (Jamaica 2000); Ms. Viktoriya Radchenko (Ukraine 2001); Mr. Robertas Tarasevicius (Lithuania 1999), and Mr. Abdul Samad bin Zainal Akbar (Malaysia 1992). Among the guests who were kind enough to come to the reception were Dr. Karl Laubstein and WMU staff members; former rector Dr. Danny Waters; Honorary Consul General of Japan, Dr. Nils Stormby, and Professor Kenji Ishida of Kobe University of Mercantile Marine.

International Symposium Commemorating the Anniversary



Mr. William O'Neil conferring an honorable award to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa

On June 3, 2003, an international symposium took place under the theme of "WMU: Model of International Learning and Cooperation," as part of the 20th Anniversary Celebration of WMU. Mr. Yohei Sasakawa made a keynote address at the morning session of the symposium, along with other luminaries, including Mr. William A. O'Neil, Secretary-General of IMO, and Mr. Michael Gray, ex-editor of Lloyd's List, who also delivered speeches and lectures.

The full day symposium was crowned with the Special Award Ceremony, where Mr. Sasakawa was conferred an honorable award in recognition of his many years of conspicuous contribution to WMU. The symposium was followed by the Gala Dinner, which was held at Malmö City Hall and attended by the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Göran Persson, and as many as 300 invited guests. Taking advantage of the long evening hours in northern Europe, a great mixture of nationalities enjoyed the festivities and exchanges late into the night.

On June 4, the annual "International Day Party" was held in the courtyard of Henrik Smith Hostel, as part of the 20th anniversary celebration this year. Preparations were made by the current students under the supervision of the Student Council's International Day Committee chairperson Ms. Yasuko Suzuki (Japan 2003). Many students cooked and offered their national delicacies, adding something special to

the party. Some students appeared in national dress and performed dances and songs of their own countries.

Here is the complete text of Mr. Sasakawa's keynote address.

Keynote Speech for 20th Anniversary of World Maritime University

By Yohei Sasakawa

President, The Nippon Foundation
June 3, 2003

Your Excellency Mr. Ilmar Reepalu, Chairman of Malmö City Board; Chancellor Emeritus Dr. C.P. Srivastava, Founding Chancellor of WMU; Mr. William O'Neil, Secretary General of IMO; Dr. Karl Laubstein, President of WMU; Distinguished Visitors; Members of the WMU faculty; students, ladies and gentlemen:

Six years have gone by since I last visited you here in Malmö in 1997, and so today is a great pleasure for me. I am delighted to offer my congratulations on the twentieth anniversary of this excellent institution.

The successful execution of WMU's mission is made possible by the support of the Kingdom of Sweden, and the friendship of the city of Malmö. Additionally, the University's programs would have no effect at all were it not for the willingness of

coastal countries to dispatch their maritime officers for further training. Most important of all is the dedication of the brilliant faculty here. To all of you, I would like to extend my deep gratitude and respect.

Those of us here today are extremely fortunate that our countries have coastlines. This good fortune is something that we must remember to be grateful for. But beyond simple fortune, the position of our countries has had a deep impact on the development of our societies.

This is partly because the oceans have been used to transport everything conceivable. Goods, people, hopes, and even misfortunes and sorrows... Further, our people's lives in every age have been closely linked with the ocean. It has provided a livelihood for large segments of our populations. However, in all parts of the world, the last half of the 20th century has seen the explosive development of such areas as shipping and fishing. It has seen unprecedented exploitation of our undersea and coastal resources. It has seen the progress of marine tourism and leisure activities. As this has progressed, we have come to the realization that every region in the world is experiencing the heavy pollution of its oceans, the depletion of marine resources, and the destruction of coastal environments. It has become clear that even the oceans have a tolerance limit, one which they are fast approaching.

Until the past few decades, it was thought that our oceans were large enough to easily accommodate unfettered utilization. The fact is, however, that they are rather fragile. We have come to realize that reckless development and exploitation are increasing the danger that the very foundations for human survival will be destroyed.

When we recognized this danger, we came up with the following points which all of humankind needs to be aware of:

Oceans are a common heritage of humankind.

Our oceans are an essential component of Earth's life-support system.



Malmö City Hall where Gala Dinner was held

All marine problems are closely interlinked. They need to be studied as a whole.

