



Antigua 2025: Fellows Reconnected — Strengthening Collaboration Across the LAC Region —

A regional network meeting of 23 Sasakawa Fellows—representing 16 Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, along with one Fellow from Japan—was held in Antigua and Barbuda from 18 to 21 October 2025. This was the sixth regional meeting since the World Maritime University (WMU) Sasakawa Fellows' Network Meeting in Tunisia in August 2022, and notably the first to take place in the LAC region, reflecting the growing number of Fellows in this part of the world.

The main objectives of the gathering were to provide an opportunity for Fellows in the region to discuss how the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network can be further strengthened as a future-oriented platform, to exchange the latest information on maritime and ocean affairs, and to explore potential solutions to the challenges faced by their respective countries.

The following provides a chronological overview of how the meeting unfolded.

Preparatory Meeting (Saturday, 18 October, Late Afternoon)

Although some Fellows were unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances just before the meeting, and others faced last-minute flight cancellations that delayed their arrival, a total of 20 Fellows were ultimately able to join the first day. Following greeting remarks by Mr. Eisuke Kudo of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), the Secretariat provided an overview of the meeting's objectives and schedule, after which each Fellow briefly introduced themselves.

Mr. Kudo appointed Mr. Jesus Menacho as Chairperson, and Mr. Menacho in turn appointed Ms. Daniela Andrade and Ms. Carolyn

Graham as Vice-Chairs for the plenary session. It was agreed that the chairs for each working group session on Day 2 and Day 3—where various maritime issues would be discussed—would be selected by the group members themselves.

Following the orientation session, participants enjoyed a warm and lively welcome dinner at the hotel restaurant. Guests from Antigua and Barbuda, including representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS), the government agency that provided tremendous support in making this meeting possible, the Coast Guard, the Fisheries Department, and the University of the West Indies, also joined the dinner. The evening was made especially festive by a performance from a local pannist.

Day 1 (Sunday, 19 October) – Maritime and Ocean Review of Each Country

The session, which began at 8:30 a.m., proved to be highly substantial in both time and content. Following Mr. Kudo's opening remarks, a Brazilian Fellow Ms. Sandra Rita Allnutt currently serving at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID) delivered a special presentation titled "Developments in IMO-related International Conventions." Her presentation covered global maritime governance and recent developments, regional context and implementation challenges, and strategic pathways and technical cooperation. This insightful overview from an international regulatory perspective effectively set the tone for the day's discussions.



Building on this foundation, representatives from each country delivered 15-minute presentations on their maritime administrative structures, ocean-related policies—including the Ocean and Maritime-Related Government Functions and the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy—and the key challenges their countries face. They also outlined major initiatives currently underway and shared perspectives on their respective roles in advancing maritime governance. Each presentation was followed by a five-minute Q&A session, allowing for vibrant exchanges among the participants.

During the lunch break, a luncheon session was led by Dr. Devon Dublin from the Division of Island Nations at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI). Dr. Dublin provided an overview of the division's current projects and shared its future vision, offering meaningful perspectives on OPRI's ongoing work in island nations. This was followed by an engaging discussion with participants on potential avenues for collaboration between OPRI and the WMU Sasakawa Fellows in the LAC region.

Presentations by each country continued throughout the afternoon, and the day's meeting concluded at 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, Fellows enjoyed their free time at the hotel in Antigua and Barbuda, which offered expansive grounds, multiple restaurants and bars, swimming pools, tennis courts, a mini-golf course, and various other facilities. Participants made the most of the relaxing environment, and even Fellows meeting for the first time quickly formed new friendships.

Day 2 (Monday, 20 October) – Working Group Discussions



Participants were divided into four working groups according to the following themes:

1. Maritime Law Enforcement
2. Marine Environmental Protection
3. Shipping and Logistics
4. Human Resource Development

Each group selected specific subtopics and engaged in active and focused discussions aimed at identifying challenges and exploring potential solutions for the future.

After the 10:00 a.m. coffee break, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chair of Friends of WMU, Japan and Honorary Chairman of The Nippon Foundation (NF), took time out of his packed schedule—despite being in the midst of an intensive visit to the United States and other

countries—to make a special appearance at the meeting. The Fellows welcomed him with great joy and a hint of nervousness as they introduced themselves one by one, describing how profoundly their studies at WMU had influenced their careers and lives.

