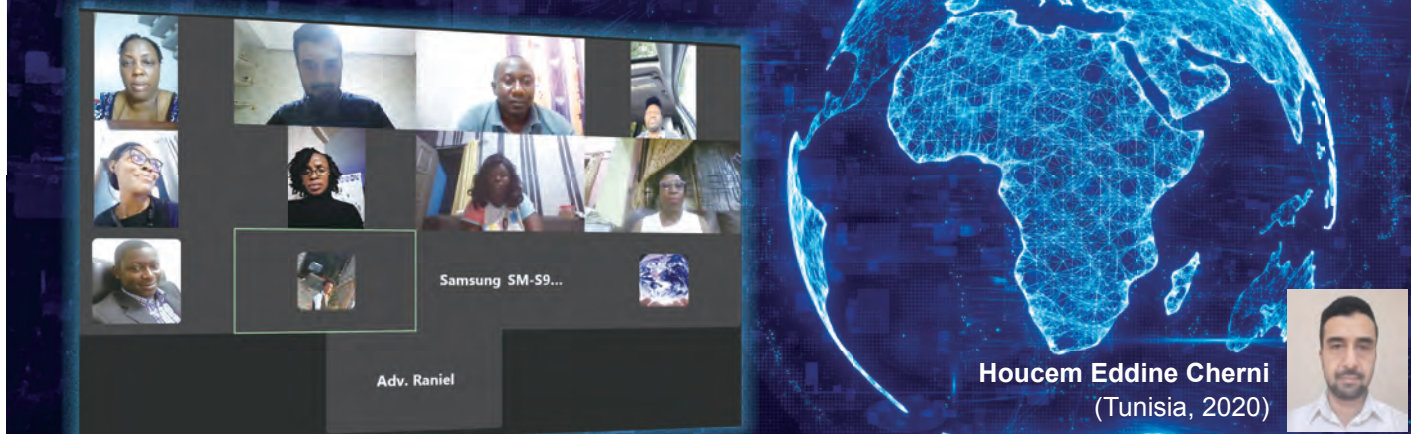


Self-Initiated Virtual Meeting of African Fellows



The establishment of the WMU Sasakawa Fellows' Network for the African Region marked a pivotal moment in fostering collaboration and advancing maritime excellence across the continent. This initiative traces its roots back to the landmark meeting held in Tunisia from August 26th to 29th, 2022. During this gathering, 26 distinguished fellows representing 12 countries convened and resolved to create a cohesive and dynamic network, aptly named the WMU Sasakawa Fellows Africa.

Foundations of the Network

Recognizing the need for enhanced interaction and collaboration among African fellows, the participants articulated their shared vision through a resolution. The resolution underscored the importance of creating a network that facilitates mutual cooperation and the exchange of beneficial information. Furthermore, it highlighted the untapped potential of leveraging human resources and contemporary communication technologies to achieve these goals.

Highlights of the First Virtual Meeting

On the November 23rd, 2024, the WMU Sasakawa Fellows Africa convened its inaugural virtual meeting, an important step in operationalizing the 2022 resolution. The meeting agenda covered the following key points:

- 1. Opening Remarks and Resolution Presentation:** The session began with welcoming remarks and a concise presentation of the 2022 resolution, reaffirming the network's commitment to fostering maritime collaboration and excellence.
- 2. Self-Introductions of Participants:** This segment brought energy and engagement to the meeting. While many had attended the foundational meeting in Tunisia, new members joined, enriching discussions with their backgrounds, expertise, and aspirations. Their inclusion reinforced the network's commitment to inclusivity and expansion within the African maritime community. The participants' diverse profiles showcased talent across sectors such as port operations, shipping, marine environmental protection, and maritime education.
- 3. Planning Future Meetings and Organization:** The participants agreed to hold quarterly online meetings to ensure consistent engagement. Ms. Fiona Syovata Mbandi (Kenya, 2013) volunteered to organize the next meeting, a significant step towards strengthening the network's governance and planning.
- 4. Open Discussion:**
 - **Tunisia's Update:** A key highlight was the presentation on acquiring six new ASD tugs for Tunisia's Office of Merchant Marine and Ports, showcasing regional maritime advancements.