Marine development and exploitation must be carried out in sustainable ways that fully take the global environment into consideration.

Today, we can say that we have achieved an overall transition in the way we think of our oceans. The idea of a “freedom of the seas” has given way to the principle of ocean governance, which guides today’s maritime activities. One vital issue of the 21st Century is how to actually put this concept into practice. You see, for the most part, it still only exists in the form of principles and rules.

Territorial issues are also a direct result of the global nature of our oceans. In regions where the territorial waters of several nations abut each other, the actions of any one government are naturally limited. In order to keep these limitations from stirring up regional conflict, frameworks of multilateral cooperation have become increasingly important.

In order to address issues such as these, WMU was founded twenty years ago, and since then has provided higher education in the maritime and shipping fields from an international perspective. It is this kind of proactive international cooperation that The Nippon Foundation most likes to support. The Nippon Foundation was founded by my late father, Ryoichi Sasakawa, in 1962. Today, it is the largest foundation in Japan. Its activities range widely, but focus on two major areas: basic human needs and human resources development. Further, it has had a strong tie to the sea since its founding, due to the fact that Japan is an island nation, and is thus completely surrounded by the sea. Since WMU focuses on human resources development in the maritime field, it is a joy for us to support it.

Here, we have channeled our energy into cultivating the human resources that will contribute to the global maritime community. We do this through the Sasakawa Fellowship Program, under which students from

around the world can study at WMU. These students will then take their places as the next generation of maritime leaders. Since it was first begun in 1987, this program has provided fellowships to 260 students from 39 countries.

This year, our support will expand even further with the endowment of three Nippon Foundation Chairs.

Another example of our work to develop the human resources of the maritime world is a network of universities that we helped to establish the International Association of Maritime Universities, or IAMU. As technology progresses, the skills required of seafarers are undergoing drastic changes. They are being required to master equipment and concepts that are advancing at a dramatic pace. IAMU was therefore founded in 2000 in an effort to achieve higher levels of maritime education in all countries. The ultimate goal is to promote maritime safety and at the same time protect the marine environment. Today, the network has a membership of 35 merchant marine and maritime universities around the world, including WMU. The association seeks to respond to the coming changes in the maritime community by conducting research at member universities in such areas as the exciting new roles envisioned for marine specialists on seagoing vessels.

Ryoichi Sasakawa’s motto, which describes our foundation’s outlook,

was “The world is one family; all humankind are brothers and sisters.” He felt strongly that, in order for countries to become self-sufficient, it is necessary to give the younger generations the opportunity to receive a proper education. He wanted education to endow young people not only with knowledge and skills, but also with an understanding of the diversity of cultures and values that would help them to nurture a sense of mutual tolerance. Our support of WMU is directly in line with these ideas.

There is a Japanese saying: “It takes ten years for a tree to grow, but it takes one hundred years to foster human resources.” In recognition of the effort required to raise our younger generations, I promise The Nippon Foundation’s continuing support of WMU.

The leaders needed by the international society are people who have profound insight into regional and global problems. At the same time, they respect our planet’s plurality of values and diversity of cultures. They can overcome the differences among nations, religions, ethnic groups, and cultures. They have the will and drive to commit themselves to world peace and prosperity. I believe that the true underlying concept of WMU, and its role, is to cultivate leaders with this kind of awareness.

Thank you.



Audience eagerly listening to Mr. Sasakawa’s speech

News from Alumni



Mr. Hermogino (center) with Mr. Kudo and Mr. Risuandi

Reunion Onboard

Mr. Elson E. Hermogino (1996), a member of the Association of WMU-Sasakawa Fellows (Philippine Chapter), Inc., has recently visited Japan. He is Assistant Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs / International Affairs, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). As a guest of Japan Coast Guard (JCG), Mr. Hermogino participated in an observation tour of search and rescue vessels; ship/airplane support bases; operation

facilities of the Vessels Traffic Management System (VTMS) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), and JCG supervisory control center. In addition, he made a trip to western Japan, visiting JCG's Maritime Academy in Kure.

PCG is currently working on the improvement of its mooring facilities and base ports, and of search and rescue communication systems. Mr. Hermogino will work to have his findings from his recent trip incorporated in a long-term master plan of the Philippines' social development research.