Mr. Sasakawa then delivered warm words of appreciation and encouragement. He noted that over the past 50 years, more than 1,800 students from across the globe have studied in the maritime and ocean fields through NF's scholarship programme, and he expressed his delight that the graduates have continued to build and strengthen their network. He emphasised that the Foundation's aim has never been simply to provide scholarships, but to cultivate lasting relationships with Fellows long after their graduation — an effort the Foundation has consistently prioritised.

He then underscored the major global challenges surrounding ocean issues, many of which are directly connected to the work of the Fellows. To address environmental concerns, NF is engaged in initiatives such as the development of hydrogen-powered vessels and autonomous ships, as well as efforts to create detailed seafloor maps—an undertaking expected to help advance the understanding of climate change.



Following Mr. Sasakawa's visit, the participants reconvened in the afternoon for further group discussions. Building on the insights shared in the IMO presentation on Day 1, as well as the diverse maritime and ocean

contexts shared by each country, the Fellows engaged in active dialogue on how to collectively tackle common challenges across the region. The discussions also explored how the WMU Sasakawa Network could be leveraged to foster collaboration, enhance capacity, and support problem-solving efforts within the maritime community. The session was highly interactive and further demonstrated the strong potential of the network to contribute to regional and global maritime development.

Day 3 (Tuesday, 21 October) – Presentation of Group Outcomes and Networking Discussions

In the morning, representatives from the four working groups presented the outcomes of their respective discussions. This was followed by an exchange of ideas on how the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' network in the LAC region could be further developed and utilised in the years ahead.



In the afternoon, participants who wished to join took part in an optional tour to downtown Antigua by bus.



Everyone reconvened in the conference room at 6:00 p.m. to adopt the Declaration of the WMU Sasakawa Fellows from Latin America and the Caribbean (Antigua Declaration), after which each participant signed the document.



A farewell dinner was held in the evening, honouring the participation of H.E. Ambassador Dwight C. R. Gardiner, Director/Registrar-General of ADOMS

As the Fellows were scheduled to depart for their respective countries the following day, many stayed late into the night at

the bar after dinner, enjoying each other's company and bidding heartfelt farewells.

The contents presented during this meeting, along with related discussions, will be compiled by the Secretariat into a formal report later this fiscal year and published on our website. We will announce the publication on Facebook and LinkedIn once the report is available.



Jace Eric SPENCER (Antigua and Barbuda, 2022)

The WMU Sasakawa Latin America and Caribbean Regional Network Meeting was a truly enriching experience that brought back fond memories of my time at WMU. It was a pleasure reconnecting with familiar faces and meeting new alumni from across the region. The conversations and presentations shared throughout the event significantly broadened my understanding—both within the maritime sector and in general knowledge.

I am deeply grateful to The Nippon Foundation for granting us the invaluable opportunity to attend WMU and for enabling the creation of this regional network, which continues to foster collaboration, learning, and professional growth.

Jasmine Deneen Bellini (Belize, 2024)

I was very excited to be chosen as one of the participants for the first Latin America and Caribbean Network meeting with my regional Sasakawa fellows. I don't know when I would again have the opportunity to be among colleagues with whom I share so much cultural and historical heritage. The enthusiasm and passion to create and maintain this connection make me even more excited to be part of a network that will inspire and support many more fellows from our region in the years to come.

Daniela Jimena Andrade Tamayo (Ecuador, 2023)

The Latin America and Caribbean Sasakawa Fellows Network regional meeting, in Antigua from 18 to 21 October 2023, brought together Fellows from across the region to reconnect, reflect on shared experiences, and strengthen collective action in ocean governance. The event reaffirmed the core identity of the Sasakawa Fellowship Program, not simply as a professional network, but as a family united by shared learning, collaboration, and a lasting commitment to the stewardship of our oceans.

One of the most meaningful moments of the meeting was the opportunity to meet and greet Dr. Yohei Sasakawa. His presence was an inspiration, reminding us of the vision and dedication that made the Fellowship Program possible.

A key outcome of the meeting was the drafting of the Antigua Declaration of the Latin America and Caribbean Sasakawa Fellows Network. This collective document expresses the shared values, commitments, and aspirations of the Network. It reaffirms our regional identity and outlines strategic priorities for joint action, capacity-building, and collaboration with national and international maritime stakeholders.

