



The 12th World Ocean Summit took place in Tokyo on March 12–13, 2025, marking the first time this prestigious international event was held in Japan. Organized by Economist Impact with the support of the official host, The Nippon Foundation, the summit gathered global leaders, policymakers, scientists, business executives, representatives from international organizations, and civil society. With the overarching theme of “cooperation,” discussions centered on the urgent challenges confronting our oceans, including pollution, climate change, and the decline of marine biodiversity.

#### Strengthening International Collaboration Against Ocean Pollution

A highlight of the summit was a dedicated session by Back to Blue, a joint initiative by The Nippon Foundation and Economist Impact that focuses on urgent marine issues. The session spotlighted critical problems such as marine pollution caused by wastewater, chemical discharge, and plastics. The summit underscored the urgent need for strengthened international collaboration, robust data integration, and the development of science-based policies to address these complex challenges effectively. Ocean pollution countermeasures were highlighted as both a risk management priority and an investment opportunity, prompting calls for practical economic strategies.

#### Japan's Message to the World

Welcoming global delegates, The Nippon Foundation Chairman Yohei Sasakawa stated, “We must not forget that there are more than 180 nations in the world, yet the ocean remains singular, absorbing the full impact of the actions of all nations.” His remarks set the tone for the summit's emphasis on collective responsibility.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba also addressed the summit and referenced Japan's responsibility as a maritime nation and the need to act. He expressed his hope that Japan will aim to move beyond being an island nation to become a great maritime nation, fulfilling its responsibility to ensure that the ocean is safe, peaceful, and a resource that is used.

Japan's Minister of State for Ocean Policy, Manabu Sakai, provided an overview of the country's comprehensive ocean policy, which encompasses 379 government measures. He also highlighted Japan's efforts in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and stressed the importance of developing ocean policies based on scientific evidence.

#### Spotlight on Research and Economic Impact

The summit provided a platform for emerging research on the economic impact of ocean pollution. Back to Blue presented findings on wastewater-related damage to fisheries, highlighting that in India alone, inadequate sewage infrastructure causes losses of approximately \$2 billion annually to the fishing industry.

A representative from an international organization also shared cutting-edge insights into ocean acidification, underlining its adverse effects on marine biodiversity and human societies. These findings reinforced the necessity for integrated, cross-sectoral action involving scientists, governments, financial institutions, and local communities.

#### Supporting Small Island Developing States

Recognizing the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to climate change and rising sea levels, a World Island Forum: High-Level Roundtable was held on March 11, just prior to the summit. Co-hosted by The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, the forum focused on Pacific SIDS and explored strategies to support these frontline nations.

Discussions emphasized the crucial role SIDS play in environmental preservation and scientific innovation, and the importance of bolstering their resilience and independence through international support. The forum also highlighted the role of philanthropic organizations and the importance of sustained investment in human capital and interregional knowledge-sharing.

#### A Vision for the Future

In his closing remarks, Mr. Sasakawa expressed his hope that the dialogue initiated in Tokyo would continue at the Our Ocean Conference in Busan in April and the 2025 U.N. Ocean Conference in Nice in June. He emphasized that the summit was not just a forum for policy exchange but also a step forward in implementing global ocean solutions.

The World Ocean Summit 2025 stands as a milestone in fostering international cooperation for a sustainable ocean. Going forward, The Nippon Foundation remains committed to partnering with the global community to ensure a healthier, more resilient marine environment for future generations.

For more information, please visit the Nippon Foundation's official website: <https://en.nippon-foundation.or.jp/news/articles/2025/20250423-108626.html>



# Class of 2003 Reunited: WMU Alumni Reflect on Seafarers' Mental Health and Maritime Resilience



**Inga Bartuseviciene**  
(WMU 2003, Lithuania)



**Jean Ver Pugal Pia**  
(Philippines, 2003)



**Yasko Suzuki**  
(Japan, 2003)

Three classmates who graduated from WMU in 2003—Inga Bartuseviciene, Jean Ver Pugal Pia, and Yasko Suzuki—held an online dialogue on seafarers' mental health on November 19, 2024. Inga, an Associate Professor of Maritime Education and Training (MET) at WMU, Jean, who has had a long and distinguished career at MARINA in the Philippines, and Yasko, who currently serves as a Chief Port State Control Officer at Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, came together for this important discussion. We have compiled their dialogue into an article for everyone to read and reflect on.

