



# YOHEI SASAKAWA

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DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA  
OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

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Druk i oprawa | Printing and Bounding

**AGENCIJA TOP AGNIESZKA ŁUCZAK**

---

7



Wydawca | Publisher

**Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni**

Gdynia 2026

ISBN: 978-83-67428-74-3

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GDYNIA 2026

# CONTENTS

# SPIS TREŚCI

**6** SŁOWO WSTĘPNE REKTORA UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO  
W GDYNI PROF. DR. HAB. INŻ. KPT. Ż.W. ADAMA WEINTRITA

---

**10** FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT OF GDYNIA MARITIME  
UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR ADAM WEINTRIT

---

**21** SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA

---

**46** LIST OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY PROJECTS FUNDED  
BY RESEARCH GRANTS FROM THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

---

**56** UCHWAŁA NR 41/VIII SENATU UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO  
W GDYNI Z DNIA 27 MARCA 2025 R. W SPRAWIE WSZCZĘCIA  
POSTĘPOWANIA O NADANIE DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA TYTUŁU  
DOKTORA HONORIS CAUSA UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO  
W GDYNI

---

**57** RESOLUTION NO. 41/XVIII OF THE SENATE OF GDYNIA MARITIME  
UNIVERSITY OF 27 MARCH 2025 REGARDING  
THE COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE CONFERRAL  
OF THE HONORARY TITLE OF DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA UPON  
DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA BY GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

---

**58** OPINION OF PROFESSOR SHAN HONGJUN, PRESIDENT  
OF DALIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

---

**59** OPINION OF PROFESSOR GABRIEL RAICU,  
RECTOR OF CONSTANTA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

---

**60** OPINION OF PROFESSOR TAKESHI NAKAZAWA,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF MARITIME UNIVERSITIES

---

**61** OPINION OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF WORLD MARITIME  
UNIVERSITY

# CONTENTS

# SPIS TREŚCI

**62** OPINION OF PROFESSOR MAXIMO Q. MEJIA, PRESIDENT OF WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

---

**64** OPINION OF PROFESSOR TOMASZ TARASIUK, GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

---

**60** UCHWAŁA NR 70/XVIII SENATU UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO W GDYNI Z DNIA 25 WRZEŚNIA 2025 R. W SPRAWIE NADANIA DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA, HONOROWEMU PREZESOWI THE NIPPON FOUNDATION TYTUŁU DOKTORA HONORIS CAUSA UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO W GDYNI

---

**68** RESOLUTION NO. 70/XVIII OF THE SENATE OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 REGARDING THE CONFERRAL OF THE HONORARY TITLE OF DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA ON DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA, HONORARY CHAIR OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION BY GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

---

**70** LAUDATIO ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERRAL OF A DOCTORATE HONORIS CAUSA BY GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY UPON DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA – PROFESSOR JANUSZ MINDYKOWSKI, GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

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**77** GMU DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA DIPLOMA DATED 27 JANUARY 2026 – IN LATIN

---

**78** GMU DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA DIPLOMA DATED 27 JANUARY 2026 – IN POLISH

---

**79** GMU DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA DIPLOMA DATED 27 JANUARY 2026 – IN ENGLISH

---

**80** GMU DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA DIPLOMA DATED 27 JANUARY 2026 – IN JAPANESE



## **SŁOWO WSTĘPNE REKTORA UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO W GDYNI PROF. DR. HAB. INŻ. KPT. Ż.W. ADAMA WEINTRITA**

# *Szanowni Państwo,*

Decyzją Senatu Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni w dniu 25 września 2025 roku, przy wsparciu senatów: World Maritime University, Dalian Maritime University i Constanta Maritime University oraz po uzyskaniu trzech niezależnych opinii: profesora Maxima Mejii, profesora Tomasza Tarasiuka i profesora Takeshiego Nakazawy najwyższa godność akademicka naszej uczelni – tytuł doktora honoris causa – została uroczystie nadana dr. Yohei Sasakiewie, honorowemu przewodniczącemu The Nippon Foundation. Akt ten stanowi wyraz głębokiego uznania dla Jego wybitnych zasług, wieloletniego zaangażowania na rzecz rozwoju spraw morskich oraz konsekwentnego wspierania inicjatyw służących dobru wspólnemu społeczności międzynarodowej.

Dr Yohei Sasakawa jest postacią o wyjątkowym autorytacie, łączącą wizję odpowiedzialnego przywództwa z realnym działaniem na rzecz pokoju, zrównoważonego rozwoju oraz współpracy między narodami. Jego aktywność, realizowana poprzez The Nippon Foundation, od dziesięcioleci przyczynia się do rozwoju edukacji morskiej, ochrony środowiska oceanicznego, bezpieczeństwa żeglugi oraz budowania mostów porozumienia pomiędzy kulturami Wschodu i Zachodu.

Jego globalna walka z trudem i towarzyszącą mu stygmatyzacją oraz dyskryminacją społeczną to kwestia, w której jest głęboko zaangażowany od ponad 40 lat.