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, as it strengthened both professional collaboration and personal bonds among Fellows.

Jose Miguel Jaramillo Mendoza (Ecuador, 2024)

The Regional Meeting of Sasakawa Fellows from Latin America and the Caribbean achieved more than its original purpose. As a new Fellow, it was inspiring to meet colleagues who have realized amazing professional goals, some starting their careers at WMU decades ago. Their success provides a tangible path for the next generation. This gathering allowed me to look into the future and see the professional achievements I can strive for, guided by the exemplary careers of these Friends of Sasakawa.

Carolyn Annmarie Elizabeth Graham (Jamaica, 2008)

It was an honour and privilege for me to attend the LAC Sasakawa Fellows meeting and to be invited to co-chair. I thoroughly enjoyed the networking and getting to know the fellows, while learning about the maritime challenges and opportunities in the region. I was especially grateful to have got another opportunity to see Mr. Sasakawa, Mr. Kudo and meet the amazing staff. Being a Sasakawa Fellow is the gift that keeps on giving.

Jesus A. Menacho Pierola (Peru, 2010)

I had the honour of chairing the First WMU Sasakawa Fellows Regional Network Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean region, held from 18 to 21 October 2025 in Antigua and Barbuda. 22 Fellows from 16 countries, plus one from Japan, gathered and adopted the Antigua Declaration and committed to strengthening regional cooperation, professional networks, and collaborative governance. We also had the privilege of engaging with Mr Yohei Sasakawa and learning from his leadership and generosity. I am grateful to Friends of WMU, Japan and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for hosting this meaningful event. Most importantly, we reconnected, shared experiences, and renewed our maritime community spirit.

Yuki Morimasa (Japan, 2017)

As a participant from Japan, I truly appreciated the opportunity to meet and connect with many Fellows from across the region. The meeting also allowed me to learn more about the maritime administrations in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the unique challenges they face. This experience reminded me of the strong bond within the Sasakawa Fellowship community. I hope we can continue to keep in touch, and I look forward to staying connected from Japan.

Working Group 3 (Shipping and Logistics)

Brandon Ralph Potter (Antigua and Barbuda, 2024), Santiago Juan Geymonat (Argentina, 2019), Katina Alicia Benn (Guyana, 2020), Fernando Bustamante Igartua (Mexico, 2004), Diana Arielle Virginia Henry (Trinidad and Tobago, 2015), Francesco Leonardo Castiglione Escontrela (Venezuela, 2023)

Being a Sasakawa Fellow reminds us that impact is born from togetherness. The word “ohana” in Hawaiian means family, while in Japanese it also means “flower”, a symbol of growth and beauty. From this, we draw on “ohanashi”, a Japanese word for “story”, to frame the narrative we created together, shaped by collective experience and love for our region’s oceans and seas.

This 1st regional WMU Sasakawa Fellows Network Meeting revealed that while each of our countries faced different challenges, they were also deeply interconnected. Through dialogue, collaboration and trust, fragmented perspectives became a shared vision, inspiring the idea of a knowledge platform — one we hope will become part of our collective “ohanashi” and ongoing commitment to sustainable regional progress. We are grateful to all those who made this possible.

Acknowledgements



We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) for their understanding, support, and unwavering cooperation in making this meeting possible.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to Mr. Jesus A. Menacho Pierola for his dedicated efforts and invaluable contributions in ensuring the success of this event.

Attendees at the Regional Meeting (*alphabetical by country and graduation year; honorifics omitted*)

Jace Eric Spencer (Antigua & Barbuda, 2022), Xavier Stephen

Roger Perry (Antigua & Barbuda, 2023), Brandon Ralph Potter (Antigua & Barbuda, 2024), Santiago Juan Geymonat (Argentina, 2019), Jasmine Deneen Bellini (Belize, 2024), Sandra Rita Allnutt (Brazil, 1999) Debora Cristina Ferrari Ramalho (Brazil, 2022), Daniela Jimena Andrade Tamayo (Ecuador, 2023), Jose Miguel Jaramillo Mendoza (Ecuador, 2024), Katina Alicia Benn (Guyana, 2020), Michaelle Pierre (Haiti, 2014), Paul Wayne Wright (Jamaica, 2006), Carolyn Annmarie Elizabeth Graham (Jamaica, 2008), Abigail Yanique Bryan (Jamaica, 2017), Fernando Bustamante Igartua (Mexico, 2004), Gustavo Adolfo Mejia Jovane (Panama, 2018), Jesus Antonio Menacho Pierola (Peru, 2010), Eduardo Zamora Chung (Peru, 2018), Thema Jamila Ward (St Kitts & Nevis, 2019), Kevin Antonio Providence (St Vincent & the Grenadines, 2023), Diana Arielle Virginia Henry (Trinidad & Tobago, 2015), Francesco Leonardo Castiglione Escontrela (Venezuela, 2023), Yuki Morimasa (Japan, 2017)