**Secretariat (Kudo):** Good evening, everyone. Thank you for taking the time to join this long-awaited dialogue. It's been three years since we first planned this discussion with Yasko-san. Professor Inga, it was your kind reminder in Manila this past May that reignited this plan, and after six months of preparation, we are finally here. I deeply appreciate your efforts and patience. I'll now hand over to Yasko-san, a member of the editorial committee, to facilitate our discussion.

**Yasko:** Thank you, Mr. Kudo. It's my privilege to facilitate this dialogue. If at any point I fall short, please feel free to jump in. It's wonderful to see you, Inga and Jean, and an honor to share this space with such experienced professionals.

Today, we'll discuss the mental health and well-being of seafarers, a topic suggested by Inga and one that will feature in the Friends of WMU, Japan Newsletter. Both of you are deeply involved in seafarer welfare, and I look forward to your insights. Let's begin with the first question: Why do you think mental health is important for seafarers? Were there specific moments in your careers that shaped your perspective on this?

**Inga:** Thank you, Yasko. Firstly, let me express my gratitude to Mr. Kudo, the Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat for organizing this dialogue and to Jean for finding the time to join. Mental health among seafarers is an issue close to my heart.

My perspective is shaped by both personal and professional experiences. My brother, a seafarer, was lost at sea. The news of his



death, without explanation, was devastating for my family. It completely changed our lives—shifting us from a happy family to one filled with unanswered questions and grief. This experience made me realize how incidents at sea affect not just individuals but also their families and communities.

Professionally, while working at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, I witnessed promising students abandon their maritime careers prematurely due to the emotional challenges of seafaring. Some left during their first onboard practice. Additionally, I encountered experienced seafarers, captains faced with the harrowing responsibility of managing suicides onboard, events that impact the entire crew and disrupt ship operations. These experiences have underscored the importance of addressing mental health not only as a personal matter but as a systemic issue affecting safety and maritime operations at sea, lives and careers of people ashore.

**Yasko:** Thank you for sharing such profound experiences, Inga. Your insights highlight how mental health extends beyond individuals, affecting entire families and the maritime industry. Jean, could you share your perspective?

**Jean:** Thank you, Yasko, and Mr. Kudo, for this initiative. It's wonderful to reconnect with you, Yasko, and to share this platform with Inga, my "sister". We call each other sisters because we had same foster parents during our time in Malmö.

Unlike Inga, I don't have personal experiences related to seafarers in my family. However, my professional career has shown me the critical role of mental health. Any adverse effects on seafarers' mental health and well-being significantly impact maritime safety and marine environmental protection, which are critical priorities for the IMO. Given that shipping accounts for 90% of global trade, such issues could undermine the industry's overall safety and environmental standards.

The Philippines, as a provider of one-third of the world's seafarers, plays a vital role in global trade. During the pandemic, I was part of a Task Force ensuring the safe repatriation of Filipino and foreign seafarers. This experience highlighted their sacrifices—working tirelessly on ships without the luxury of "switching off," even during a global crisis.





Seafarers sacrifice a lot to continue the transportation of food, vaccines and important cargo.

My research during my PhD at the Seafarers International Research Center also deepened my understanding. We studied seafarers' lives, linking occupational health and safety with global political and economic factors. These experiences reinforced the need to prioritize seafarers' well-being—not just for operational efficiency but also for their humanity.

**Yasko:** Thank you, Jean. Inga, you were a professor, and Jean, you were in maritime administration for a country that provides 1/3 of seafarers. I also received maritime education, so we have the administration, professor, and student perspectives here.

When I was a student, we had one year of onboard training spread out—one month each in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. In the 4th grade, we could choose to continue onboard training or switch to another field. This filtering system allowed those unsuited for a seafaring career to change paths early. Those who chose the final training had already made a conscious decision to stay. This gradual exposure helped us adjust to the toughness of onboard life.