Uniwersytet Morski w Gdyni, wierny swojej misji kształcenia elit intelektualnych i zawodowych dla gospodarki morskiej oraz transportu, z najwyższym uznaniem dostrzega wkład dr. Yohei'a Sasakawy w umacnianie roli wiedzy, dialogu i odpowiedzialności w globalnej przestrzeni morskiej. Wartości te pozostają w pełnej zgodności z misją naszej uczelni. Wymiernym dowodem Jego zaangażowania w sprawy morskie jest współfinansowanie działalności Międzynarodowego Stowarzyszenia Uczelni Morskich (IAMU – International Association of Maritime Universities). Będąc członkiem IAMU International Executive Board w latach 2000-2025, a zwłaszcza kiedy miałem honor przewodniczyć Stowarzyszeniu w latach 2023-2025, kilkukrotnie dostąpiłem zaszczytu osobistego spotkania z doktorem Sasakawą. Spotkania te zawsze miały charakter doniosły, czuło się, iż rozmawiamy o sprawach naprawdę istotnych dla bezpieczeństwa na morzu, ot choćby wspólna inicjatywa The Nippon Foundation oraz Międzynarodowej Organizacji Hydrograficznej (IHO) w ramach projektu The Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030, który polega na zmapowaniu całego dna oceanów do 2030 roku.

Nadanie tytułu doktora honoris causa jest nie tylko uhonorowaniem niezwykłych osiągnięć Laureata, lecz także symbolem przyjaźni, szacunku i współpracy pomiędzy środowiskami akademickimi oraz instytucjami działającymi na rzecz przyszłości mórz i oceanów. Jesteśmy przekonani, że ta uroczystość zapisze się trwale w historii Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni jako wydarzenie o szczególnym znaczeniu.

Niech niniejsza publikacja okolicznościowa stanie się wyrazem naszego uznania oraz świadectwem inspirującej drogi życia i działalności dr. Yohei Sasakawy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Weintrit".

Rektor Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni  
**prof. dr hab. inż. kpt. ż.w. Adam Weintrit**



Międzynarodowa Rada Wykonawcza (International Executive Board) Międzynarodowego Stowarzyszenia Uniwersytetów Morskich (International Association of Maritime Universities) na lata 2023-2025.

Od lewej: dr Jari Multisilta – Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, RADM Francis X McDonald, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, dr Ana Perić Hadžić – University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies, dr Takeshi Nakazawa – Executive Director of IAMU, dr Yohei Sasakawa – Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, prof. Adam Weintrit – Gdynia Maritime University, Chair of IAMU, dr Nafiz Arica – Piri Reis University, dr Cleopatra Dounbia-Henry – World Maritime University, dr Yuqing Sun – Dalian Maritime University, dr Stephen Hurd – Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania

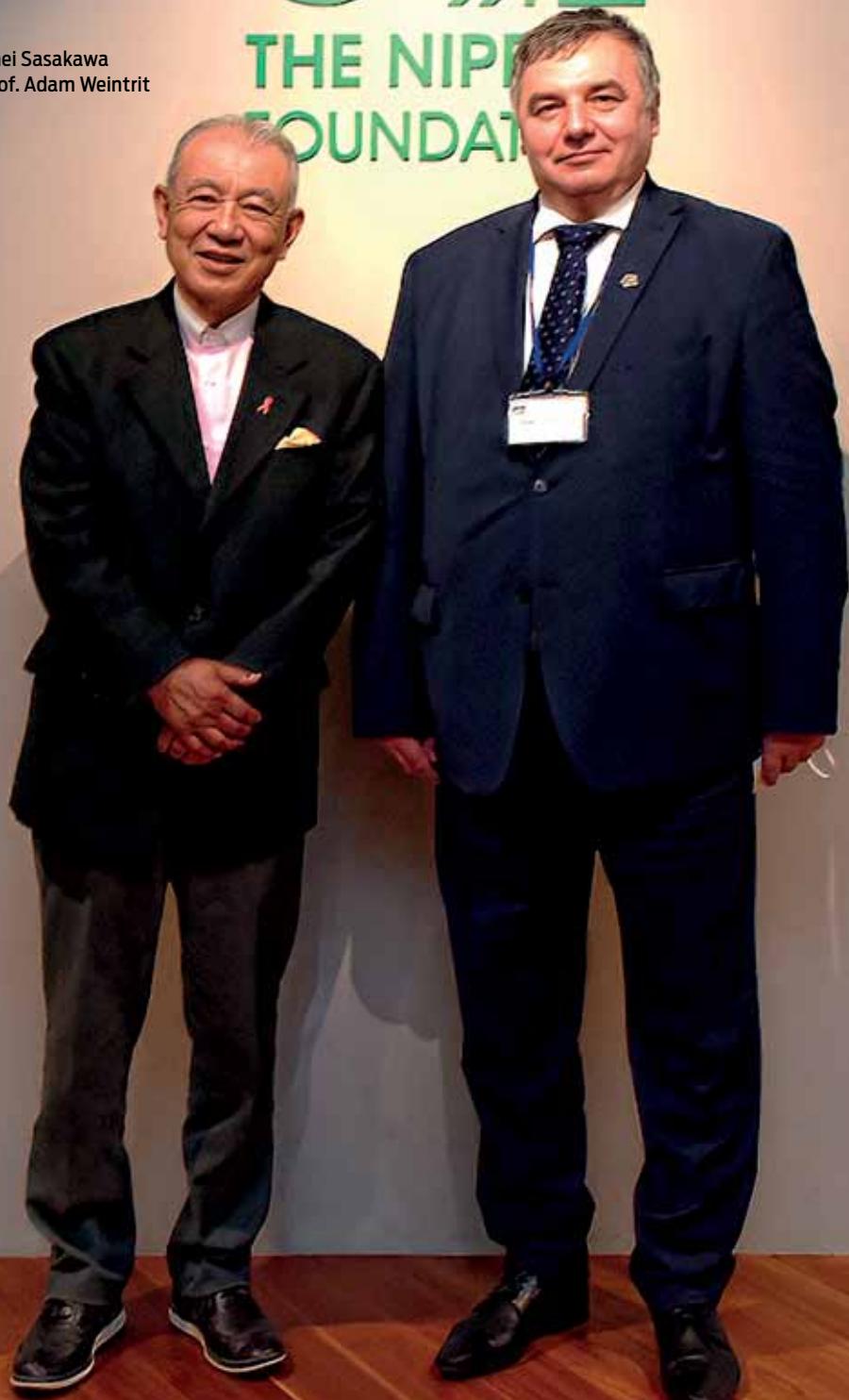


Prof. Glenn Blackwood passes the IAMU insignia of authority to Prof. Adam Weinrit, President of Gdynia Maritime University, following his appointment as Chair of the International Association of Maritime Universities for the years 2023-2025



THE NIP  
FOUNDAT

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa  
and Prof. Adam Weintraub





# **FOREWORD**

**BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSOR ADAM WEINTRIT, Ph.D.,  
D.Sc., FRIN, FNI, MASTER MARINER**

# Ladies and Gentlemen,

By the decision of the Senate of Gdynia Maritime University of 25 September 2025, with the support of the senates of World Maritime University, Dalian Maritime University, and Constanta Maritime University, and following the receipt of three independent opinions by Professor Maximo Mejia, Professor Tomasz Tarasiuk, and Professor Takeshi Nakazawa, the highest academic dignity of our University — that of Doctor *honoris causa* — was solemnly conferred upon Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation. This act constitutes an expression of profound recognition for his outstanding merits, long-standing commitment to the development of maritime affairs, and consistent support for initiatives serving the common good of the international community.

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa is a figure of exceptional authority, combining a vision of responsible leadership with tangible action undertaken in the service of peace, sustainable development, and cooperation among nations. His activities, carried out through The Nippon Foundation, have for decades contributed to the advancement of maritime education, the protection of the ocean environment, maritime safety and security, and the building of bridges of understanding between the cultures of the East and the West.

His global fight against leprosy, together with the stigma and social discrimination associated with the disease, is a cause to which he has been deeply committed for more than forty years.

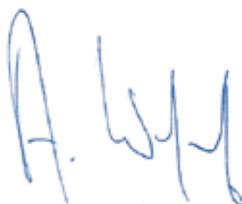
Gdynia Maritime University, faithful to its mission of educating intellectual and professional elites for the maritime economy and transport sector, acknowledges with the highest esteem the contribution of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa to strengthening the role of knowledge, dialogue, and responsibility in the global maritime domain. These values are fully aligned with the mission of our University. A tangible manifestation of his engagement in maritime affairs is the co-financing of the activities of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU). As a member of the IAMU International Executive Board in the years 2000–2025, and particularly during the period when I had the honor of serving as Chair of the Association in 2023–2025, I had several occasions to meet personally with Dr. Sasakawa. These meetings were invariably of great significance; one could clearly sense that we were discussing matters of genuine importance for maritime safety, such as the joint initiative of The Nippon Foundation and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) within the framework of The Nippon Foundation–GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project, aimed at mapping the entire ocean floor by the year 2030.

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14

The conferral of the title of Doctor *honoris causa* is not only an act of honoring the extraordinary achievements of the honoree, but also a symbol of friendship, respect, and cooperation between academic communities and institutions working for the future of the seas and oceans. We are convinced that this ceremony will be permanently inscribed in the history of Gdynia Maritime University as an event of special significance.

May this commemorative publication serve as an expression of our esteem and as a testimony to the inspiring life path and activity of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Weintrit".

