

Interview with the IMO Secretary-General

Arsenio Dominguez



I. History

1. What did the ocean mean to you when you were an infant and a child? Please tell us about your nostalgic memories and formative experiences with the sea.

I grew up in Panama so the sea was always there. I was fascinated by the huge ships waiting in the bay before sailing through the Panama Canal – it is difficult not to be inspired to learn more about these majestic floating structures and what they are capable of.

2. What motivated you to pursue a career in the maritime industry? After majoring in naval architecture, you studied international law. What prompted you to do so?

The more I learned about the sector, my interest about shipping and trade grew taller when I realized just how important shipping is to the world. So, I wanted to be involved. I was fortunate to be able to study naval architecture in Mexico and put the expertise into practice first at a repair shipyard and later on at IMO. Throughout my career, I was always thirsty to learn more and thus I decided to pursue an MBA and study international law and politics – both in the United Kingdom, to be better prepared for the challenges and opportunities both at IMO and in the maritime sector.

3. How did you become involved with IMO and its activities? What was your occupation prior to joining IMO?

I became involved with IMO when I was working for the Panama Maritime Authority (PMA). I began attending meetings at IMO within the Panama delegation back in 1998. In the nearly 20 years I spent with the PMA, I went through several positions, culminating as Ambassador of Panama to IMO. I was honoured to be elected as Chair of several flagship IMO intergovernmental meetings, including: the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), the Technical Committee of the 29th Assembly, and the Maritime Security, Piracy and Armed Robbery Group, as well as a number of Vice-Chair and Board member roles.

In 2017 I joined the IMO Secretariat as an employee: as Chief of Staff, Director of Administrative and then Director of the Marine Environment Division. So, this has been great experience and I always had a clear idea of what this Organization should look like.

4. Could you please share some memories, such as the challenges you faced during your long-term involvement with IMO?

I can say that my 25 years of experience working in and for IMO prepared me for the future. I have always been impressed by the willingness of all States and stakeholders to work together and reach consensus – even when that is challenging as countries and stakeholders can have very different viewpoints to start with.

I can recall some late nights working to resolve differences – and great satisfaction when we get a good result for IMO and for shipping safety and for protection of the oceans and planet. From the discussion to protect shipping and seafarers during the height of piracy off the coast of Somalia to the extensive engagements regarding the progressive work of IMO in reducing GHG emissions from international shipping, including keeping the Organization working whilst the world was facing a global pandemic in 2020. I am not short of admiration from the way IMO and its Member States always raise to the challenges.

II. Appointment as the IMO Secretary General

1. What are your thoughts on the upcoming issues for the maritime community? Could you elaborate on the role that IMO and its member countries should play?

IMO has to continue with its core remit to ensure safe shipping; to ensure the safety of life at sea; to support efficient and secure shipping to keep global trade moving; and to protect the oceans and planet from any adverse impacts of shipping.

Current issues and challenges include, of course, the decarbonization of the shipping sector. We have a pathway in the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy and focus is on implementing that strategy as we strive to meet the 2030, 2040 and 2050 goals – towards net-zero emissions.

IMO must continue its other environmental protection work, including ongoing support to those countries that need it for implementation of measures such as pollution response, addressing biofouling; and the Hong Kong Convention on recycling of ships – which is going to enter into force in 2025.

Linked to the decarbonization transition, a key challenge is ensuring that seafarers are fully trained to operate smart ships and those using zero and near zero fuels. Alongside this, seafarers' wellbeing is paramount. The comprehensive review of seafarer training requirements in the STCW

Convention and Code is the focus of current work.

And geopolitical events are having an impact on shipping. Here I am thinking, of course, about attacks on international shipping into the Red Sea. I will continue to reiterate the need to ensure the safety of seafarers; to protect the freedom of navigation; and I will continue to call for de-escalation of tensions.

IMO has a key role to play in all these issues and more. IMO is the prime and global forum for maritime and shipping. The ability to bring all 175 Member States together in one forum is fundamental, to ensure that issues which impact shipping - which is global - are addressed universally and with all States and stakeholders involved in the conversation.