As a Port State Control officer, I dealt with many complaints from seafarers unable to return home during COVID and listening to your experiences, I realize the depth of these issues.

How do you address such challenges in your professional roles? Specifically, how can we integrate these lessons into maritime education to better prepare for and resolve these challenges?

**Inga:** We start by focusing on ourselves as educators, ensuring we are mentally prepared to lead by example. At WMU, we integrate stress management techniques and empathy-building into our curriculum. During the pandemic, we introduced voluntary courses to help students cope with isolation and prepare for their roles as leaders.

Education on mental health and well-being is vital especially for leaders. Maritime leaders must understand how to effectively support their crews. To address this, we collaborate with industry stakeholders to tackle workplace stressors and enhance communication. For example, in Malmö, Hamburg, and Manila, we conducted workshops to identify the causes of stress and develop solutions, with a strong emphasis on communication and maintaining balanced well-being skills.

**Jean:** In the Philippines, we align international conventions with national legislation to protect seafarers' welfare, in view of isolation of seafarers in view of the reduced manning requirements onboard the ships. This includes implementing the STCW Convention and ISM Code through policies that ensure safety and well-being onboard. Government is not solely responsible but there must be collaboration with shipowners, crewing agencies, and educational institutions is essential to address challenges holistically.

For example, fostering camaraderie onboard is vital. Activities like shared meals, singing, and even TikTok dances help reduce isolation. Beyond onboard practices, events like the Day of the Seafarer raise awareness and highlight seafarers' contributions, reminding us of their sacrifices, and that they are not invisible.

**Yasko:** Your efforts are inspiring. I noticed both of you mentioned about involvement of stakeholders. How can maritime professionals work together with other stakeholders in maritime fields to create a holistic approach to seafarers' mental health?

**Jean:** Collaboration is key. Earlier this year, I participated in an ILO-IMO Joint Tripartite Working Group addressing harassment and bullying, including sexual assault and sexual harassment in the maritime sector. The Philippines has passed the Magna Carta for Filipino seafarers, and in the IMO, there is a discussion of the draft guideline on fair treatment of seafarers who are detained on suspicion of committing crimes. Such initiatives promote safe work environments and help



seafarers feel valued. Additionally, Inga and I co-authored a paper on seafarers' well-being, combining academic and maritime administration perspectives. Sharing research and best practices can drive systemic change.

**Inga:** I agree. Collaboration among different stakeholders—governments, research institutions, and educators—is essential. Research informs policies, which, in turn, shapes education. Open dialogue between stakeholders foster mutual understanding and drive action. We recently organized alumni webinars where we discussed these issues, highlighting their continued relevance.

**Secretariat (Kudo):** Today's ships are highly multicultural, but traditional ways of bonding, like drinking, are now restricted. How do crews foster camaraderie?

**Jean:** That's an excellent question. Crews have become creative—organizing shared meals, singing sessions, or TikTok challenges. These activities foster a sense of community and connection, especially among younger seafarers.

**Inga:** Adding to that, companies can support team building through activities both onboard and ashore. Some allow limited alcohol consumption under strict guidelines to help crews unwind. The key is to create an environment where seafarers feel supported and valued.

**Secretariat (Kudo):** On another note, declining birth rates in countries like Japan discourage families from encouraging maritime careers. How can this be addressed?

**Inga:** Promoting safety and supporting career transitions is essential. Seafarers must feel secure in their roles, and opportunities for shore-based careers should be actively promoted. Collaboration at all levels is necessary to attract and retain talents in the maritime industry.

**Jean:** In the Philippines, a growing population sustains interest in maritime careers to improve their family life and their careers. However, transitions to shore-based roles and preparation for technological advancements, like autonomous ships and alternative ships towards our goals for decarbonization, are essential. Balancing tradition with innovation ensures the industry remains appealing and relevant.

**Yasko:** Hearing these strategies is enlightening. I know an example of Icelandic Maritime Administration; they achieved safer fishing vessels than jobs ashore. Reminding their example, I'm sure we can make shipping safe and more attractive.

**Secretariat (Kudo):** Thank you all for this enriching discussion. Your insights will contribute significantly to improving seafarers' well-being.