President of Gdynia Maritime University

**Professor Adam Weintrit**, Ph.D., D.Sc., FRIN, FNI, Master Mariner



The International Executive Board of the International Association of Maritime Universities for the years 2023-2025. From the left: Dr. Jari Multisilta – Satakunta University of Applied Sciences; RADM Francis X McDonald – Massachusetts Maritime Academy; Dr. Ana Perić Hadžić – University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime Studies; Dr. Takeshi Nakazawa – Executive Director of IAMU; Dr. Yohei Sasakawa – Chair of The Nippon Foundation; Prof. Adam Weinrit – Gdynia Maritime University, Chair of IAMU; Prof. Nafiz Arica – Piri Reis University; Dr. Cleopatra Dounbia-Henry – World Maritime University; Prof. Yuqing Sun – Dalian Maritime University; Dr. Stephen Hurd – Australian Maritime College, University of Tasmania



Participants in a meeting of the IAMU International Executive Board in Tokyo in February 2025. In the centre: Dr. Yosei Sasakawa; to his right: newly elected IAMU Chair Prof. Yuqing Sun – Dalian Maritime University; on the left: previous IAMU Chair Prof. Adam Weintrit – Gdynia Maritime University



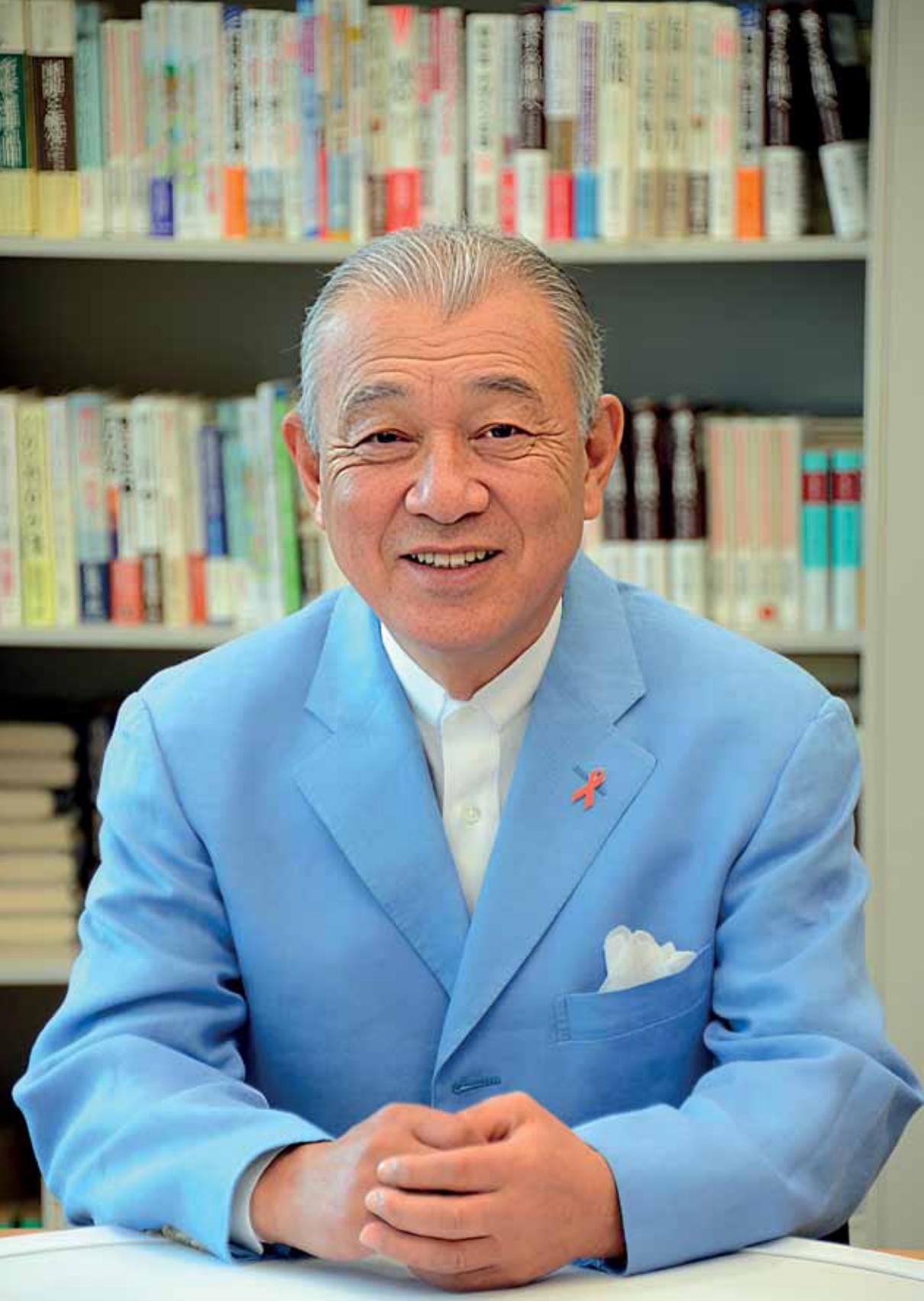
Dr. Yohei Sasakawa and Prof. Adam Weintraub, Tokyo 2025

**OVERCOMING LEPROSY INVOLVES  
MORE THAN EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND  
PROMPT TREATMENT.  
IT ALSO REQUIRES CHANGING  
MINDSETS SO THAT LEPROSY  
IS NO LONGER A SOURCE OF SHAME  
OR PREJUDICE. WE MUST REMOVE  
ALL BARRIERS IN THE WAY OF THOSE  
SEEKING MEDICAL CARE. WE MUST  
ELIMINATE THE OBSTACLES THAT  
PREVENT AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM LIVING IN  
DIGNITY AND ENJOYING ALL THEIR  
BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AS FULL  
MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.**

**YOHEI SASAKAWA**







# SHORT BIOGRAPHY

## *Dr. Yohei Sasakawa*

was born in Tokyo, Japan, on 8 January 1939. He graduated from the School of Political and Economic Sciences at Meiji University. Before dedicating his life to philanthropy, he was connected with business and the blue economy. For 20 years, he held the post of Director of the Japanese Foundation for the Development of Ship Building (currently the Ocean Policy Research Institute).