- **Tanzania's Update:** Ms. Stella Joshua Katondo (Tanzania, 2001) shared details on two major upcoming maritime events in Tanzania:
 - **The 7th High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct and Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA):** (Nov 28-30, 2024) – Themed "Security with Purpose," this meeting will address maritime security threats, including piracy, human trafficking, and illegal fishing.
 - **The 7th General Conference of the Association of African Maritime Administration (AAMA):** (Nov 29-Dec 1, 2024) – Themed "Navigating the Future of Africa's Maritime Sector," the conference will focus on technology, innovation, and sustainability. This conference will highlight decarbonization, gender diversity, and maritime safety, with IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez as a special guest.
- **Personal Achievements and Updates:** Other participants shared their accomplishments and updates, further showcasing the network's rich pool of expertise and initiatives.
- 5. **Closing Remarks:** The meeting concluded with a call to action, encouraging participants to expand the network by inviting colleagues who could not attend. Participants also expressed their willingness to actively contribute to the newsletters, aiming to share valuable insights and updates from the maritime sector. This commitment to inclusivity and growth reflects the network's vision of a strong, interconnected maritime community.

A Vision for the Future

The inaugural virtual meeting served as a testament to the network's potential to drive meaningful change in the African maritime sector. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the WMU Sasakawa Fellows Africa is well-positioned to address regional challenges and promote sustainable development.

Looking ahead, the network aims to strengthen stakeholder engagement, expand its influence, and deliver impactful maritime solutions. The fellows' commitment underscores their potential to become a leading force in the global maritime community.

As the network grows, its foundation—established in Tunisia and reinforced through virtual collaboration—will serve as a model for regional maritime cooperation. Fellows will continue meeting quarterly, with the next session hosted by Ms. Fiona Syovata Mbandi, further reinforcing their dedication to ongoing engagement and progress.

The International Ocean Institute: Creating Future Ocean Leaders



Antonella Vassallo
Managing Director
International Ocean Institute (IOI)

The IOI and Its Beginnings: Creating Ocean Leaders

The IOI is an international, not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) established in 1972 by Elisabeth Mann Borgese. The ethos of its foundation is closely intertwined with a core principle of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), specifically the Common Heritage of Humankind, and the recognition that all aspects of Ocean space are interrelated and should be treated as an integral whole.

For over 50 years, the IOI has worked to ensure that Ocean resources are used peacefully, equitably, and sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations. By fostering informed, ethical, and effective leadership, the IOI addresses the pressing challenges of Ocean governance and bridges the gap between knowledge and action.

Building Collaborative Ocean Governance and Knowledge Networks

IOI's work is underpinned by an international network of IOI centres, focal points, and partner institutions, to create a global resource targeting the unique needs and profiles of different regions. IOI addresses the complex and enduring challenge of Ocean governance through co-designing and offering a global suite of annual training and capacity-building programmes offered in Canada, Malta, China, South Africa, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Egypt and Chile for regional audiences. The syllabi emphasise the interconnectedness of the Ocean's systems and their vital role in regulating climate, supporting biodiversity, powering a sustainable and Blue Economy, and sustaining life and community.

Targeting early to mid-career Ocean professionals from all disciplines, the programmes combine theoretical learning with practical exercises in fields such as the law of the sea, marine and climate science, policymaking, diplomacy and more. A strong emphasis is placed on empowering participants from developing countries through targeted financial assistance supported by global partners.