# Latest Trends in Ship Cybersecurity Regulations



**Capt. Naoki Saito** (Japan, 2004)  
General Manager, Management Systems and Maritime  
Training Certification Department  
Business Assurance Division, Nippon Kaiji Kyokai  
(ClassNK)

## 1. Introduction

The digitalization of ships has significantly increased the risk of cyberattacks in the maritime industry. Incidents such as ransomware targeting shipping companies and onboard systems have highlighted the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures. In response, the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) introduced two Unified Requirements – UR E26 and UR E27 – effective for ships contracted on or after July 1, 2024. This article outlines key international initiatives, focusing on these new standards and upcoming challenges, particularly concerning cybersecurity for autonomous vessels. As digital systems become more integral to maritime operations, security strategies must evolve accordingly to address both current and emerging risks.

## 2. Trends in International Cybersecurity Measures

### 2.1 IMO Initiatives

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has steadily increased its focus on cybersecurity, especially through adoption of Resolution MSC.428(98). This resolution recommends incorporating cyber risk management in a ship's Safety Management System. This resolution is a recommendation, but many flag states have it mandatory.

Guidelines On Maritime Cyber Risk Management (MSC-FAL.1/Circ.3) provides specific recommendations to assist ship operators and shipowners in implementing cyber risk management. It also refers to cybersecurity guidelines and standards issued by IACS, BIMCO, NIST and others. It serves as a reference for ship operators to establish and operate an effective cyber risk management system.

### 2.2 IACS Initiatives

IACS established the Cyber Systems Panel in 2016 to share information on the latest cybersecurity technologies and threats. Prior to the development of UR E26 and E27, Recommendation No.166 was issued as a recommendation on cyber resilience in 2020. Based on these results, IACS issued UR E26 and E27 which stipulate requirements for cybersecurity in 2023. These are requirements for cyber resilience capabilities to reduce the occurrence of cyber incidents, to mitigate their impact, and to ensure early recovery in the event of an incident, based on the premise that cyberattacks will occur.

## 3. Objectives and Overview of UR E26 and UR E27 Requirements

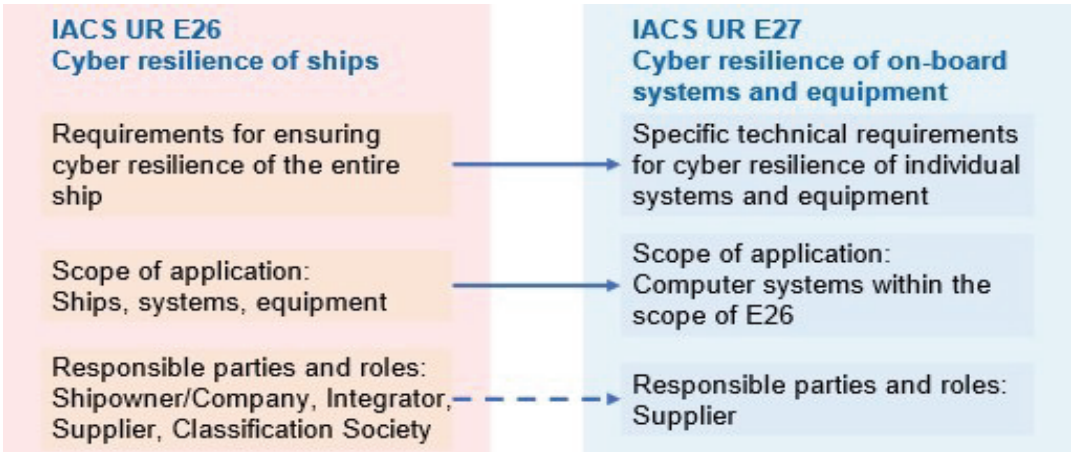
UR E26 is a rule that applies to the entire ship and the requirements are related to shipyards and shipowners. It aims to safely integrate OT systems and IT systems into ship's network throughout the various stages of ship design, construction, and operation. UR E27 is a rule that applies to systems and equipment installed on board ships and the requirements are related to suppliers. It defines the requirements for the cyber resilience of systems and equipment and the product development requirements for new products aiming to ensure cyber resilience at the product level.