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) WMU Sasakawa Fellows: Sasakawa Ambassadors in the LAC Region



Dr. Devon Dublin

Research Fellow,
Division of Island Nations
Ocean Policy Research Institute
Sasakawa Peace Foundation

When I started traveling to the Caribbean on behalf of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), I am often asked the question, “What has your Foundation done so far in the region?”. My answer always begins with the WMU Sasakawa Fellows where the first recipient of the WMU Sasakawa scholarship from LAC dates to 1996. On every trip I made to the Caribbean, I always seek out the WMU Sasakawa Fellows to hear their views on issues I am investigating which I always find insightful and unique.

The exchanges with the LAC Fellows in Antigua and Barbuda in October 2025 at the LAC WMU Sasakawa Fellows meeting was indeed a useful sequence to my previous interactions with them which culminated in a lunch meeting on Day 1. While I shared information



on the work of the SPF in the LAC Region, we explored how WMU Sasakawa Fellows can be gainfully engaged in the work we do in the LAC Region. It was noted that WMU Sasakawa Fellows are permanent ambassadors always highlighting the role of the SPF in their professional journey and can be instrumental in facilitating connection with critical stakeholders and building trust between the SPF and the LAC Region.



“One World, One Family”: Highlights from the 2025 Sasakawa Fellows Gathering Orientation



Supranee (Mook) Wattanapongsakul
(Thailand, 2025)

The 2025 Sasakawa Fellows Gathering Orientation brought together 61 Fellows from the Classes of 2025 and 2026 for an afternoon that moved from formal welcome to spirited song and ended with a roomful of new connections. We began with a group photo outside the WMU building before taking our seats in the Sasakawa Auditorium, a convivial reception at the Bistro later in the evening provided time and space for everyone to meet across cohorts.

Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Senior Advisor at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), opened by congratulating the cohorts and underscoring how the Fellowship makes a tangible contribution to the global maritime community. His message framed the day as a starting point for relationships that last long after Malmö, relationships among Fellows and their families that carry forward the program's ethos of service.

Ms. Emi Shimada then offered an overview of the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program. Established in 1987, it pursues two enduring goals: developing leaders in maritime and ocean fields and expanding multilateral, inter-organizational networks among graduates. To date, 843 Fellows from 89 countries have been supported. She also noted the recent leadership transition at The Nippon Foundation, with Mr. Takeju Ogata now serving as Chairman and Mr. Yohei Sasakawa as Honorary Chairman. Ms. Shimada highlighted networking tools: the Friends of WMU-Japan newsletter, regional alumni meetings, and the online Fellows Directory, and encouraged everyone to keep profiles current so opportunities and collaborations can find us.

We next heard from Ms. Anete Logina (WMU Office of the President, Latvia 2009), who described how the Fellowship “opened the door” to a career bridging administration, international representation, and academia. Her reminder resonated: treat the Fellowship as a moral loan, repaid through professional excellence and service to others.

Representatives from each specialization then shared brisk snapshots to help the S26 cohort choose their paths. Maritime Education and Training outlined how educators are prepared to design curricula, lead institutions, and align with global standards such as STCW. Maritime Energy Management focused on the low-carbon transition from EEDI/EEXI/CII to alternative fuels and port energy systems. Maritime Safety & Environmental Administration framed the administration toolbox within the IMO system and addressed the safety implications of digitalization and new fuels. Maritime Law & Policy linked law to practice, UNCLOS/jurisdiction, IMO implementation, and liability regimes, with emphasis on interpretation and drafting. Ocean Sustainability, Governance & Management emphasized

integrated governance and field studies that link classroom learning with real-world practice. Shipping Management & Logistics and Port Management showcased the business, finance, operations, and technology that underpin competitive shipping and resilient, future-ready ports.