During his stay in Japan, Mr. Hermogino was invited to the annual JCG fleet operation review on May 24. He was joined on board a JCG patrol vessel by two of his acquaintances also invited to the review --- Mr. Eisuke Kudo, and Mr. Yan Risuandi (Indonesia 1990) who, as reported in the last issue of this Newsletter, is now stationed at the Indonesian Embassy in Tokyo.

Myanmar Coordinator Visited Mr. Sasakawa

Mr. Kyaw Zeya (1996), Director of Department of Marine Administration, Myanmar Ministry of Transport, met Mr. Yohei Sasakawa at the headquarters of The Nippon Foundation on May 8, 2003. Mr. Sasakawa welcomed Mr. Zeya into his tidy office and a friendly talk took place. He picked up the topic of the former premier Mr. Mori's recent visit to Myanmar that aimed at helping reinstate diplomatic relations between Japan and Myanmar. He accompanied Mr. Mori as a member of the Japanese delegation. On that occasion, Mr. Zeya tried to visit Mr. Sasakawa at the hotel where he was staying, but their meeting then was not realized.

The main purpose of Mr. Zeya's visit to Tokyo was to represent his own government at the ASEAN-Japan Transport Policy Workshop held in the second week of May. A total of 20 representatives from different countries participated in the ASEAN workshop and discussed diverse topics in the areas of potential cooperation:



Mr. Zeya (center) with Mr. Sasakawa and Mr. Nagamitsu, Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation

An international forum on seafarers' policy
Maritime security measures for ports and ships

A concept of ASEAN coast guard modelled on JCG

Advanced ship and port technology exemplified by high-speed marine transportation networks and Mega float

Mr. Zeya said he would return to Japan again in October to participate in an international conference on the fight against terrorism, whilst another ASEAN meeting is scheduled to take place in August in Yangon.

Sasakawa Fellows in Vietnam are in High Spirits

By Prof. Toshio Hikima

The volume of marine transport in Vietnam has registered an annual average of 10% increase over the past 10 years. If the trend persists, Vietnam will need as many as 18,000 seafarers in 2005 to cope with the increasing transport demand.

On the other hand, the 1995 amendment of STCW convention requires signatory nations to institutionalize maritime education/training reforms that will keep pace with the modernization of ship facilities and ensure ship operation safety. The Vietnam Maritime University (VIMARU) found it difficult to implement training at a level in compliance with the IMO convention standards, because of the obsolescence and shortage of training facilities and equipment. In response to the Vietnamese government's request, in October 2001 JICA launched the "Project on the Improvement of Higher Maritime Education in Vietnam" to help VIMARU to refurbish its facilities and curricula. It will continue until the end of September 2004.



Dr. Uy, Prof. Hikima, and Dr. Suu

The present author became involved with the project and was dispatched by JICA to VIMARU on May 6-23 this year as a short-term expert to give instructions on switchboard simulator training stipulated in STCW95. On that occasion, I met with many WMU graduates and Sasakawa Fellows.



At Ho Chi Minh City

VIMARU is located in the port city Haiphong, some 100 km east of Hanoi. Both Rector and Vice-Rector of the university, Dr. Suu (MET 1991) and Dr. Uy (MET 1992), respectively, are Sasakawa Fellows. Allow me to use this space to express my gratitude again for the hospitality they gave me at the time of my visit to VIMARU.

I was welcomed by six WMU graduates in Hanoi and Haiphong, while I met eight WMU graduates in Ho Chi Minh City where I visited on weekends. Thus I met with 16 WMU graduates in all, 13 of whom were students during my tenure at WMU. Reunion with them was the most memorable event during my recent sojourn in Vietnam. Dear readers, I am glad to report that Sasakawa Fellows in Vietnam are in high spirits, creating an alumni association that holds meetings at regular intervals.

Training Program in Yokohama

Mr. A.F.M. Sirajul Islam (1996), ship surveyor, Mercantile Marine Department, Bangladesh Ministry of Shipping, is now staying in Japan and participating in "Group Training Course in International Maritime Convention and Ship Safety Inspection" during the period of April 8 to October 31, 2003. The training course is being held at Overseas Shipbuilding Cooperation Centre (OSCC), Yokohama, as part of the Japanese government's technical cooperation program that aims at providing trainees from developing countries with practical knowledge on ship inspection and related IMO conventions. A total of 15 trainees of 12



Mr. Islam (5th from the right) visiting a Japanese garden

countries are participating in the six-month training course. The photo is a scene from a sight-seeing excursion in Yokohama Port area, which was sponsored by JICA.