## 4. Cybersecurity for Autonomous Vessels

As autonomous ship technology advances, cybersecurity is expected to become even more critical. These vessels depend on a wide range of integrated technologies, including sensors, remote operations, and communications systems, making them vulnerable to cyber threats. Cybersecurity must be integrated throughout all stages, from design to operation. This includes implementing secure communication protocols, continuous system monitoring, and timely incident response. Coordinated actions among shipbuilders, system integrators, operators, and regulators are essential to ensure safe and uninterrupted operations in this emerging domain, where the consequences of cyber incidents could be far-reaching.

## 5. Conclusion

Cybersecurity is becoming essential to modern maritime safety and operational continuity. As digitalization transforms the shipping industry, proactive steps like the adoption of UR E26 and UR E27 demonstrate a clear commitment to standardized protection. Continued international collaboration, harmonization of practices, and technological innovation will be key to addressing future threats. As the maritime sector becomes more digital and interconnected, strong cybersecurity will be essential to ensuring resilience at sea and maintaining the long-term sustainability and reliability in digital maritime infrastructure.







# Indonesia's Blue Horizon: Charting a Sustainable Course for Global Maritime Industry



## Raja Oloan Saut Gurning

(Indonesia, 2000)

Raja Oloan Saut Gurning, B.Eng., M.Sc., Ph.D.,  
Chartered Marine Technologist  
Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS)

For alumni of the World Maritime University (WMU), the imperative of a sustainable and thriving global maritime industry resonates deeply. As Indonesia, an archipelagic nation with immense maritime potential, actively embraces the principles of the blue economy, its journey offers valuable insights and opportunities for the global maritime community. This article delves into Indonesia's approach to the blue economy and its vision for a more sustainable future for the maritime sector worldwide.

As a maritime nation comprising 17,480 islands and encompassing approximately six million square kilometres with a coastline of around 104,000 kilometres, Indonesia possesses a significant fishery potential. The maximum sustainable yield for capture fisheries is estimated at 12-14 million tons annually, complemented by an aquaculture potential of 24-25 million tons. This sector is supported by approximately 50,000 fishing vessels and 567 fishing ports, along with around 1,200 national fishery cold storage units. In terms of maritime services and shipping, Indonesia relies on 24,000-25,000 merchant and passenger vessels that utilize 3,227 cargo and passenger ports. These vessels are also served by 250 registered shipyards. Annually, the country reports the transportation of about 2.1 billion tons of cargo and 20-22 million passengers via both domestic and international routes.

The development narrative for Indonesia's blue economy draws upon good international development practices and intends to inspire Indonesian stakeholders in their efforts to achieve an inclusive and sustainable blue economy. The envisioned outcome by 2045 is: "Our diverse coastal and marine resources will be sustainably managed through a knowledge-led blue economy, generating socio-economic prosperity, ensuring a healthy marine environment, and strengthening resilience for the benefit of current and future generations."

One key aspect of Indonesia's blue economy implementation is



the focus on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Moving beyond unsustainable fishing practices, Indonesia is investing in data-driven fisheries management, combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and promoting responsible aquaculture techniques. This not only ensures the long-term viability of fish stocks but also creates more resilient livelihoods for coastal communities. For WMU alumni, this highlights the critical role of maritime governance, technology adoption, and community engagement in achieving sustainable seafood production globally.

Furthermore, Indonesia is actively exploring the potential of marine renewable energy. With abundant wave, tidal, and offshore wind resources, the nation is poised to become a significant player in blue energy. Investments in research, development, and infrastructure in this sector not only contribute to Indonesia's energy security but also offer a pathway for the global maritime industry to transition towards cleaner energy sources. WMU graduates with expertise in maritime technology and policy can find ample opportunities in supporting this transition.

The development of sustainable maritime tourism is another crucial pillar of Indonesia's blue economy strategy. By focusing on eco-tourism, marine conservation, and empowering local communities, Indonesia aims to create tourism experiences that are both economically beneficial and environmentally responsible. This approach underscores the importance of balancing economic development with the preservation of marine ecosystems – a lesson applicable to maritime tourism destinations worldwide. WMU alumni in maritime management and tourism can contribute their expertise in developing and implementing sustainable tourism models.