A Global Network of Ocean Leaders

Over the years, a critical mass of over 2,300 IOI Alumni have graduated from IOI programmes, creating a global network of

empowered leaders and practitioners shaping the future of sustainable Ocean governance in more than 140 countries. IOI Alumni are equipped with a strong interdisciplinary understanding and leadership qualities. Beyond academic and professional development, they gain valuable connections to a global network of peers and forge lasting friendships, creating a collaborative community that drives meaningful change.

Addressing the Ocean's Pressing Challenges at All Levels

Recognising the mounting pressures on the Ocean, the IOI Ocean Academy was launched in 2022 to enhance Ocean and Climate literacy - providing free, accessible online learning in local languages, empowering individuals and communities to address region-specific challenges. By prioritising knowledge-based decision-making, the IOI recognises and celebrates the important contribution of knowledge-based decision-making from grassroots levels upwards, to foster resilience, sustainability, and equitable use of Ocean resources while encouraging a deeper understanding of the Human-Ocean's interactive impact on lives and livelihoods.

Beyond training, the IOI produces influential publications such as the Ocean Yearbook and the World Ocean Review, offering valuable insights into Ocean science, law, and policy to support informed governance.

A Vision for the Future

The challenges facing the Ocean are significant, but so are the opportunities for transformative change. Through capacity development, education, collaborative networks, and Ocean literacy, the IOI aims to ensure that the Ocean remains a source of life, prosperity, and inspiration. Stewardship of the Ocean is a collective responsibility; by safeguarding this shared resource, we can create a legacy of peaceful, equitable, and sustainable governance for current and future generations to thrive.

Guided by the vision of its founder, the principles of UNCLOS, and the commitment of its global network, IOI continues to inspire and empower leaders to address the challenges of Ocean governance with understanding, determination and foresight.

Discover more about the work of the IOI and join our upcoming courses and events:



2024 Awards Ceremony



Idil Mohamed
(Somalia, 2025)

The Sasakawa Awards Ceremony is an annual event organized by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation to honor graduating students from the World Maritime University. The event marks the transition of funded students into their prestigious global network.

This year, the ceremony was held on the 31st of October 2024. The event was attended by members of the faculty, distinguishing guests from The Nippon Foundation, funded graduating students under Sasakawa Fellowship program as well as the newly inducted students of 2025. The evening began with a commemorative photo session for the graduated class of 2024 which amount to a total of 30 students from diverse specialized areas. At the end of the session, the official opening of the ceremony began with remarks made by Mr. Eisuke Kudo, Senior Advisor to OPRI-SPF. Mr. Kudo gave a warm welcome to the guest and placed great emphasis on the significance of network-building and collaborative leadership.

Similarly, Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno, the executive director of The Nippon Foundation, iterated the expansive reach of The Nippon Foundations Fellows network, which is over 1,800 Fellows across more than 150 countries. He emphasized that true success does not lie in numbers but in tangible impact, and that the knowledge and experience gained at WMU would serve as the foundation for students in their respective roles in the international community.

Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia, President of WMU, commended the graduating fellows for their academic accomplishments and their



imminent transition into the global network, while expressing deep gratitude to Mr. Unno and Mr. Kudo for their foundations' unwavering support in making the WMU journey possible for so many maritime professionals. This speech marks the end of the first phase of the event.

The second phase of the ceremony was the highlight of the evening. This was the period allocated for the conferring of certificates handed by Mr. Unno. Each student from the class of 2024 was awarded with a certificate honoring their dedication and commitment for the successful completion of the program.

The evening later transitioned into a charming reception at the university's bistro, where the atmosphere became more relaxed and social. This provided a chance for interactions between the graduating Class of 2024, current students from the Class of 2025, faculty members, and representatives from The Nippon Foundation and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. The carefully prepared cuisine served as the perfect backdrop for networking and sharing experiences. The graduating fellows shared their experiences and insights, while we, the current students, gained perspective on their ongoing journey at WMU.

The event finally ended with closing remarks from Mr. Mario



Damien Tiscornia (Argentina), representative from the class of 2025, and Ms. Jasmine Deneen Bellini (Belize), representative from the graduating class of 2024. Both speakers gave heartfelt speeches that perfectly captured the cyclical nature of the Sasakawa Fellowship program.