Above all, my personal goal is to raise the profile of the International Maritime Organization, ensuring that global shipping is represented enthusiastically; it must be relied upon to provide an expert opinion, and deal with developments whether crisis management or encouraging innovations.

My experience has proved to be an extremely useful training to enable me to demonstrate that IMO can be understood like never before, and to celebrate the amazing work of its talented staff, with the industry, all other stakeholders, as well as members of the public. In representing IMO, my last few weeks have been spent promoting our work via print, television and social media to bring into stark light the importance that shipping has on consumer goods and the global economy.

2. What kind of management do you think is desirable for IMO to continue to play an important role in protecting the marine environment, including climate change, and maritime safety?

We need committed management, with strong conviction about the ability of IMO as an Organization to move forward to support the maritime sector to confront and address the many challenges. An important aspect is to remain proactive and ambitious with our goals in all our areas of work, whilst addressing the concerns and recognizing the additional challenges that some countries may face, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and introducing the mechanisms and partnerships which will allow us to provide such support.

3. How was your relationship with WMU in the past? As 40 years have passed since WMU was founded, what are your expectations for the future?

I recall my first visit to WMU back in 1999, whilst visiting the region on holidays and I made Malmo a mandatory stop to visit the University. Sadly, I didn't seem to plan it very well and only managed to see the building from the outside! But it did not stop me from going back several times to lecture, attend the graduations and conferences and even becoming a member of the Board of Governors.

Here I would like to acknowledge the vision of the WMU founders, particularly IMO Secretary-General C.P. Srivastava who saw the need for a global maritime high-level educational institution - and made it happen. Of course, with the amazing support of Sweden and entities like



The Nippon Foundation which have stepped in to provide fellowships to students from all over the world and funding to ensure WMU goes from strength to strength.

I have no doubt that WMU will continue to grow and prosper. WMU expertise is feeding into the IMO regulatory process, through specific studies and research. WMU graduates are embedded in the maritime community all over the world. The WMU "brand" is well-known in the sector and I will do my bit to promote IMO and WMU.

III. Message to readers

1. What hobby do you enjoy the most? What is your favorite way to spend your free time? Do you have a specific relaxation method?

I enjoy salsa dancing and playing tennis which is my relaxation method! And believe it or not, skiing during the winter, probably unexpected from someone from the tropics.

2. Do you have a motto or favorite quote that you cherish?

You will never know what you can achieve if you do not try.

3. What is your expectation for WMU graduates?

As WMU graduates, you are in a privileged position: you have gained an amazing academic experience and technical knowledge. With this knowledge and experience, you will work for your countries and contribute to their growth and success, by ensuring compliance with IMO's standards. You have been incorporated into an alumni network which is spread all over the world and gives you links into all aspects of maritime affairs.

Those who have gone before you have gained high-level positions in maritime affairs, joined the IMO Secretariat and - my predecessor Kitack Lim - elected as Secretary-General of IMO. So, wherever you go with your knowledge, you can be sure that you are part of a great network.

4. Do you have any message to the readers of the Newsletter (Students and Alumni of WMU under the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program)?

Make the most of your experience and take it with you, wherever you go in your career.





The World Came to Me

Lyndell Lundahl

Assistant Registrar (Student Services) 1987~2024
WMU

When I joined WMU in 1987, it was such a young institution, just finding its feet after four years of operation. There was a lot of pioneering spirit in those early days. I joined the Student Services Office and quickly had to settle in, learning how best to help our students find their way in Sweden. The problem was, Sweden was very new to me as well! I think, however, that having faced the challenges of moving to Sweden from Australia helped me to understand some of the difficulties the students were facing, and we solved things together.

Although my work has always involved a lot of routine administrative duties, what made the job so very interesting was the opportunity to meet people from such a diversity of countries. I remember I had never even heard of Cape Verde before suddenly I met a student from that country! Many times I had to get out the world map to check and improve my knowledge of geography. It was fascinating to meet so many different nationalities and listen to their stories from home. Over the years I met thousands of students from well over 150 countries. I had no need to travel: the world came to me instead.