Moreover, Indonesia recognizes the critical role of maritime connectivity and infrastructure in fostering a robust blue economy. Investments in modernizing ports, enhancing logistics networks, and promoting sustainable shipping practices are underway. This focus on efficient and environmentally sound maritime transport aligns with global efforts to decarbonize shipping and improve supply chain resilience. WMU alumni specializing in port management and maritime logistics are crucial in driving these advancements.



# An Unexpected Welcome: Honouring All Paths to WMU



**Jihyeon Gina Kim**  
(WMU 2017, Korea)  
IMO Liaison Assistant, ITF

I graduated from the WMU in 2017, having spent an unforgettable year in Malmö with 130 maritime professionals from 48 countries. Although I was self-funded and didn't have a connection to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation at the time, everything changed in 2023 through my work with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

That year, I received an unexpected invitation to a dinner hosted by the foundation. I was surprised and deeply moved that they extended this invitation even to non-sponsored alumni like myself. At the dinner, Mr. Kudo's warm presence and his thoughtful questions to WMU graduates revealed the strength and longevity of this global network. The conversations ranged from maritime issues to how the WMU alumni could contribute to safer and greener shipping. As someone from an NGO, such open dialogue was rare and meaningful.

What stayed with me most was the genuine appreciation and respect shown to each individual. This experience made me realize the foundation's commitment to maintaining human connections across borders and years.



In 2024, before the 17th session of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas from ships (ISWG-GHG 17), I received another dinner invitation, this time addressed to my personal email and referencing my previous participation. This simple act of recognition made a lasting impact—it fostered a sense of belonging and ownership, which is essential in collective work like the IMO. The dinner was again filled with camaraderie and light moments, including Mr. Kudo's story about his birthday calendar at home.

To my surprise, in December 2024, I found a birthday card on my desk with a photo from that dinner—another personal gesture that spoke volumes.

Recognizing individuals, respecting their boundaries, and staying connected—these are the simple yet powerful principles behind the Sasakawa Foundation's lasting global impact.

## Choir S24 Diaries: A journey in Harmony and Heart Your Amature Conductress



**Tanapit (Pin) Petchmunee**  
(Thailand, 2024)

This past year at WMU has been filled with unforgettable moments, none more meaningful than those shared with our choir—a vibrant family formed through music, friendship, and joy.

We began with the 2023 Graduation Ceremony, where we sang our hearts out in a performance that blended cultures and created lifelong memories. Rehearsals were full of laughter and unity, transforming strangers into teammates, and melodies into shared stories.

One of our most emotional performances was a farewell tribute to Ms. Lyndell Lundahl, the heart of WMU and founder of the student choir. Singing for her after 37 years of service was a touching moment of gratitude for the love and support, she gave generations of students.

In May 2024, during a visit to Japan, I learned that the WMU Song was composed by alumnus Ambrose C. H. Wong (Class of 1993), with lyrics contributed by Larry Muller of the Marshall Islands—a revelation that deepened our pride in performing it. That same trip, we performed at



the 2024 Sasakawa Fellowship Students Welcome Reception, celebrating fellowship through song and dance.

Though I missed International Day 2024, I proudly watched our team, led by Michael, perform brilliantly. In September, we reached another milestone—our debut at the Board of Governors' Dinner, performing "Heal the World" and the WMU Song, joined on stage by President Mejia himself.

Our final performance came at the Sasakawa Award Ceremony, singing alongside the Class of 2025—a heartfelt farewell with no music, just voices and meaning.

Every moment in the choir has shown me how music builds bridges. Thank you to everyone who shared this journey. You've made it unforgettable.

"Cooperation we achieve, much more precious than gold."