International Maritime Information

Model Audit Scheme Now Under Development - The First Meeting of the Joint MSC/MEPG/TCC Working Group



The Ministerial Conference on Transport (Tokyo, 2001) opened the way for the establishment of the IMO audit program on Flag State Implementation.

It has been recognised among IMO Member States that strengthening of the Flag State implementation of the IMO Conventions is essential to secure an adequate level of maritime safety and marine environmental protection. In this context, in 2002, IMO started developing a scheme to measure a Flag State performance on the three key issues of implementation of IMO instruments, i.e., the enactment of appropriate legislation, its implementation and enforcement of the instruments.

The Council takes a lead in developing the Audit Scheme, but “the joint MSC/MEPC/TCC Working Group on the voluntary IMO Model Audit Scheme” was established in order to facilitate detailed consultations. The first meeting of the joint Working Group was held from 28 May to 4 June at the same time with MSC 77. It reached a general agreement on the framework of the Model Audit Scheme and a work plan targeting the adoption at the 24th Assembly in 2005.

The aim of the Audit Scheme is to determine to what extent Member States are implementing and enforcing the applicable IMO instruments, so as to further enhance their performance. The IMO instruments which should be covered by audits are considered as: SOLAS 74 (excluding Chapter XI-2 on Maritime Security for the time being); SOLAS 78 Protocol; SOLAS 88 Protocol, MARPOL 73/78; STCW, LL66, LL88 Protocol, Tonnage 69; and COLREG 72.

The Audit Scheme is on a voluntary basis, and a Member State wishing to be audited has to express its intention in accordance with procedures of the Audit Scheme, which will be developed in due course. IMO

Secretary-General will establish the audit team for the Member State from a list of possible auditors. The audit team is responsible for planning, performing and preparing a report of the audit in a fair manner and in accordance with an agreed time frame. The audit report will not be disclosed to other Member States, and only an anonymized summary report will be circulated after consultation with the audited State.

It is extremely important for some audited States to enhance their performance through preparation process or following up the Audit results. Therefore, capacity-building would be considered as an essential element for the success of the Audit Scheme. The capacity-building is to include an adequate supply of appropriately trained people, along with appropriate hardware and software systems.

There are still many substantive issues for the further development of the Scheme, including completion of the procedures, an audit standard, time frame, and so on. Subsequently, the joint Working Group established a correspondence group in order to facilitate discussion during the sessions, keeping in mind that the target of the adoption is at the 24th Assembly in 2005.

While it was agreed that the Model Audit Scheme should start out as a voluntary one, it is being debated whether it should become a mandate Scheme in the future, taking into account the ICAO's experience. The Council decided that the Scheme be developed in such a manner as not to exclude the possibility in the future of it becoming mandatory.

Essays



Klaipeda Seaport, Lithuania

Klaipeda Seaport Development

By Ms. Nadezda Kovtunova (Lithuania 2002)



Klaipeda Seaport is a landlord port. Currently, Klaipeda State Seaport Authority (KSSA) is working on a large investment program, which was agreed to by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and is to be implemented during the period 2002-2006. The objective of the program is to incorporate Klaipeda port in the Trans European network, in view of the coming Lithuanian membership in the European Union in May, 2004. The total cost of the investment program is estimated to amount to LTL 382 million (i.e. approximately EUR 107 million).

As a first step, the Port Entrance Rehabilitation Project was successfully implemented in 2002. The Klaipeda port's entrance breakwaters were rehabilitated and extended, whilst parts of the port, including the entrance channel, were dredged up to 14-14.5m. After rehabilitation, five quays have become available for handling vessels with 12.5m drafts and up to 60,000 tons of dry cargo and 80,000 tons of oil product capacities. The program also includes reconstruction of quays, as well as road and railway access to the port.