For many years, one of my tasks was to arrange a series of excursions for each class of students. We had a lot of fun on those bus trips, as I encouraged them to sing songs from their countries and I occasionally taught them songs from Sweden. Many graduates will remember travelling to the countryside on Midsummer's Eve, dancing around the maypole and singing what I called "The Frog Song" – in Swedish "Små Grodorna". My family usually joined those midsummer excursions and my daughters still have warm memories of the picnics we had with the students. That two small Swedish girls had the chance to meet such an international group of students was wonderful.

My involvement in the Graduation ceremony became more intensive after I joined the Registry department in 1995. For example, I was asked to teach the choir the University song each year. Although I have sung in choirs all my life, this was the first time I needed to teach a song. As always, however, the students' cooperation was just great and we had so much fun at the rehearsals. I was always so proud of the choirs at their performance. To see 30 students from almost as many countries sing together is a moving experience.

In 2007, I had such a stroke of good luck – I was asked to accompany the Sasakawa-funded students to Japan on their field studies. I was mindful of the honour and the responsibility of representing the University during that week, so I was very nervous! Fortunately, I was met with such warmth and friendship by Mr. Kudo and his team, so I soon felt at home and somehow managed to fulfil the tasks. I had the pleasure and privilege of going to Japan with the students again in 2010 and 2023. It was a wonderful experience each time, and I am so grateful to The Nippon Foundation for its generosity to me.



To sum up: my 36 years' association with the World Maritime University was a wonderful journey. Professionally, I followed the development of a fledgling University to its current status with properly-accredited programmes – an amazing success. Personally, meeting so many fascinating people taught me so much about the world. I learned how alike we all are. In today's world, that is a valuable lesson.

Thank you, everyone.





Departure for the New Voyage

The Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony for WMU Sasakawa Fellows in the Class of 2023 was held on the evening of October 27th.

Although the sky was dark with clouds, the faces of the Class of 2023 students, who were about to hold their graduation ceremony the next day, were bright. The Sasakawa Auditorium was filled with a celebratory atmosphere, welcoming many guests including former President Cleopatra Dumbia-Henry and fellows receiving the Honorary Fellow Award and Outstanding Alumni Award.

Following the opening remarks from Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Senior Advisor of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, WMU President Max Mejia addressed the graduates. President Mejia expressed his gratitude for The Nippon Foundation's support over the years and told the graduates, "You have

learned that currency of a real network is generosity not personal gain... By giving of yourself, your time and your talent, so many people will benefit, just as you will yourself."

Then, Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, gave a speech. Mr. Unno expressed his hope that the graduates will utilize the Sasakawa Fellows' network as a tool to solve complex ocean problems. He urged us to keep thinking in order to find solutions since there are still many things about the ocean that we have yet to understand. The full text of Mr. Unno's message is available on the Friends of WMU, Japan website (<https://www.wmujapan.net/events/speech/-02-1.html>). Afterwards, Mr. Unno gave each graduate a Sasakawa Fellow Certificate before congratulating them in their native language.

The gorgeous reception party was held at World Bistro, with many guests as well as WMU faculty and staff. At the end of the reception, Peter Tamarakro Orubebe (Nigeria) gave a farewell address on behalf of the Class of 2024, followed by Kla-Edward Toomey II (Liberia) on behalf of the Class of 2023, bringing to a close.



WMU Graduation Ceremony 2023

WMU Graduation Ceremony 2023 was held on October 28th, and 283 students from 71 countries, including 30 Sasakawa Fellows, graduated from WMU. Despite the cloudy weather, the faces of the graduates were bright and overflowing with joy at successfully completing their studies at WMU.



The scene of all the graduates huddling together for a photo in front of WMU's unique designed school building was a stunning and lively sight, and everyone was smiling.

At the graduation ceremony, each student was awarded their diploma in the presence of WMU President Max Mejia, IMO Secretary General HE Kitak Lim, Mayor of Malmö Ms. Carina Nilsson, and Doctor of Science honoris causa recipient Prof. Myron Nordquist. To celebrate the graduates' departure, a chorus group of current students dressed in costumes from each country and performed the song 'WMU, our beloved school'.