Secretariat's Note: The story behind the creation of the WMU Song by Ambrose C. H. Wong (Malaysia, Class of 1993) is featured on page 7 of Newsletter No. 13. If you're interested, please see the link:

<https://www.wmu-japan.net/global-data/20240704151103618.pdf>





# Chairman Sasakawa's Outreach in Sri Lanka and Indonesia

## Sri Lanka



**Rear Admiral Yapa Rajpriya Serasinghe**  
(Sri Lanka, 2017)



Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation and a key figure in advancing global maritime education through initiatives like the Sasakawa Fellowship Programme, visited Sri Lanka on February 6, 2025. His efforts have fostered international collaboration and excellence in maritime studies, benefiting students worldwide.

Upon his arrival, Dr. Sasakawa was warmly welcomed by Sri Lankan Sasakawa Fellows, reflecting the strong relationship and mutual respect between them. A meeting was held at 8:30 AM on February 6, 2025, at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo.

The Sri Lankan Sasakawa Fellows expressed deep appreciation for Dr. Sasakawa's ongoing contributions to the country. Sri Lanka has greatly benefited from The Nippon Foundation's support, with numerous Sri Lankan maritime professionals receiving Sasakawa Fellowships to pursue

advanced education at the World Maritime University (WMU). These fellows have since taken on significant roles within Sri Lanka's maritime sector, contributing to its growth and enhancing its global reputation. Dr. Sasakawa's commitment to maritime education and his support for Sri Lankan professionals have created a lasting impact, strengthening the maritime sector both locally and internationally.

The meeting concluded with a group photograph and the presentation of a memento to Dr. Sasakawa as a token of gratitude and respect for his visit. Additionally, in honor of the esteemed Dr. Sasakawa's visit, we, the Sasakawa Fellows, proudly established The Friends WMU, Japan-Sri Lanka Chapter on the same day, marking a significant milestone in our shared commitment to maritime excellence and collaboration.

## Indonesia



**Capt. Antoni Arif Priadi**  
(Indonesia, 2006)



Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of "Friends of WMU", Japan invited WMU-Indonesia Fellow in the morning at the Kempinski Hotel Jakarta which was attended by 23 Fellow WMU-Indonesia from various regions in Indonesia on February 26, 2023.

The Director General of Sea Transportation and graduate from MET Class 2017, gave a speech that words would never be enough to express sincere gratitude for being one of Sasakawa's fellows. Since studies in Malmö until now, most of the graduates of Fellow WMU-Indonesia have made many positive contributions in involvement in the maritime sector, both in government, ports, shipping companies, and other related industries.

To Sasakawa, highly appreciate and hopes that The Nippon Foundation will continue to support more students to study maritime, especially for Indonesian students and perhaps other short training can also take place with the support of The Nippon Foundation.

Each fellow introduced themselves and informed their respective positions and duties.

Mr. Yohei expressed his gratitude to everyone who had gathered this morning. It was great to see everyone in good health and very happy with his presence, especially since it is winter in Japan so he felt comfortable

here because the weather was sunny.

According to Yohei, WMU has developed into the largest university that can make the world proud. WMU has gained national recognition and thanks to the hard work of WMU-Indonesia Fellows during their studies at WMU. So pleased feel proud to have graduated from WMU.

Currently, marine transportation as an industry has become the spotlight in many countries around the world and in Indonesia he feels that there are various problems related to the sea. Over time, Indonesia has gained a big voice in the world when talking about the world's oceans.

Regularly there are high officials in the maritime security sector gather regularly and at the same time the Nippon Foundation takes over the world leadership when it comes to the United Nations comparing the oceans.

In this sector Yohei is sure that there will be various rules and regulations that will be made at IMO and the people who have to make these rules are WMU graduates.

Thus the brief meeting on the sidelines of the visit to Indonesia at the invitation of President Prabowo for two days, ended with the giving of souvenirs from the WMU-Indonesia Fellows and a Group Photo with Mr. Yohei Sasakawa.