After round-the-room self-introductions, we shifted to a practical conversation about strengthening the Sasakawa Fellows Network. Several concrete ideas emerged: establish a cadence of short virtual meet-ups between regional gatherings, complement the online Directory with a moderated forum for ongoing exchange, support national or regional chapters that feed into the global network, and expand mentoring and outreach so prospective Fellows in under-represented regions hear about the opportunity. The common thread was continuity, turning a one-day orientation into an active, year-round community.

The reception at the World Bistro distilled the day's spirit into a warm sequence that made everyone feel at home. Cecilia Nuñez Ferri (Argentina, 2026) opened with gracious remarks that set an inviting tone and encouraged conversations across cohorts. Two Class of 2025 classmates then shared reflections from the Japan Field Study, vivid snapshots of efficient port operations, model-basin demonstrations, and cultural encounters, underscoring how the trip deepened both technical insight and a sense of shared purpose. The S25 choir led the “WMU Song”, and voices from every table joined in, a tradition that instantly bridged classes. Bismark Acheampong (Ghana, 2025) closed the student remarks by tying those experiences to service, citing the humility and resolve exemplified by Honorary Chairman Yohei Sasakawa as a compass for how Fellows should contribute to the maritime world.

Finally, President Maximo Q. Mejía, Jr. offered a series of toasts, first to the S25 singers, then to the incoming S26 cohort, and finally to Honorary Chairman Sasakawa, calling the Sasakawa network a “unique global network” sustained by inclusion and mutual support. His reminder that among Sasakawa Fellows there is “no ranking and no discrimination” landed as both celebration and charge.

By evening's end, the program's intent felt fully realized: a relaxed space to get to know one another, clarity on what each specialization offers, and a shared commitment to keep the network active, inclusive, and useful. The choreography of the day, from formal presentations to the convivial Bistro sequence, made the message unmistakable: we achieve the most when we stay connected, support one another, and sustain the traditions that reinforce our common purpose.



Class of 2026 WMU Sasa



Albertina Khelly de Fatima Solo

Legal assistant, National Maritime Agency of Angola (AMN)

I hope to be taken this experience as a mechanism of growth, because I am still young and I have the ambition to be the best that I can be as a woman in Maritime.

I want to keep working with Sasakawa no matter where I will be and I want to share to everyone how good this fellowship is doing to me, I would not be here if it wasn't for this fellowship.

I am eternally greatfull for everything.

ありがとうございました Thank you so much.

Angola

MLP



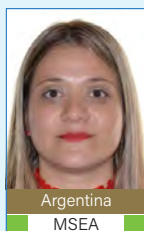
Trish Dorren Lake

Acting Executive Officer, Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

My intent is to graduate from the WMU with the knowledge and skills to make a meaningful impact in the field of ocean sustainability and governance both in my country and the wider region. I also intend to use this opportunity to network with my peers as well as other fellows so that I have a greater pool of knowledge and skills to draw from and contribute to.

Antigua and Barbuda

OSGM



Cecilia Elizabeth Nunez Ferri

Lieutenat Junior Grade,
Argentinian Coast Guard (Prefectura Naval Argentina)

As a Sasakawa Fellow, I aspire to strengthen my expertise in maritime safety and environmental protection and maritime safety, applying this knowledge to enhance Argentina's maritime governance. I aim to foster international cooperation, promote sustainable practices, and inspire greater gender inclusion within the maritime sector through leadership and commitment to institutional excellence.

Argentina

MSEA



Sena Maria Price

OPV Commanding Officer, Barbados Coast Guard

As a Sasakawa Fellow at WMU, I hope to build meaningful international connections and engage in intellectual and cultural exchanges which foster appreciation and respect for various perspectives on global and regional agendas. I will continue to strive to be an active steward of ocean & maritime governance through participation in research and volunteerism.

Barbados

MSEA



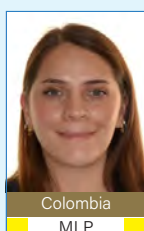
Ryan Rolando Silva

Registration Officer,
International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

As a fellowship recipient, I'm thrilled to be apart of this exceptional cohort. I intend to forge long-term relationships, exchanging information and insights whether personal or professional. I aim to establish myself in the industry and become a suitable ambassador for Belize, contributing meaningfully to our shared future.