Guests at the reception party following the graduation ceremony, such as donors and host families from Malmö, offered warm congratulations to the students on their departure from the voyage.





The Chancellor's Medal for Academic Excellence

Rahul Lodhi (India, 2023)

At the outset let me begin by saying that, I am eternally indebted to Dr. Yōhei Sasakawa for his generosity and goodwill. I am also proud to have been part of Sasakawa Peace Foundation and last but not the least World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden. Receiving the Chancellor's Medal from Mr. Kitack Lim, the then Secretary General of International Maritime Organization for the class of 2023 of WMU during the graduation ceremony held on 28 Oct 2023 was indeed one of the proudest moments of my life. I am very happy that I could bring pride and honor not only to my organization (Indian Coast Guard), my beloved motherland India and my family but also the prestigious Sasakawa Peace Foundation for enabling me to attend World Maritime University in the first place. However, I must add that receiving Chancellor's medal is incidental to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence and holds no value if we do not share the knowledge and experiences gained during our stay at WMU to ensure a better and sustainable world in line with the motto of 'One World One Family'. What we need is perseverance towards our common goal for a better world in ensuring safe and secure sea on clean oceans and contributing towards UN SDGs.



The Specialization Prizes

Ahmed Mohamed Ismal Mohamed Ismail (Egypt, 2023) **Specialization Prize for MEM**

As a Captain and Marine Lecturer, my experience pursuing the Specialization Prize in Maritime Energy Management at WMU has been truly transformative. Through immersive study, I have delved deep into the complexities of decarbonization challenges within the shipping industry.

My gratitude extends to Chairman Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, WMU faculty, and all those who supported me. This accomplishment, achieved through dedication and hard work, marks a significant milestone. Inspired by their encouragement, my mission is clear: to share this knowledge and contribute to shaping a greener shipping future. As I stand at the intersection of academic achievement and professional practice, this marks not an end but the beginning of my commitment to sustainability. With a sense of purpose, I look forward to continuing this journey and fostering positive change in the maritime industry.



Rahul Lodhi (India, 2023) **Specialization Prize for MLP**

Suraya Yeasmin Jui (Bangladesh, 2023) **Specialization Prize for PM**

The announcement of my selection as the Best Student in Port Management at the World Maritime University is a thrilling chapter in my educational chronicle. When I began my journey at WMU, my primary focus was absorbing knowledge rather than chasing grades or positions. Whenever I felt confused, I never hesitated to ask questions to our professors. In addition, field studies were not just visits to me but opportunities to dissect and compare port practices internationally and in my home country. This process provided me with valuable insights that made my knowledge more realistic. My MSc in maritime affairs journey unfolded as a riveting exploration, revealing the vast landscape of the global maritime scene.

To me, this 'Best Student' award isn't just a certificate; it's a testament to the transformative power of dedicated learning and a genuine passion for the maritime domain.



The C P Srivastava Award for International Fellowship

Teona Khabeishvili (Georgia, 2023)

I am profoundly grateful for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation Fellowship, the great opportunity that has not only enriched my academic journey in WMU, Sweden but also led to remarkable recognition among maritime professionals, whenever I meet Sasakawa Fellows, I always feel we are the family. The fellowship opened doors to new perspectives, fostering a deepened understanding of global issues and cross-cultural collaboration.

The top of this experience was the receipt of the C P Srivastava Award for International Fellowship at the graduation ceremony in October 2023. This award not only acknowledges the academic achievements during my fellowship but stands out as a testament to the impact of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's support.

The award and graduation ceremony were particularly important as my family, my kids, and my husband, a pillar of unconditional support, were in the audience on my graduation day. Their presence added an emotional layer to the recognition, turning it into a shared triumph for all of us. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation not only invested in my education but also contributed to a moment that transcended individual achievement, creating a core memory of gratitude and shared pride.

The C P Srivastava Award for International Fellowship award represents the culmination of a journey made possible by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's generosity and belief in the power of international fellowship.