# Beach Clean-up at Kasai Marine Park in Tokyo



**Elnaz Barjandi**

Programme and Operations Manager,  
WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute



On 15 March 2025, the World Maritime University (WMU) - Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (<http://wmu.se/goi>) proudly participated in a meaningful beach clean-up at Kasai Marine Park, alongside Friends of WMU, Japan. Co-organized with the WMU Japanese Fellows' Alumni Association and supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and The Nippon Foundation, the event brought together WMU alumni, representatives from partner organizations, and members of the Thalassa Foundation. Set against the backdrop of the 12th Annual Economist



Impact World Ocean Summit and Expo (<https://events.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/>), the clean-up served as a powerful reminder of our shared responsibility to protect marine biodiversity. Together, participants collected over 20 bags of waste - close to 1000 litres - from the grounds and shores of Kasai Marine Park, a vital

habitat for diverse coastal species in Tokyo Bay.

Professor Ronán Long, Director of WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute, highlighted the importance of collective action, emphasizing how simple acts—like cleaning a beach—can ignite wider community engagement and advance the goals of a sustainable ocean economy.

The event was a moment of environmental action and giving back to the coastal community, as well as one of solidarity with the WMU network in Japan. It underscored the strong and ongoing collaboration between the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute and the Friends of WMU, Japan, aligning with the commitment of The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to ocean stewardship including research and capacity development programmes such as The Nippon Foundation and WMU-GOI Future Ocean Programme. More information about the programme and activity can be accessed here: <https://futureocean.wmu.se/2025/03/27/the-economist-12th-annual-world-ocean-summit-expo/>



## Your Immediate Response Is Needed: Printed Newsletter Distribution Ending Soon!

In light of ongoing changes in global postal services and our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are **shifting to primarily digital distribution** of our newsletters.

If you still wish to continue receiving a printed version by mail, **it is absolutely essential that you notify us as soon as possible**. Without your confirmation, we will not be able to include you in future postal mailings.

### Important Timeline:

We will continue announcing this message only until the **September 2025 issue**. Printed newsletters will be **discontinued starting December 2025**, and **no printed copies will be sent after that date** unless we hear from you.

Your response is crucial in helping us determine the number of printed copies needed during this final phase.

**Please don't delay—email us now at -> [wmu-japan@spf.or.jp](mailto:wmu-japan@spf.or.jp)**

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this important transition.



## Editor's note

We're delighted to bring you the 91st issue of the WMU Newsletter!

Time seems to be flying by—can you believe we're already halfway through the year? As the seasons change, so does our ever-growing community. It's been truly wonderful to welcome new members into our circle, each bringing fresh perspectives and energy. Seeing our network steadily grow has brought real joy to all of us.

As we mentioned in our December edition (Issue No. 89), we've unveiled our brand-new logo, which we're proud to call the symbol of our spirit. Along with it, we've created special logo badges for everyone to wear. I've already pinned mine to my jacket—it may be small, but it carries great meaning. How about you? Have you added yours yet? We hope to see more of these badges proudly displayed at events and gatherings!

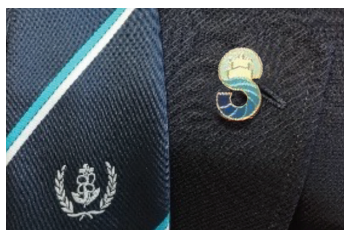
At the heart of the new logo is the letter 'S'—a key to many things: our shared identity, our solidarity, and of course, the Seven Seas that link us all. It represents the vibrant, global connections we cherish so deeply. We're genuinely looking forward to hearing more stories and updates

from our members across the world, and to seeing how your activities echo across oceans and reach the WMU headquarters with energy and inspiration.

June 25 is also the Day of Seafarer. We express our gratitude to seafarers—our colleagues—for their contributions to international maritime trade, the global economy, and civil society, and we acknowledge the sacrifices they make, spending long stretches at sea, far from family and friends, in dedication to their profession.

Cheers to Our New Logo Badge!

Let's Wear It Together!



**Dr. Koji Murai**  
Tokyo University of  
Marine Science and Technology



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Ms. Yasko Suzuki, Mr. Takuya Adachi, Mr. Eisuke Kudo and Ms. Sue Jackson.

Friends of WMU, Japan Secretariat, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation  
The Sasakawa Peace Foundation Bldg., 1-15-16 Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8524 Japan  
Tel: +81-(0)3-5157-5210 Fax: +81-(0)3-5157-5230 URL: <http://www.spf.org/en/>

