

News from Alumni



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

Reunion Onboard

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

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

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

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

Myanmar Coordinator Visited Mr. Sasakawa

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

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



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

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

A concept of ASEAN coast guard modelled on JCG

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

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

Sasakawa Fellows in Vietnam are in High Spirits

By Prof. Toshio Hikima

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

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



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

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



At Ho Chi Minh City

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

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

Training Program in Yokohama

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



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

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