Belize

MLP



Natalia del Pilar Suarez Trivino

International Affairs Advisor, Maritime Authority of Colombia

As the first Colombian woman Sasakawa Fellow at WMU, I aspire to strengthen my leadership in maritime governance, promote gender equity, and inspire more women to pursue careers in the maritime sector, while fostering international collaboration and contributing to sustainable solutions for emerging maritime challenges.

Colombia

MLP



Kleber Oswaldo Guerra Jacome

Head of the Seafarers and Fishiers Department,
Ecuadorian Maritime Administration

As a Sasakawa Fellow, I aspire to advance global maritime education standards, foster safety and sustainability at sea, and become a transformative leader who empowers future generations through inclusive, high-quality training and international collaboration.

Ecuador

MET



Mustapha Ceesay

Marine Engineer, Gambia Ports Authority

As a Sasakawa Fellow, I aspire to champion sustainable maritime energy solutions by integrating green technologies into The Gambia's port operations. Through collaboration within the Fellows' network, I aim to share knowledge, build capacity in developing nations, and advance Dr. Sasakawa's vision of cleaner, safer, and more sustainable seas.

Gambia

MEM



Nikhil Chawla

Operations Officer, Indian Coast Guard

Drawing on 13 years with the Indian Coast Guard, I have witnessed our oceans' interconnected challenges. As a Sasakawa Fellow at WMU, I aim to deepen my expertise in maritime safety, environmental protection, and global governance. I am committed to leveraging this knowledge to foster international collaboration for safer and more sustainable oceans worldwide.

India

MLP



Putu Ayu Damayanti

Learning Technology Developer, Merchant Marine Polytechnic of Makassar, Ministry of Transportation

As a Sasakawa Fellow, I aspire to deepen my understanding of maritime law and policy, developed practical skill, and contribute to maritime development in Indonesia through education by applying international knowledge and collaboration among another fellow in WMU.

Indonesia

MLP



Hanae Yoshida

Officer, Japan Coast Guard

I look forward to this exciting and irreplaceable journey, where I can obtain the latest information on current issues and explore with colleagues from all over the world with diverse backgrounds what we can do now to leave our beautiful and bountiful oceans for future generations.

Japan

MSEA



Naoyuki Akiyama

Special Assistant to the Director,
International Planning and Coordination Office,
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

I want to learn many things including international awareness, and actively contribute at the forefront of Japan's delegation at international conferences such as IMO. It's very reassuring to have fellow students from around the world learning together with me.

Japan

MSEA



Caroline Kalundu Kioko

Senior Office Administrator,
Maritime Education Training and Labour, Kenya Maritime Authority

As a Sasakawa Fellow at WMU, I seek to deepen my expertise in maritime governance to support Kenya's maritime administration. I aim to return prepared to strengthen policy, build capacity, and advance a safer and more sustainable maritime sector through research and collaboration.

Kenya

MLP



Mustafa Mwalimu Bwana Yassin

Principal Shipping and Maritime Officer, Technical department
(Maritime Affairs), State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs

To learn about how Maritime Education and training can be used to unlock the various maritime opportunities available in the sector especially seafaring.

Kenya

MET



Barinjaka Henintsoa Randriamilandy

Statistic Data Operator,
Agence Portuaire Maritime et Fluviale (Madagascar)

I aspire to promote sustainable port development and blue economy initiatives through the knowledge gained at WMU, dedicating my career to creating a meaningful and sustainable future for our children. Educate or inspire them about the importance of the sea in the global economy and its vital role in humanity's future.

Madagascar

MEM



Pinkina Phambala

Surveyor of Vessels,
Ministry of Transport and Public Works (Malawi Government).

As a Sasakawa fellow at WMU, I inspire to enhance my knowledge in global Maritime issues and develop leadership skills that will enable me to contribute to the development of sustainable maritime policies and practices. I look to networking with Sasakawa Alumni and other professionals to advance my career.