Kalmar Prizes

Daniela Jimena Andrade Tamayo
(Ecuador, 2023)

Teona Khabeishvili
(Georgia, 2023)

Takanori Uzumaki
(Japan, 2023)

For Peaceful, Beautiful and Bountiful Seas



The largest-ever “The 3rd Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS)” was held in Tokyo by the Japan Coast Guard and The Nippon Foundation, with the presence of H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan, on October 31 and November 1, 2023.

The summit was held after the “Regional Conference on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships (2000)” and the “Heads of Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM, 2004-~)”, both of which were proposed by Chairman Yohei Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation, one of the world’s largest platforms for effective coordination and discussion among the world’s coast guard organizations regarding a variety of critical marine issues. This was the third time, following the initial summit ‘the world’s first’ in 2017 and the second, in 2019. Representatives of 96 coast guard authorities and related organizations from 86 countries and 1 region attended, the largest number ever, and discussed a broad range of maritime issues.

The Nippon Foundation’s Chairman Yohei Sasakawa also attended the opening ceremony, and in his speech, he expressed his expectation that this summit will continue to be a place where we can share on-the-ground knowledge and collaborate to address the increasingly diverse and complex marine issues which cannot be resolved in one nation or region.

At the summit, a proposal to revise the meeting guidelines was supported in order to continue the summit sustainably, and a dedicated website was officially launched to share information on each country’s most recent successful activities, experiences, as well as information for human resource development. In addition, advanced case studies and best practices from each country and organization were presented.

The report of the summit can also be viewed on the Japan Coast Guard website below.

(https://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/e/topics_archive/article4324.html)

WMU Vietnam Chapter 20 Years Anniversary



Van Tan NGUYEN
(Vietnam, 2016)



In a joyous celebration of two decades since its establishment, a total of 60 Vietnam WMU Alumni gathered in Hanoi on December 8, 2023 in a spirit of friendship and closeness. The occasion marked the enduring connections forged during our academic years at WMU. The event, held with great enthusiasm, brought together alumni from various batches to recall our shared experiences and celebrate the achievements during past years. Many alumni have emerged as leaders, policymakers, and experts, significantly contributing to the development of the Vietnamese maritime industry in particular and promoting the international cooperation in general. The event provided an opportunity for graduates across country to strengthen the old bonds and establish new connections.

The event had the pleasure of hosting esteemed guests: Mr. Eisuke Kudo from the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Mr. Yuichi Monji (2014), the First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Vietnam, and Ms. Dang Phuong Lan, Trade, Economics, and Education Advisor of the Embassy of Sweden in Vietnam. Their presences added a special touch to the occasion.



The event commenced on a positive note with expressions of gratitude from each honored guest, recognizing the efforts put into organizing the celebration. The focal point

of the event was a workshop centered around the green port plan, which aimed to disseminate knowledge on the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in green port management. Particularly, it emphasized sustainable cargo handling, emission reduction strategies, and eco-friendly port infrastructure.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the presentation of success stories from alumni who have implemented green port initiatives in their respective roles. These narratives served as inspiration, demonstrating that sustainable practices are not only desirable but also achievable within the context of Vietnamese maritime industry.

Then, everyone joined the photo session with absolute joy and friendship. The pictures have become cherished memories, preserving the reunion’s spirit and connecting everyone to the past. They serve as a reminder of the enduring bonds built during our time in Sweden.

The event concluded with dining, the tables became hubs of conversation, story exchanges, recalling everlasting memories. While enjoying delicious food, alumni participated in music performances, creating an atmosphere filled with excitement and laughter.

Marking its 20th anniversary, the WMU Vietnam Alumni Chapter embraced a collective sense of optimism for the future. Discussions centered on potential collaborations, initiatives, and opportunities that inspire recent graduates and ensuring the community continues to thrive and contribute to the broader maritime industry.