In conclusion, witnessing my seniors' transition into the esteemed global network of Sasakawa Fellows filled me with a high level of inspiration and motivation to achieve my desired goals. It served as a powerful reminder for me, and as a Sasakawa Fellowship student from Somalia, I carry not only my personal ambitions but also the hopes of contributing meaningfully to my nation's maritime development. The achievements celebrated during this ceremony will continue to guide me throughout my journey at WMU and beyond.

Lastly, my senior fellows, your achievements have blazed a trail of brilliance. I look forward to joining you in the global network. May your future endeavors be as impactful as your time at WMU, and may you continue to represent the values and vision of the Sasakawa Fellowship in your respective professions.



Bon voyage!



The full text of Mr. Unno's message is available on the Friends of WMU, Japan website

<https://www.wmu-japan.net/events/speech/-04.html>



WMU Graduation Ceremony 2024

Celebrating the WMU Class of 2024 & Sasakawa Fellows' Achievements

On a picturesque afternoon on November 2, 2024, the World Maritime University (WMU) proudly celebrated the graduation of 260 students from over 70 countries, marking a significant milestone in maritime education. Among them were 30 Sasakawa Fellowship Students from 23 nations, further strengthening the global network of maritime professionals. With this cohort, WMU's total alumni now stands at 6,340 graduates from 170 countries, a testament to the university's enduring impact on the international maritime community.

The ceremony was graced by WMU President Dr. Max Mejia, WMU Chancellor and IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Malmö Mayor Ms. Carina Nilsson, and Guest of Honor Captain Londy Ngcobo, Africa's first female Dredge Master. Their powerful and inspiring speeches resonated deeply with the graduates, offering encouragement and wisdom as they embark on the next chapter of their professional journeys.

A highlight of the event was the annual student award ceremony, which made history this year with an unprecedented moment—for the first time ever, the Chancellor's Medal was awarded to two outstanding students, Jasmine Bellini and Kathy Ann Young, both Sasakawa Fellows.

This remarkable achievement underscores the dedication and excellence of Sasakawa Fellowship recipients. Additionally, Kathy Ann Young received the Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation, recognizing her exceptional academic contributions to maritime research.

We proudly introduce the award recipients and celebrate their outstanding accomplishments. Their success reflects the spirit of excellence, leadership, and commitment that define the WMU Sasakawa Fellowship Program.

Best Wishes to the Class of 2024 Sasakawa Fellows

To all Sasakawa Fellows of the Class of 2024, congratulations on this well-earned achievement! Your dedication, resilience, and commitment to advancing the maritime industry are truly commendable. As you step into the next phase of your careers, may you lead with integrity, inspire future generations, and contribute meaningfully to global maritime progress.

We wish you endless success, rewarding opportunities, and a bright future ahead. Your journey has just begun, and the world awaits your expertise and leadership.

Fair winds and following seas!

The Chancellor's Medal for Academic Excellence



Jasmine Deneen Bellini (Belize, 2024)

My journey at WMU has been nothing short of transformative, filled with invaluable knowledge and unforgettable experiences. Graduation stands as one of the proudest moments of my life, and receiving the Chancellor's Medal was an extraordinary honour—an unexpected yet deeply meaningful surprise. Sharing that moment with my classmates and the guests, both present and virtual, was profoundly moving. It brought me immense pride to represent not only my specialization, women in maritime, but also my beloved country, Belize. As an officer in the Belize Coast Guard, I have learned the values of courage, commitment, and respect. These principles guided me daily and empowered me to excel throughout my studies.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Yohei Sasakawa and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for envisioning a better world through education and for trusting me with the opportunity to pursue my passion as a maritime professional. My sincere thanks also go to the International Maritime Organization and the World Maritime University for creating this incredible platform to educate and train maritime professionals from across the globe.