21



He served as President of The Nippon Foundation – the largest charitable foundation in Japan – from 1989 to 2005, and as Chair from 2005 to 2025. Since June 2025, he has held the position of the Foundation's Honorary Chair, while remaining active in the areas of his previous work.

Among the most important activities of Dr. Sasakawa is his work on maritime safety and the protection of the oceans. This is conducted through close cooperation with the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), of which he served as Honorary Chair from 2005 until 2025. In addition, his work in philanthropy has focused particularly on helping those affected by leprosy.

Dr. Sasakawa continues to collaborate with entities from the political, governmental, academic, and private sectors, undertaking initiatives aimed at solving issues in areas such as health, education, food security, and maritime safety.

## **MAIN INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY DR. SASAKAWA IN MARITIME SAFETY AND THE PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS:**

Since 1988, in cooperation with the UN, international organizations, research institutes and universities, under the leadership of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation has created development programmes aimed at producing experts for interdisciplinary, international teams. One example of such a programme is the United Nations–The Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme (UNNF), run in cooperation with the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). Since 2005, 216 participants from 87 countries have completed the programme. Many alumni of the program – launched during Dr. Sasakawa's tenure as President of The Nippon Foundation – now hold key positions in government administration and maritime organizations.

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The UNNF Fellowship is aimed at government officials and mid-career professionals from developing countries, specializing, among other areas, in the law of the sea and related fields. During the fellowship, participants gain a solid understanding of international legal frameworks, learn best practice in ocean governance, become familiar with the work of the United Nations, and further develop their professional skills. Programme alumni form a growing global network of experts dedicated to tackling problems such as global warming, ocean acidification, the depletion of fish stocks, and issues related to the vast amount of marine debris.

In addition to this fellowship programme, The Nippon Foundation established The Nippon Foundation–Nereus Program in 2011 – an initiative focused on interdisciplinary ocean research involving 30 partner institutions worldwide. By November 2020, the program had trained more than 50 fellows, many of whom went on to take up marine research posts in various institutions, including UN

organizations and international NGOs. The initiative also enabled the creation of an international interdisciplinary network of over 1,000 scientists conducting joint research in the natural and social sciences related to sustainable ocean development.

The main focus of programmes conducted by The Nippon Foundation is the education of a new generation of experts – leaders involved in the comprehensive protection of oceans, which recognise not only the complexity of the phenomena they study, but also their global nature.

As Japan's largest charitable foundation, The Nippon Foundation has also set itself the goal of making Japan – surrounded by seas and oceans – a model for other maritime nations. With a strong focus on keeping these waters clean, it runs projects to raise awareness among local communities, especially young people, about the importance for the entire ecosystem of regularly removing debris from seas and oceans. Particularly noteworthy initiatives include:

**The Setouchi Oceans X project** – launched in 2020 by The Nippon Foundation and local authorities, with the aim of making the Seto Inland Sea the most beautiful of its kind in the world. In 2024, it was decided to extend the initiative until March 2028.

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23

On 5 July 2025, around 1,000 people – including the governors of four prefectures, representatives of local fisheries co-operatives and businesses, secondary school students, and volunteers – took part in beach clean-ups in Okayama Prefecture and three other prefectures surrounding Japan's Seto Inland Sea. The locations were chosen deliberately – coastlines and river mouths where, because of the terrain, winds and tides, debris accumulates especially easily, yet is rarely cleared due to difficult access. Ferries were used to transport heavy equipment and vehicles. In a single day, a total of around 26 tonnes of waste was collected.

Data from 2023 shows that these four prefectures generate around 388 tonnes of marine debris each year, a significant proportion of which is not covered by routine collection. This means that to achieve a real reduction in debris in the Seto Inland Sea, sustained, systematic action under the Setouchi Oceans X project is needed through to 2028.



At the opening of the event in Kagawa Prefecture, which was linked online with the other prefectures, Dr. Sasakawa stressed the importance of shared responsibility, saying:

*The Setouchi Oceans X project was launched with the endorsements of the governors of Okayama, Hiroshima, Kagawa, and Ehime prefectures, committed to achieving the most beautiful sea in the world. I look forward to working together with everyone to make the Seto Inland Sea a model for the rest of the world by March 2028.*

**Back to Blue** – a joint project of The Nippon Foundation and Economist Impact, launched in 2021, focused on issues such as plastic and chemical pollution and ocean acidification. In addition to research, the project also organised international conferences and workshops, during which participants actively sought solutions to the most pressing issues.

For more than four decades, The Nippon Foundation has been working for improvements in the safety and the protection of the natural environment in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore – maritime highways which play an important role in the transport of crude oil.