A Transformative Journey: My Experience at the 33rd Assembly of the IMO



Damrongkiat Kiatopas
(Thailand, 2011)

From 27th November to 6th December, 2023, I embarked on an unforgettable journey, participating in the 33rd regular session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at IMO Headquarters in the city of London, United Kingdom. The Assembly is IMO's highest governing body which is responsible for approving the work programme and budget, determining financial arrangements and electing the IMO Council. The Assembly consists of 175 Member States and three Associate Members and meets once every two years. This incredible experience not only allowed me to actively engage in maritime-related cooperation and discussions but also provided me with the opportunity to connect with esteemed maritime professionals, including the distinguished WMU Sasakawa fellows from various countries around the world.

The 33rd regular session of the IMO Assembly proved to be an event of immense significance, serving as an important platform for maritime nations to come together and address the demanding challenges facing the maritime industry. As an active participant, I had the privilege of attending plenary sessions and side events, where I witnessed firsthand the discussions on topics ranging from sustainable shipping to maritime safety and environmental protection. One of the highlights of the Assembly was the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the six-year period 2024 to 2029 covering eight strategic directions namely: ensure implementation of IMO instruments supported by capacity development; integrate new, emerging and advancing technologies in the regulatory framework; respond to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping; continue to engage in ocean governance; enhance global facilitation, supply chain resilience and security of international trade; address the human element; ensure the regulatory effectiveness of international shipping; and ensure organizational effectiveness.

The Assembly approved the appointment of Mr. Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco (Republic of Panama), as a successor of Mr. Kitack Lim (Republic of Korea), to be the tenth elected IMO Secretary-General, for an initial four-year term starting on 1st January 2024. The Assembly also adopted the Organization's budget and work programme as well as elected a new 40-Member IMO Council for the 2024-2025 biennium. The Council, which is the executive body of IMO, is tasked with overseeing the Organization's work under the supervision of the Assembly. Between sessions of the Assembly, the Council performs the functions of the Assembly, except that of making recommendations to Governments on maritime safety and pollution prevention. Moreover, the Assembly adopted a number of resolutions on key aspects of the Organization's work aimed at enhancing multilingualism in the organization, improving navigational safety, promoting environmental protection at sea and strengthening maritime security. These resolutions exemplify the IMO's unwavering commitment to sustainable development, innovation, and collaboration in the maritime sector.

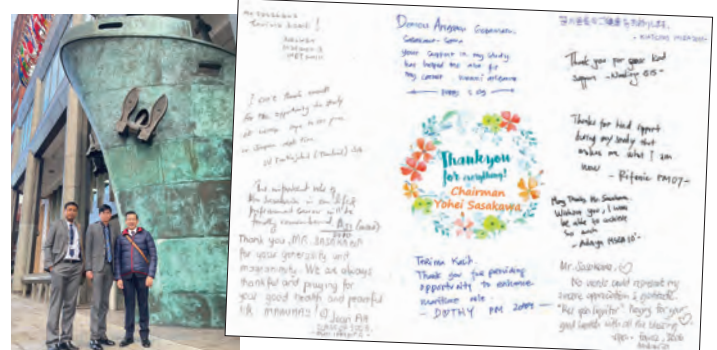
Amidst the busy atmosphere of the Assembly, I had the pleasure of meeting and networking with a diverse group of maritime professionals,

including the esteemed WMU Sasakawa fellows. This global network of maritime experts provided a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the building of lasting relationships. Through various networking events and social gatherings, I engaged in meaningful conversations with fellow participants, learning from their experiences and gaining valuable insights into different aspects of the maritime industry. The WMU Sasakawa fellows, renowned for their expertise and dedication, offered invaluable perspectives on topics such as maritime law, port management, and environmental sustainability. One of the most memorable moments during this time was that many of WMU Sasakawa fellows gathered on the 4th-floor terrace of the IMO building on Wednesday, 29th November 2023 to take group photos and write Yosegaki to our beloved Chairman Sasakawa.

The connections made during this session will undoubtedly prove instrumental in shaping my future endeavours within the maritime sector. It is through these interactions that I realized the true power of collaboration and the importance of building a strong network in driving positive change within the industry.