Together, we can make a difference. One World, One Family.

The Chancellor's Medal for Academic Excellence Secretary-General's Prize for best dissertation



Kathy Ann Young (Trinidad and Tobago, 2024)

Wow what an experience! Completing my master's has been a longstanding goal, and that journey started when I was accepted at the World Maritime University, Sweden and received a Sasakawa Peace Foundation Fellowship to do a MSc in Maritime Affairs with a Specialisation in Ocean Sustainability, Governance and Management. I enjoyed the challenge, the unique learning environment and opportunities, exploring Sweden and its culture, especially fika, and visiting Tanzania and Japan. Disbelief and gratitude can only describe what was one of my proudest achievements to receive the Chancellor's Medal, the Best Dissertation award and the Specialisation in OSGM prize, and made so special because my daughters and sister were there to share this moment with me. I will always remember and cherish my time at WMU which was made exceptional by my professors, the administrative and support staff, the wonderful Bistro team, my 2024 classmates from all around the world and my new friends and colleagues. As the maritime sector advances in its pursuit to find solutions to the climate crisis, implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and support the UN SDGs, I look forward to contributing to these global objectives any way I can. My sincerest thank you Dr. Yohei Sasakawa and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. I am proud to be a Sasakawa Fellow and WMU Alumni. Thank you WMU and thank you Sweden!

The Specialization Prizes

Adetayo Yusuf ADESOKAN (Nigeria, 2024) Specialization Prize for MLP

My journey to WMU exemplifies resilience and determination. I was initially awarded the Sasakawa Fellowship for the Class of 2023 but was unable to attend due to job exigencies. I reapplied and received the fellowship again for the Class of 2024. I must therefore appreciate Chairman Yohei Sasakawa and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) for recognizing my potential and granting me the second opportunity.

My time at WMU was committed to acquiring knowledge and building an international network. I was privileged to serve as Chairman of the Social Committee for the Student Council, enabling me to contribute to the university community through leadership and organizational initiatives. Receiving the specialization award in Maritime Law and Policy was unexpected but deeply rewarding. It affirmed that aligning clear objectives with hard work leads to success.

I left WMU with a profound sense of fulfillment, I had justified the confidence reposed in me by the SPF and brought honor to my organization (Navy), my country, and my family. My mission going forward, is to effectively contribute to sustainable maritime governance in Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea.



José Miguel Jaramillo Mendoza (Ecuador, 2024) Specialization Prize for MSEA

Receiving my diploma was an amazing personal achievement, but being honored with the Award for the best MSEA specialization student was truly unexpected. I believe that my class was filled with remarkable professionals who excelled throughout our academic journey, and any of them could have achieved the same honor, because we were led by great professors.

I am proud not only as an individual but also as a Sasakawa Fellow, an Ecuadorian citizen, and a Navy Officer. However, the recognition I felt after receiving the award is greatly overshadowed by the pride and happiness shown by my wife, Karina Cevallos. She has stood by me through many challenges and is the source of my strength and endurance. Her love and support keep me moving forward. Her smile, kiss, and hug after the ceremony were the true awards.



Kalmar Prizes

Jasmine Deneen Bellini
(Belize, 2024)

José Miguel Jaramillo Mendoza
(Ecuador, 2024)

Peter Tamarakro Orubebe
(Nigeria, 2024)

Tanapit Petchmune
(Thailand, 2024)

From WMU to the World: A Lifelong Commitment to Maritime Excellence

Olga Bosquez (WMU 1987, MSc Panama)

Last November, when I attended the 2024 Graduation Ceremony of the World Maritime University to receive the Outstanding Alumna Award, so many special and good memories came back to mind. . .