The Nippon Foundation, chaired by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa for two decades, is also the main sponsor supporting the statutory activity of IAMU, through the award of research grants and more. A member of IAMU since 2000, Gdynia Maritime University has carried out a range of research projects funded by grants from The Nippon Foundation.

The Nippon Foundation also supports activities carried out through the World Maritime University (WMU), a university founded in 1983 in Malmö, Sweden, on the initiative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), of which Gdynia Maritime University is also a member. One WMU student, writing in the Friends of WMU Japan newsletter, describes studying at WMU thanks to a scholarship awarded by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa through The Nippon Foundation:

*The first day in the clean city of Malmö gave me a positive attitude at the beginning of my 17 months study at WMU. Every graduate of WMU remembers the old classic building at 6 Dispontegatan as their home during their studies here: The big family, different cultures, social activities, never ending study program and homesickness. This had a massive impact on the cooperation among the students, sharing and supporting one another, fulfilling the IMO objective of a Network. As students head back to their countries, life in Malmo doesn't become just a chapter in their lives, but a beginning for graduates to use their expertise in various areas. I would like to thank the Ship & Ocean Foundation for their support in funding my studies and especially Mr. Yōhei Sasakawa for his vision, and his belief that developing states need to have the same privilege as that of developed maritime states in the Global Maritime Industry. The WMU Japan Sasakawa Fellows Network had emerged when numerous global events now affecting the maritime world took place. The formation of the Fellows Forum will provide greater international cooperation among maritime states through the SOF-WMU graduates, enhancing the object of IMO "Safer Ship and Cleaner Ocean", and sustainable development.*

The Nippon Foundation conducts initiatives in ocean science, maritime innovation and safety, and the sustainable blue economy, including:



**Project Seabed 2030 – a flagship programme of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** – is the result of a meeting in 2015 between The Nippon Foundation and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) programme, run under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). At that time, only 6% of the seabed had been graphically represented on a specialised map; nevertheless, it had already become vital to fully map approximately 70% of the blue surface of our planet. The lack of this data negatively affected not only the protection of the natural environment of seas and oceans but also the protection and sustainable development of the communities living in these areas. The then President of The Nippon Foundation, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, in cooperation with the GEBCO Program, created the ambitious project Seabed 2030 to develop a definitive bathymetric and numerical map of the entire ocean floor. The creation of the map is connected with a range of benefits. Knowledge of the precise shape of the seafloor and its depth is crucial for understanding aspects such as ocean circulation, climate models, tsunami prediction and public safety, sediment transport, as well as issues related to the critical seabed infrastructure (cables, pipelines). The project is currently being conducted by 200 partners, who are providing essential digital data.

On 3 February 2025, the team behind The Nippon Foundation–GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project announced major progress in mapping the Arctic Ocean seabed. Newly compiled data expanded the global seafloor dataset by around 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup> – an area more than three times the size of Sweden – marking an important step towards the goal of mapping the entire ocean floor by 2030.

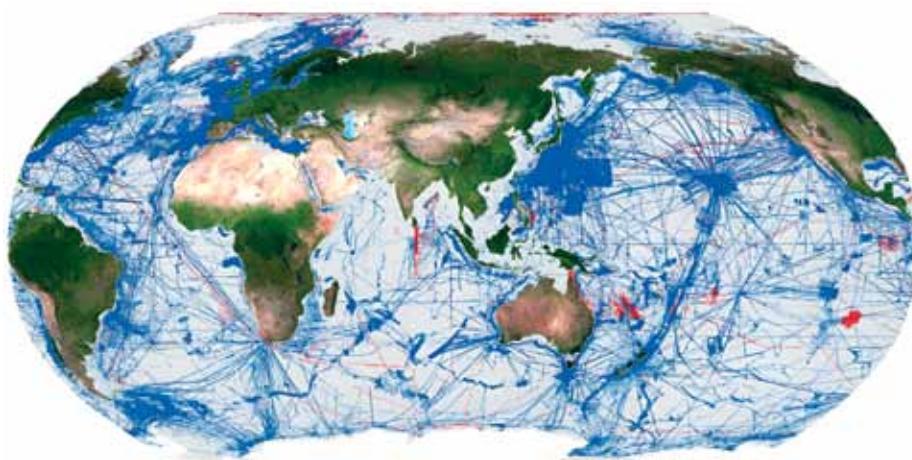
The announcement coincided with the release of the fifth edition of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO), Version 5.0. The new version offers an unprecedented level of detail, with a 100 × 100 m grid resolution, compared with 200 × 200 m in the previous edition. The dataset and methods were also published in *Scientific Data*, a peer-reviewed open-access journal in Springer

Nature's Nature Portfolio, and represent a major step change in the quality of Arctic research.

Established in 1997, IBCAO has long been regarded as a key source of Arctic bathymetric data. The latest update was made possible through advanced data-compilation methods, including cloud-based workflows, distributed computing, and the integration of detailed metadata. The project also highlights, the enduring challenges of Arctic mapping: persistent sea ice and extreme environmental conditions have limited data collection for decades, making innovative technologies and wide international collaboration essential.