As a next step, the possibility of building a new deep-sea port (up to 17m depth) outside the entrance of the Klaipeda port is currently being examined by the Study for the Port Development Project in the Republic of Lithuania. Its main objectives are to examine the role of

the Klaipeda port in the regional and national economies of Lithuania, and to work out a long-term master plan and a short-term development plan. The study is being conducted as part of the Japanese government's cooperation with Lithuania. Its Scope of Work was signed in 2002, whereas actual work started in March, 2003. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the official agency responsible for the implementation of technical cooperation programs of the Japanese government, is at present undertaking the Study at the Klaipeda port in close cooperation with KSSA. The results will be announced in August, 2004.

In addition, the railway administrations and customs officials of the Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus are working on a combined railway transportation route Klaipeda - Odessa - Klaipeda, which was opened on February 8, 2003. The "Viking" shuttle train goes from Klaipeda to Odessa in less than 50 hours, once a week. At the same time, railway operators and forwarders of the three countries are working on improving the international transport corridor between the Baltic and the Black sea, aiming to create a transit cargo transportation route from Scandinavian countries to the regions of the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Far East. There are negotiations taking place to launch a shuttle train from Klaipeda to Moscow as well.



CONTINUATION OF AN 'EXPERIENCE'

By Mr. Anantha Prasad (India 1997)

My enrolment at WMU was by sheer chance. So was my sponsorship from The Nippon Foundation. The letter of admission to WMU in February 1996 was a very pleasant surprise. It was a very exciting moment - the first time I was getting an opportunity to do a master's degree in Shipping, a subject I was dealing with as a part of my profession. The place was even more exciting - Sweden. Leaving family behind was a difficult choice but I had to comfort myself knowing it was for my future.

Traveling to Malmö from Copenhagen on a passenger ferry and the experience at WMU was unforgettable. Sea travel was another first for me, as was the snow I saw on the way.

I am now reaping the benefits of the invaluable knowledge I gained at WMU. I

have been lucky enough to be back with the same portfolio I held before. Any subject I deal with concerning shipping - be it Maritime Law, IMO matters or others, is no longer strange to me. After all, this is what was intended by the people who established WMU, to make you feel at ease with the subject you are dealing with, through that all important stint at Malmö.

Visiting Japan twice by being lucky enough to have been sponsored by The Nippon Foundation was the most remarkable of my Malmö experiences. On the second occasion, being in the midst of my classmates, friends once again, felt as I'd never left WMU. The 'Friends of WMU, Japan' activities have this as their objective. What more can I wish for than the opportunity to continue my WMU experience?

Message from the Secretariat

Deepest sympathy to our friend

The husband of Ms. Ninfa Martinez (1997), a member of The Association of WMU-Sasakawa Fellows (Philippine Chapter), Inc., passed away on June 24, 2003. The late Mr. Edgar Martinez was also a graduate of WMU. Our profound condolences to Ninfa and her family members.

We welcome your contribution to Newsletter/Website

The Secretariat invites you to contribute either to the Newsletter or the Website. Photographs are also welcome. (We prefer to have printed copies sent by post, but for those who wish to send by e-mail, the resolution must be at least 400 dpi.) Please note, however, that due to space limitations, some contributions might be reduced in volume, held over to the next issue, or be changed for inclusion in the website at the Secretariat's discretion.

Editor's Postscript

One year has passed since we started this newsletter. In the beginning stages, we did not have any expertise in publishing newsletters so we struggled with our new tasks. We are now on our fourth issue, due to the great efforts of the staff at the Ship & Ocean Foundation. It is deeply gratifying for me to review this year and realize this newsletter will continue to be published. The work of the editorial members including the staff of SOF is getting on track, and we just wish we could print more of the many letters from members of the Friends of WMU, Japan, in the limited space of the newsletter.

Some Sasakawa fellows met with Mr Sasakawa in Malmö during the week of the celebration of the 20th

Anniversary of WMU in June. Unfortunately, I could not be there due to the 77th session of the MSC meeting, but I know that it was a great opportunity to exchange views with Mr Sasakawa as well as to expand the Fellows' network. WMU was established in 1983 and the Sasakawa fellowship started five years after the establishment of the University with more than 200 Sasakawa Fellows from 39 countries participating. Strengthening the network among them will greatly help them play an important role in their respective countries.

Ko KOISO

Chief Researcher, The Shipbuilding Research Association of Japan

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 Ship & Ocean Foundation in cooperation with Mr. Ko Koiso, Prof. Toshio Hikima, Ms. Masako B. Otsuka, and Ms. Sue Jackson.

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