My son Gaspar was six years old when I left him in Panama and travelled early in February 1986 to Malmo to start the English Programme and the MSC Course. It was very difficult for me to leave him but thanks to the generous support the City of Malmo grants to the WMU students, I returned in the summer break that year and brought him back with me. We lived in Henry Smith Hostel and he went to a school while I went to the University for the rest of that first scholar year. I then returned for the second year and brought with me my eldest daughter for her two months school break. They remained in Panama for my second year when I had to do various field and job training as part of the course Programme. They both witnessed and enjoyed the great environment that the WMU offers to its students and I could complete my studies successfully at this prestigious institution created by the International Maritime Organization, (IMO).

The education I received at the WMU, both in the classroom and outside, was fundamental in shaping my efforts to make my own, humble contribution to the advancement of safe and environmentally sound standards for shipping worldwide and to support the maritime development efforts of my country, Panama. The WMU is the most successful technical cooperation project of IMO providing a worldwide network of professionals. Panama sent four Panamanians to the Class 1987. It was very important for the country to get prepared to assume the challenges ahead with the transfer of the Panama Canal in the year 2000 and having the biggest Register of Ships.

Looking back, I was fortunate that just returning from Malmo, the UNDP/IMO Project Maritime Sector of Panama was starting in 1988, and I was appointed its Main Technical Counterpart. It allowed me to

study, all its components, building the basis for the creation of the Panama Maritime Authority. I had the great opportunity to apply the knowledge received at the WMU. I was also able to support the Panama Nautical School where I taught International Maritime Economics for six years. It later became a maritime university and the regional arm of the WMU.

In 1995, I was appointed Ambassador to the IMO, I did strive for a strong Mission at the IMO, supported by competent technical advisors to ensure full compliance with its rules and regulations. Panama joined the IMO from its beginnings, in 1958, and has been a loyal and consistent participant in its work ever since. Those were very interesting years. I was invited to moderate together with the Sea trade Representative, the workshops of the Universal Congress of the Panama Canal in September 1997. When Panama assumed control in 2000, the International Advisory Board was established under the Chairmanship of the IMO Secretary-General, and I was invited to support its work.

Having been the first Panamanian to be employed in the IMO Secretariat in London in 1999, it was both a privilege and a great personal fulfilment to promote the main objectives of the Organization through its external relations and later, to be part of the senior management team with specific responsibilities for the seamless conduct of international conferences and year-round technical meetings-these being at the heart of the IMO's widely recognized regulatory work.





LNG Fueled-Ship Trainer Training in Japan



Masashi Sugomori
(Japan, 2010)

In view of the current international calls for efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, there is an urgent need in the shipping industry to promote the use of alternative-fueled ships such as liquefied natural gas (LNG)-fueled ships. To promote the use of such ships, it is necessary to recruit and train sufficient seafarers to ensure the safe operation of these ships, and developing countries, in particular, seafarer-supplying countries also need high quality training in accordance with the International Code of Safety for ships using Gases or Other Low-flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code) and the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Convention.

Therefore, with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the training capacity of crew on board LNG-fueled ships in developing countries, a trainer-training workshop for seafarers onboard LNG-fueled ships has carried out in Japan as a part of the IMO's Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCIP) funded by the Nippon Foundation under the coordination of MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism), Japan and IMO secretariat.

Anyway, let me introduce myself. I am Masashi Sugomori (class of 2010, MET), Manager of Research Management and International Affairs Division, Japan agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers (JMETS) and I had coordinated the on-site programme of this workshop. Taking this opportunity, I would like to report the mentioned workshop held in Japan.

The workshop was designed based on the requirements of the STCW Convention and Code, taking into account IMO model courses 7.13 and 7.14 on the Basic and Advanced training for masters, officers, ratings and other personnel on ships subject to the IGF Code. According to regulation V/3 of the STCW Convention, every candidate for a certificate in advanced training for service on ships subject to the IGF Code shall have completed at least one month of approved seagoing service that includes a minimum of three bunkering operations on board ships subject to the IGF Code. Two out of the three bunkering operations



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may be replaced by approved simulator training on bunkering operations.