The Seabed 2030 Project aims to collect and provide comprehensive data on the ocean floor in the form of a free, publicly accessible global GEBCO grid. This initiative is officially recognized as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. According to the latest data, announced in June 2024 in celebration of World Hydrography Day, 26.1% of the world's ocean floor has been mapped to date – and new data from the Arctic will further increase this percentage.

These new maps not only provide detailed scientific knowledge but also offer practical benefits, such as improving maritime safety, enhancing oceanographic research, and enabling better forecasting of climate change, extreme weather events, and potential hazards, including tsunami waves.



The colored section indicates the extent of IBCAO gridded depth data coverage across the Arctic Ocean, as released by The Nippon Foundation–GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project

**Nekton Ocean Census** is a global initiative aimed at discovering unknown marine life. Launched jointly by The Nippon Foundation and the Nekton Foundation, the initiative is based on collaboration between the scientific community, media, academia, business, and the private sector.

As part of his opening speech during the Ocean Census Launch Ceremony in London on 27 April 2023, Dr. Sasakawa said in relation to the launch of the initiative:

*[...] Since our founding, The Nippon Foundation has made great efforts, through diverse initiatives, to open the way for a healthy ocean and to pass it on to future generations. Our work includes many exciting projects such as nurturing one thousand and six hundred ocean professionals from one hundred and fifty countries, opening up the unexplored Arctic sea route, completing the mapping of the global ocean floor, and developing unmanned autonomous vessels. I, myself, reading Jules Verne's "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" as a young boy, was captivated by the wonders of the ocean. The great seabed adventure... the battle with the gigantic octopus...food I could never imagine...They were all a surprising shock to me. Particularly, encounters with different marine life triggered my strong curiosity towards the undiscovered ocean. My childhood desire to "want to learn more about the unknown ocean" and to "unravel the mysteries of the ocean" has grown even stronger today, for an eighty-four-year-old young boy.*

*Despite the amazing speed with which science and technology have advanced and we have one hundred percent knowledge of the topography of Mars, we still know very little about the "Mother Ocean" that nurtures all living things. As for marine organisms, it is said that we only know around ten percent in total. To discover these unknown marine organisms hidden in the ocean, we present to you here today, Ocean Census. [...]*

not only to solve social problems in the country but also to revitalise and increase the competitiveness of the maritime industry and related sectors.

In the first phase of the MEGURI2040 programme on fully autonomous ships – funded and managed by The Nippon Foundation – voyages by six vessels were successfully carried out between January and March 2022. These trials confirmed the effectiveness of autonomous-navigation technology and covered a range of ship types, from car ferries and container ships (both large and small) to passenger/tourist vessels, in order to test how widely these solutions could be applied in commercial shipping.

One of the most significant tests was a 790-kilometre round trip between Tokyo Bay and Ise City in Mie Prefecture in central Japan. The autonomous navigation system achieved an impressive operating rate: 97.4% on the outbound voyage and 99.7% on the return leg. This was another world first, particularly given that Tokyo Bay is one of the busiest sea routes in the world, with up to 500 vessels passing through each day.

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29

The trials also identified areas requiring further operational improvements, including the need to ensure continuity of the system in emergency situations – for example, if the permanent fleet operations centre were damaged by a natural disaster. In response, the MEGURI2040 consortium developed a mobile fleet operations centre housed in a semi-trailer, which can be moved to a safe location and used in emergencies.

The mobile centre was designed in a compact format: all remote navigational-support functions fit within a seven-metre-long space. With future wider rollout in mind, the cost of the centre's technological equipment was kept to around JPY 30 million (approx. US\$200,000).

The development of autonomous ships is particularly significant in the context of challenges facing Japan's coastal shipping sector. The industry is grappling with a rapidly ageing workforce – more than half of seafarers are aged 50 or over – and shrinking crew numbers. Autonomous navigation could significantly reduce workload and

operating costs, while also improving safety by reducing human error. By drawing on advanced information and communications technology (ICT) and artificial intelligence (AI), Japan is using its world-class technological capabilities to develop fully autonomous shipping. Expectations are especially high in relation to Japan's so-called "2024 logistics problem", linked to the introduction of overtime limits, where new technologies are expected to help ease crew shortages across supply chains.

On 17 October 2024, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez visited the Fleet Operations Centre in Nishinomiya, Hyōgo Prefecture, where he was briefed on the project. The centre, located at the headquarters of Furuno Electric Co., Ltd. – one of the leading manufacturers of marine and industrial electronics – is described as the world's first facility capable of providing shore-based navigational support simultaneously for multiple fully autonomous ships.



30

To support the development of domestic and international regulations for the construction and operation of autonomous vessels, The Nippon Foundation shares research findings and demonstration results with Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, as well as with member states of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Foundation has also declared its continued support for the deployment of autonomous-navigation technology and for building public understanding of its role in coastal shipping, which accounts for around 40% of domestic freight transport in Japan.

