



## Sasakawa Fellows Met in Singapore

### The Philippines

International conventions and codes applicable to or covering Philippine registered ships are being implemented by MARINA and PCG, while applicable or practicable provisions are also adopted in some areas to non-conventional ships.

Several national legislations were promulgated and specific rules and regulations were implemented to prevent pollution or to protect the marine environment. Contingency plans were also prepared in case of accidents/incidents of oil spill or marine pollution.

Other safety policy measures were introduced to smaller domestic vessels to enhance or improve maritime safety in the domestic trade.

### Thailand

According to a recent strategy plan of Thailand, the Ministry of Transport is urged to create safe and environmentally friendly transportation for better quality of life through the revision and innovation of laws concerned.

Particularly, in domestic transport, the marine department has taken an important role in improving national laws such as the revision of navigation in the Thai Waters Act and enacting of new rules for ship surveys. All laws are intended to contribute to better maritime safety, environmental protection, to fit a rapidly changing world. Thailand strongly believes that safer domestic transport will benefit society, and support national economic development to a great extent.

### Vietnam

The Vietnam country report gave an overview of the country's location and geographic feature, commercial port system, Vietnam National Merchant Fleet, and occurrence of marine disasters and marine pollution in Vietnamese territorial water.

It also described the maritime and inland waterway administration in Vietnam, including the organizational structure, main functions of administrative bodies and sub-bodies such as port authorities, the maritime

safety agency, the maritime safety inspectorate, the maritime search and rescue coordination center, and ship communication and electronic companies.

The report also presented current regulations and policies on maritime safety of ships and maritime environment conservation for ships engaged in domestic transportation.

### Free Discussion

After the presentations by the participant countries, Ms. Sonia Malaluan chaired an open discussion on additional questions and clarifications on the presentations as well as the following issues: 1) Issues on demolishing/recycling domestic voyage vessels; 2) Regulations on river-going vessels and ocean-going vessels, as well as Search and Rescue operations and handling of crimes; and 3) Harmonization of domestic regulations in view of international voyages using rivers.

### The second day - November 20, 2003

The participants continued discussions with the second agenda, promotion of information exchange on maritime safety and marine environment protection.

Under the chairpersonship of Mr. Ishida, vigorous discussion was held on the following topics:

- Double Hull regulations for small tankers (600-5000 DW) carrying heavy grade oil
- AFS convention
- Exhausted gas (MARPOL Annex VI)
- Fishing vessel safety (Torremolinos convention / protocol)
- ISPS code (SOLAS chapter X1-2)
- Marine accident statistics
- IMO discussions and positions of Asia
- Ship surveyors and PSC officers

For the agenda of the next meeting, the following topics were proposed:

- Impact of technological innovation on ships and ports towards safety and environmental regulations
- Training of ship surveyors and PSC officers
- Implementation of ISPS code

The participants reviewed the draft minutes of the meeting and approved it unanimously, and came to share the following:

1) Whether or not the participant countries become parties related by international conventions, it is of primary importance for each of the countries to pursue the utmost effort to ensure maritime safety and marine environment protection under the current circumstances in the respective countries, and

2) To promote maritime information exchange among the Southeast Asian countries, the participants recognize the usefulness and importance of expert meetings based on the trans-border comradeship of WMU graduates, and will endeavor to make known the results of the present meeting to the peers and the people concerned in their own countries.

In appreciation of support from MLIT, The Nippon Foundation and SOF, the participants voiced the expectation that expert meetings on various maritime topics be held continually or at regular intervals in the future.

Lastly, SOF announced that they are ready to give support and assistance for the national chapters of WMU Sasakawa Fellows to voluntarily implement activities useful to the maritime communities in their own countries. SOF's concrete proposals to this end included the following:

SOF believes the creation of a web site is instrumental to promote communication among WMU Sasakawa Fellows at home and abroad. Consequently, SOF is ready to help any Chapter to create its own web site, if it has yet to make one.

To raise the professional status of WMU Sasakawa Fellows in their own countries, SOF will help them to stage a conference, a technical seminar or an expert forum that will be beneficial to the maritime community in their countries.

The participant Fellows agreed to bring SOF's proposals back home to discuss with their peers.

## A workshop staged by Sasakawa Fellows in Vietnam



Reunion of Sasakawa Fellows and WMU graduates during the workshop at Vietnam Maritime University

Sasakawa Fellows and WMU graduates in Vietnam implemented "The Workshop on the Reform of Training Methods for Seafarers to Meet Requirements in the 21st Century" at Vietnam Maritime University (VIMARU) in Haiphong on December 15, 2003. This article features the VIMARU workshop.

The workshop began at 08:30 a.m. with an opening address of Dr. Tran Dac Suu (1992), rector of VIMARU and representative of Sasakawa Fellows and WMU graduates in Vietnam. His address was followed by greetings from Mr. Nguyen Cong Duc, Vice-Chairman of VINAMARINE, and a keynote address by Mr. Eisuke Kudo of SOF.

Among many presentations were an informative one on concrete measures to reform maritime education and training in Vietnam by Capt. Nguyen Duc Hung, director of Seafarer Training Center in Hochiminh City, and a special lecture by Prof. Hiroaki Kobayashi, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, on "A Basic Idea and Methods on Simulator Training." The presentations continued until 5:00 p.m. Participants took notes on the speeches and presentations, and joined actively in question and answer sessions.

Vietnamese participants contributed as many as 10 papers for the workshop. Official languages at the workshop were Vietnamese and English.

Preparations for the workshop began with an announcement of the event conveyed by Dr. Tran Dac Suu to Mr. Yohei Sasakawa at their meeting

in Tokyo in June 2002.

The participants from industry, government and universities were offered a valuable opportunity to exchange views and information on the issue of seafarers' education. The workshop was attended by a total of some 70 people including 28 WMU graduates and Sasakawa Fellows.

On Sunday, December 14, a plenary meeting of the Vietnamese Chapter of WMU graduates took place at VIMARU under the chairmanship of Dr. Suu. Activities to date were reported to the members, while a draft charter for the Chapter was adopted. Action plans for future activities were discussed as well. On the evening of the same day, a get-together was held, which was greatly appreciated by the members, who ordinarily have little opportunity for reunion, due to the great distance between Hanoi and Hochiminh City. The participants joined in singing the song of WMU, which seems to have inspired the feeling of comradeship among the WMU graduates in Vietnam.



Future of seafarers' education was discussed at the workshop