The nine seafarer trainers from Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam have participated to simulator and practical training at MTC (Marine Technical College) of JMETS (Japan agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers) in Ashiya and MDPC (Maritime Disaster Prevention Center) in Yokosuka, Japan from 30 October to 5 November 2024. The workshop included three major components: classroom lectures; LNG bunkering simulator trainings at the MTC, and advanced emergency responses exercises such as fire-fighting for actual LNG fire and spillage response at the MDPC.

Two lecturers for classroom lectures nominated by International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) were invited from Sweden and Australia respectively as IMO consultants, who had experiences to teach the subjected training courses in their home countries.

The participants gained hands-on experience with LNG bunkering simulators. They learned how to use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), gas detectors, emergency measures for LNG leakage, low-temperature brittleness, as well as fire control, extinguishing agents, and firefighting procedures. Notably, actual LNG (stored and supplied at -162°C) was utilized during the exercises. Furthermore, the participants also gained knowledge and experience and were ready to take the skills back to their own training institutions, to enhance their programmes and strengthen training capacity for seafarers on LNG and other alternative-fueled vessels.

This workshop will be continued next year and the year after. Japan will continue to contribute to international shipping's efforts to reduce GHG emissions through the Education and Training activities.



Indian Coast Guard March Towards Maritime Excellence: Contributing Factor of WMU Sasakawa Fellowship



Period of Maritime Churn

In the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean, the Indian Coast Guard stands sentinel, safeguarding India's maritime interests and ensuring the security of its coastline. The growth of Indian Coast Guard since its inception in 1977 has been phenomenal and I must state that I too have grown along with it, ever since I joined the Indian Coast Guard in July 1990. This was a period when UNCLOS 1982 and other maritime conventions were being discussed for ratification and in this churn period, the Indian Coast Guard Ships boldly chased & apprehended a Japanese owned pirated ship MV Alondra Rainbow, at High Sea, in Dec 1999, where I happened to coordinate the prosecution of pirates at the Indian courts with great difficulty. As the organisation was progressively made responsible for responding to various maritime challenges, there was a need felt to provide specialised training to select officers to grapple with never ending specialist requirement for ICG enforcement, prosecution and arbitration processes.

Specialisation

Though the Indian Coast Guard officers and men undergo a comprehensive training in various Coast Guard related subjects in India & abroad, the lack of exclusive University study programs to provide the required knowledge to meet the emergent compliance requirement of various international convention, was felt in the late 1990's. Through a fortuitous turn of event in May 2003, I was selected as first ever ICG officer to attend the WMU program, fully sponsored by WMU Sasakawa fellowship.

Interaction with the Chairman, Yohei Sasakawa

The field trip to Japan and interaction with highly respected Yohei Sasakawa motivated me to follow his world view based on compassion and service. The visit of Chairman, Sasakawa to the Coast Guard Headquarters at regular intervals provided an opportunity to the ICG officers to interact with him directly, the recent one, being on 21 Nov 24 at New Delhi, wherein he met Director General of Indian Coast Guard and gave praises to ICG officers for their intellect, sincerity and



performance as more than seven officers were WMU Chancellor Medal winners reflecting their commitment to excellence. He mentioned that WMU officers are posted in Key portfolios and ICG-JCG friendship has assisted in developing bond between the two nations for continued support in maritime safety and security. Further, he added that this synergy would help in economic development and prosperity at Asia-Pacific area and keep the sea lanes free for conduct of commerce as per laws. He was also highly appreciative of the Indian cuisine served for him.



Experiences over the years

It is now more than 20 years since I completed my studies at WMU and have been elevated in my ranks and responsibilities. In over these 20 years, I have commanded several ICG ships, protected ICG legal interests at various Courts, including the Permanent Court of Arbitration, formed part of Indian delegation to several international, Regional and

Bi-lateral meetings, drafted several policies and operating manuals and contributed for drafting process of several maritime legislations which were brought into force by the Government. I owe WMU and The Nippon Foundation for the successful journey so far, and still energised to contribute more.