Malawi

MLP

Sasakawa Fellowship Students

 <p>Varsha Mehendi Ramlaul Dookooa Maritime Officer, Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries</p> <p>I am very proud and honoured to be the first recipient from Mauritius, sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. This opportunity inspires me to contribute meaningfully to maritime development and to uphold the Sasakawa spirit of leadership, collaboration, and service within the global maritime community.</p> <p>Mauritius MSEA</p>	 <p>Grace Babylove Wuyata Allen Administrative Officer, Administrative Department Sierra Leone Maritime Administration</p> <p>As a Sasakawa Fellow at WMU, I aim to grow as a leader advancing the global maritime sector. I will deepen my knowledge, expand skills, and research key issues such as safety, sustainability, and ocean governance. This fellowship will strengthen my ability to influence policy, drive innovation, and support maritime development in Sierra Leone and beyond.</p> <p>Sierra Leone MLP</p>
 <p>David Alejandro Cruz Luis Lieutenant, Mexican Navy</p> <p>As a Sasakawa Fellow, I aim to strengthen Mexico's maritime governance and sustainable ocean policy while promoting IMO goals. I see the Fellowship as an inspiring platform to exchange experiences reciprocally and connect globally, fostering cooperation and shared commitment to achieving a safer, greener, and more sustainable maritime future.</p> <p>Mexico MLP</p>	 <p>Kasuni Madhushani Perera Hettige Assistant Manager, Ceylon Shipping Corporation</p> <p>As a developing country this opportunity is greatly benefit for Sri Lanka. For me becoming a Sasakawa Fellow which is the best fellowship at WMU is the best opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and skills essential for contributing to the sustainable growth of our nation's maritime sector.</p> <p>Sri Lanka SML</p>
 <p>Erkhesh Tursaikhan Officer in Charge of International Treaties and Law, Mongolia Maritime Administration</p> <p>As a Sasakawa Fellow, studying at WMU gives me the chance to learn from global maritime experts and share experiences with peers worldwide. I aim to apply this knowledge to improve Mongolia's compliance with IMO conventions and strengthen our country's role in international maritime cooperation.</p> <p>Mongolia MLP</p>	 <p>Chanaka Sampath Don Sieman Kankanamge Junior Manager, Sri Lanka Ports Authority</p> <p>My goal is to serve my country by utilizing the knowledge and skills acquired at WMU to promote its development, while emphasizing the crucial support provided by the Nippon Foundation for my education.</p> <p>Sri Lanka PM</p>
 <p>Ouejdane Chouaf Senior Engineer, First Grade Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forest Kingdom of Morocco</p> <p>As a second-time Sasakawa Fellow, I aspire to build on the knowledge gained from my DOALOS fellowship and WMU studies to further advance my professional career, represent my country in international organizations, and actively contribute to global initiatives promoting effective ocean governance and the sustainable management of marine resources.</p> <p>Morocco OSGM</p>	 <p>Deszon Shomari Andrews Leading Seaman, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coast Guard Service</p> <p>As a Sasakawa fellow upon entering WMU I aspire to enhance my knowledge in Maritime safety and Environmental Administration to improve maritime policy and help drive sustainability in order to tackle maritime issues face today in my country, region and to also contribute internationally in the maritime sector through cooperation.</p> <p>St. Vincent and the Grenadines MSEA</p>
 <p>Jacob Digo Kapiti Assistance Lecturer, University of Namibia</p> <p>My aspiration is to excel academically and personally by making full use resources and opportunity provided by WMU and Sasakawa Fellowship. Furthermore, I am committed to actively contributing to a vibrant and diverse community of WMU.</p> <p>Namibia MET</p>	 <p>Emmanuel Prosper Mallya Civil Engineer, Ministry of Transport</p> <p>As a Sasakawa Fellow specializing in Port Management, I aspire to enhance port efficiency, sustainability, and digital transformation, contributing to safer, greener, and more resilient global maritime logistics through innovation and leadership.</p> <p>Tanzania PM</p>
 <p>Alice Laulau Daniel Monitoring & Compliance Officer, National Maritime Safety Authority - PNG</p> <p>As a Sasakawa Fellow, I aspire to strengthen Papua New Guinea's maritime governance by promoting sustainable policies, practical compliance, and regional cooperation. I want to bridge international maritime law with local realities to protect our oceans, support sustainable development, and help shape a more responsible maritime future.</p> <p>Papua New Guinea MLP</p>	 <p>Krisanapong Tabchan Scientist, Marine Department</p> <p>I would like to take the opportunity of studying at WMU through the Sasakawa Fellowship network to strengthen regional connections and cooperation. As there is a high possibility that we will work together frequently in the future, building closer relationships will be highly beneficial in driving progress more efficiently and in unity of us.</p> <p>Thailand OSGM</p>
 <p>Ella Mae Lescano Lieutenant, Philippine Coast Guard</p> <p>With the profound knowledge and education that I will be earning in WMU through the gracious support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, I aspire to be one of the drivers of change from my country to help ensure that our shared ocean remains safe, secure, clean and sustainable.</p> <p>Philippines OSGM</p>	 <p>Thanh Tuan Vo Official, Viet Nam Maritime and Waterways Administration</p> <p>I wish to learn from global maritime leaders, apply gained knowledge to improve Vietnam's maritime governance, and contribute to the Sasakawa network's mission of building a safer and sustainable ocean community.</p> <p>Viet Nam MSEA</p>