In conclusion, participating in the 33rd regular session of the IMO Assembly was an immensely rewarding experience. It allowed me to actively contribute to important discussions, witness the adoption of essential resolutions, and connect with esteemed maritime professionals, particularly the WMU Sasakawa fellows. My interactions during this session have not only enriched my understanding of the maritime industry but have also inspired me to continue working towards sustainable development, innovation, and collaboration within the maritime field. The memories and lessons learned during this session will forever remain in my mind, motivating me to play an active role in shaping the future of the maritime industry. The opportunities provided by the IMO Assembly and the connections made with the WMU Sasakawa fellows have certainly set the stage for a transformative journey ahead for me.



19 February 2024

Chairman Yohei Sasakawa
The Nippon Foundation
1-2-2 Akasaka Minami
107-8404 Japan

Dearest Mr. Sasakawa:
Warmest greetings from Manila.

Rising to New Heights:

Congratulations on Your Well-Deserved Promotion!

We are delighted to share the wonderful news conveyed in the letters of jubilation sent by two fellows to Chairman Sasakawa.

Sonia Bautista Malaluan (Philippines, 1998)

Her letter expresses her pleasure at being appointed by the President as Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority for a term of approximately five years, starting in December 2023. She fondly recalled her initial role as a newly promoted Director within MARINA's Administrative and Finance Service during Chairman Sasakawa's last visit to Manila. Subsequently, she provided a report on her activities as the chief executive of the regional headquarters.

Antoni Arif Priadi (Indonesia, 2006)

Mr. Priadi currently serves as the Director General of Sea Transportation within the Ministry of Transportation, Indonesia. His responsibilities encompass a wide range of areas including shipping, ports, maritime affairs, seafarers, navigation, and coast guard. He expressed genuine gratitude for being awarded the Sasakawa Fellowship. He continues to communicate with his classmates, reflecting on the joys and sorrows he experienced in Malmö long ago.

Newborn for my family

Surasak Changjul
(Thailand, 2015)



Greeting from my family to all. I hope that our Sasakawa fellows will always be happy, I have the pleasure to inform you that my family have got the third baby. She was born in November 22nd, 2023. My daughter's name is Chanchao Changjul. Her name means the Moon in Thai language. We hope that she will be a calm and discreet person as same as moonlight. Her nickname is Marine because of my background. Nowadays, we have already two sons and one daughter. My wife and I already plan to use birth control because we are getting old. Moreover, I am the director of Marine Department Chanthaburi Branch Office. So, I need times to do a lot of work and more cooperation between government officers which different departments in Chanthaburi Province. Then, my wife and I can only take good care our two boys and one baby girl. So, our three kids are enough for us. We can pay attention to our children.

My wife and I have adjusted our lifestyles to take good care for our children. We will teach them to be good and fair person.



We will train basic life support for three of them. For example, they must have basic training for swimming, riding the bicycle, speaking English language, understanding for risks of electric shock, etc. Moreover, we will educate them about knowledge of climate change and global warming. Then, our children may try to reduce any environment pollution for their life in the future.

I would like to share my story because my family is Sasakawa Fellows as well. I am also happy when I have read other articles from our friends around the world in "Friends of WMU, newsletter". The Sasakawa fellowship gives my opportunity regarding maritime network. I can contact many fellows and alumni of WMU around the world. As this article, I would like to invite our fellows to contribute an article that we can share our life to all friends. It is great to be Sasakawa Fellows.

Editor's note

Since November 2023, there have been repeated drone and missile attacks on vessels navigating the Red Sea. This has disrupted global logistics and also increased the risk of rising prices. I strongly hope that such chaos (though that has the positive aspect of higher freight rates for shipping companies,) will soon be resolved. In these chaotic times, I am feeling reminded of the importance and preciousness of solidarity that extends from the Sasakawa Fellowship as a core.

Turning to the topic at hand, the "cherry blossoms,"

one of Japan's national flowers and a symbol of the arrival of spring, are approaching to bloom. Their peak is from late March to early April. Cherry blossoms has an image of meeting and parting because of the shortness of its peak and coincidence with the end and beginning of the Japanese school year. I have been seeing them for almost 40 years, and they are still so beautiful that I am still moved by their beauty, so please come to Japan and enjoy its beauty if you have a chance. With memories of each encounter and parting.



Shun Masui
JSTRA