A Bond of Synergy

The Nippon Foundation's sponsorship has enabled more than 18 ICG officers to acquire specialized knowledge and skills in maritime law, policy, and management.

ICG's partnership with the Sasakawa Organization serves as a powerful reminder of the impact that can be achieved when nations and benevolent Foundations come together to address common challenges.

Secretariat Note:

We are pleased to announce that Additional Director General Donny Michael was appointed as the Coast Guard Commander of the Eastern Seaboard in Visakhapatnam in September 2024. We are honored to feature his contribution to this newsletter and extend our best wishes for his continued success in safeguarding the world's oceans.

Chairman Sasakawa Visited to Iran



Sedigheh Zarei
(Iran, 2021)

I had the honor of meeting Dr. Sasakawa in Iran. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet him in my country. I was impressed by his humility. He is much more than just a financial sponsor, he takes care of students like a father by checking up on them. I am happy that I had the chance to share with him my achievements after graduating from WMU and IMLI, such as winning the Judge Attard Law of the Sea Prize, graduating with distinction, and taking part in International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS). During our conversation, I felt like I was talking to my father and I promised to make him proud. I am not able to repay his generosity, but I hope I can help others as he does. God bless you, Dr. Sasakawa.



We're Now on LinkedIn!



We're thrilled to announce the launch of our official LinkedIn page: Friends of WMU Japan! Follow us to stay updated on our latest activities, initiatives, and opportunities as we continue supporting the Sasakawa Fellows. Let's connect, share insights, and collaborate to shape the future of the ocean-related field!

Visit and follow us here: <https://linkedin.com/company/friends-of-wmu-japan>



Attention Needed!! Transitioning to Digital Newsletters



In light of recent changes in global postal services and our commitment to the SDGs, we are transitioning to primarily distributing our newsletters electronically. However, if you wish to continue receiving printed copies by mail, it is essential that you let us know. Your response will help us accurately plan the number of printed copies needed.

Please note that we will continue announcing this message until the September 2025 issue. Printed newsletters will be discontinued starting from the December 2025 issue.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation during this transition. Please email us at → wmujapan@spf.or.jp

Editor's note

Dear Newsletter Readers,

My name is Takuya Adachi, and I serve on the newsletter's editorial committee. Currently seconded from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to the Japan Ship Technology Research Association (JSTRA), I handle IMO environmental issues and participate in IMO's environmental meetings (MEPC, PPR, etc.) as a member of the Japanese delegation. In this role, I am actively involved in our nation's preparations for these important international discussions, collaborating with various maritime stakeholders to develop and articulate our positions on critical environmental matters.

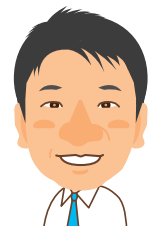
While I have recently been appointed to the editorial committee, I have had only limited experience with IMO matters until last July, and therefore, I have been on a daily journey of learning about IMO rules and regulations etc. What has particularly impressed me as a newcomer to this field is the remarkable network of World Maritime University (WMU) alumni. During MEPC 82, I had the privilege of attending a dinner with WMU graduates and what I witnessed there was a truly remarkable

and friendly alumni connection. Among them were individuals who play crucial roles on behalf of their nations at MEPC plenary sessions. This network demonstrates the unique value of WMU education in building lasting professional relationships. The intensity of MEPC82 was another eye-opening experience. The demanding schedule, coupled with the substantial volume of submitted documents, demonstrated the maritime community's commitment to addressing crucial environmental challenges, in my opinion (IMO).

In closing, I very much look forward to engaging with our readers at future IMO meetings! Let's have steak or fish and chips on Fridays at the IMO canteen together!

Takuya ADACHI

Manager of Regulations Unit
Japan Ship Technology Research Association (JSTRA)



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