 **MET** (Maritime Education & Training)

 **MEM** (Maritime Energy Management)

 **MLP** (Maritime Law & Policy)

 **MSEA** (Maritime Safety & Environmental Administration)

 **OSGM** (Ocean Sustainability, Governance & Management)

 **PM** (Port Management)

 **SML** (Shipping Management & Logistics)

NF Fellows Greet Dr. Sasakawa in London



Sandra Rita Allnutt
(Brazil, 1999)

On a crisp autumn morning, 18 September 2025, Sasakawa Fellows from WMU and IMLI based in the United Kingdom had the honour of meeting Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chairman of The Nippon Foundation. The breakfast gathering took place at The Chesterfield Mayfair, a charming venue in the heart of London.

Fellows from Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Iran, Japan, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Thailand and Türkiye attended the informal meeting, which offered a unique opportunity to hear directly from Dr. Sasakawa. He shared updates on The Nippon Foundation's initiatives, with a particular focus on ocean-related projects. One highlight was the Seabed 2030 Project, which aims to map 100% of the ocean floor by 2030, a critical step toward understanding and protecting our marine environment. Dr. Sasakawa remarked that humanity currently knows more about outer space than about the depths of our own oceans, underscoring



the urgency of ocean exploration. He also touched on the development of fully autonomous ships, a rapidly evolving area of maritime innovation, emphasizing their transformative potential for the future of shipping.

Following his remarks, each Fellow had the chance to share personal and professional journeys. It was inspiring to hear how WMU and IMLI graduates have advanced in their careers, with many attributing their success to the support of The Nippon Foundation. The meeting concluded with heartfelt expressions of gratitude to Dr. Sasakawa, whose lifelong dedication has made these opportunities possible.

Notice of Correction

We would like to inform our readers that an error appeared in Issue No. 92 of the *Friends of WMU, Japan Newsletter*, published in September of this year. On page 8, in the article titled "Notice of Chairman Succession at The Nippon Foundation," the name of the new Chairman was incorrectly stated.

The correct name of the new Chairman of The Nippon Foundation is Mr. Takeju Ogata.

We sincerely apologise for this mistake and hereby issue this correction.

In light of recent changes in global postal services and our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we will be switching to digital greeting cards from this year.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, postal delays and delivery issues have increased worldwide, and many of the cards we sent each year sadly never reached you and were returned to our office.

To avoid this and to reduce paper waste, we have decided to stop sending printed cards and will now share our annual greetings by email instead.

We hope you will enjoy receiving them, and all of us at the Secretariat truly look forward to sharing this new style of greeting with you.

Editor's note

We had the first snowfall in the season here in Japan. As these winds hit the mountain range running Niigata city today and a cold winter season has started north to south in the central Japan and rise over it, in Japan. According to research of a weather forecast they cool down, the moisture is condensed, and it falls company in 2016, Japan dominates top 3 the heaviest as snow. (This is known as "lake effect".) This results snowfall in the world among cities with over 100,000 in heavy snowfall in those areas, making them the people. Those towns are commonly located in the snowiest places in the world. This is why we call this place where they face the sea to the west and has area "snow country"!
longitudinal mountain range to the east. It is said that As the end of the year getting closer, outside weather when the cold northwest seasonal winds from Siberia is colder and darker, however our hearts are warmer blow towards Japan, they collect a large amount of and brighter. Have a peaceful holiday season and a moisture as they cross the warm surface of the Sea of Happy New Year!



Yasko Suzuki
(Japan, 2003)

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