**Ocean Innovation Consortium** – Established by The Nippon Foundation with cooperation from the Japanese government, the Ocean Innovation Consortium is a nationwide platform bringing together universities, public institutions and companies to address Japan's shortage of engineers with practical expertise in marine resource and offshore development. The goal – announced at a national Marine Day event in July 2015 – is to increase the number of Japan's marine resource development engineers to 10,000 by 2030. The Consortium officially began activities on 4 October 2016. It runs capacity-building programmes for students and young professionals, including industry-focused seminars, field experience training

(including practical seminars aboard the deep-sea drilling vessel Chikyu), and overseas summer schools/internships (e.g., in the UK, Norway, the US and the Netherlands). The Consortium also supports innovation through joint R&D and international cooperation projects; as of 22 July 2021, it reported partnerships with 55+ organizations (companies, universities and research institutes).

In recognition of his contribution to maritime safety and work for the protection of the oceans, in 2014, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa was honored with the International Maritime Award.



## OTHER CHARITABLE WORKS OF DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA:

### **Work for the elimination of leprosy and support for persons affected by the disease**



For over 40 years, Dr. Sasakawa has been actively involved in efforts to eliminate leprosy, working in close cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), governments, international organizations and NGOs, and organizations of persons affected by leprosy, with



Dr. Yohei Sasakawa  
and Director-General  
of the WHO, Tedros  
Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Photo: WHO Press



Photo: Free Press Journal

particular emphasis on areas where this disease occurs in isolation in a given region. Dr. Sasakawa is involved in the propagation of knowledge on leprosy and the fight against discrimination, which affects those with the disease and their families, and takes place even after the disease is cured. Since May 2001, he has acted as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for the Elimination of Leprosy. As a result of his actions, in August 2004, the UN Subcommittee on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights began conducting research aimed at formally addressing leprosy and the accompanying issue of discrimination, which in turn led to the adoption of a resolution calling on governments, organizations working on leprosy, and UN institutions to improve the current situation. In 2006, he founded the Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation, whose aim is to help those affected by leprosy. In 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan awarded him the title of Human Rights Ambassador for Persons Affected by Leprosy in Japan. He has received several awards and distinctions for his work on behalf of individuals living with the disease, including the International Gandhi Award (for the first time in 2007).

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa  
on Mount Kilimanjaro



In 2024, Dr. Sasakawa decided, once again, to use his role as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination to draw the attention of politicians, world leaders, and the media to the goal of eliminating leprosy worldwide. Together with his son, and aged 85, he set out to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. In August 2024, in a post on his blog, Dr. Sasakawa reflected on his long-running efforts to eliminate leprosy, referring to his February ascent of Kilimanjaro and the campaign he leads:

*The August issue of the Bulletin of the World Health Organization carries an article I wrote in my capacity as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination. The Bulletin, the flagship periodical of WHO, was first published in 1948 and has become one of the world's leading public health journals.*

*Titled "What's needed to achieve zero leprosy", my article first highlighted the dramatic progress made in bringing down case numbers over the past few decades as well as the steps that have been taken at the United Nations to address stigma and discrimination associated with the disease. Despite this progress, I noted, leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is still with us, while discrimination against persons affected by leprosy remains deeply entrenched in many parts of the world.*

*In 2021, WHO released Towards zero leprosy: global leprosy (Hansen's disease) strategy 2021–2030, calling for among other things, a 70% reduction in the annual number of new cases detected, and a 90% reduction in the rate per million population of new cases with grade-2 (visible) disability. Furthermore, in 2023, WHO set new milestones and indicators for leprosy as part of a new Leprosy Elimination Framework.*

*In my article, I emphasized how these goals can be achieved, drawing on my experience of visiting over 100 countries as WHO Goodwill Ambassador. The key points are: an expression of political will at the leadership level in each country; budgetary commitments; and securing and allocating the necessary human resources.*

*I believe we have reached the last mile of our 100-mile journey against leprosy. But this last mile is the most difficult. However, as I found during my successful climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro earlier this year as part of the Don't Forget Leprosy campaign, there is one more key to completing any quest, and this I added as the conclusion to my article: a never-give-up spirit.*

## **Support of persons with disabilities**

Dr. Sasakawa has also actively supported persons with disabilities in every area of their lives, including sport, art, and education. In 2022, he organized the True Colors Festival, the biggest festival to date for disabled artists, in which more than 100 artists from 12 countries took part.

Additionally, he has for more than 30 years supported the development of the potential of persons with disabilities and worked against their exclusion in South-East Asia. Thanks to his efforts, more than 3000 persons with disabilities took up higher education. In 2021, The Nippon Foundation began cooperating with The Valuable 500 – a global network of CEOs of companies such as Apple, Google, and Microsoft – focused on integrating persons with disabilities into business.

Dr. Sasakawa has also been involved in the evacuation of persons with disabilities from Ukraine in cooperation with non-profit organizations from Ukraine, Israel, and Austria. These efforts led to the evacuation of 4,000 individuals with disabilities and their families. Under his leadership, The Nippon Foundation has also provided humanitarian aid to more than 10,000 persons with disabilities, who chose to remain in the country since its occupation by Russia in February 2022.

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35

## **Activity in the fight against hunger in Africa**



Dr. Yohei Sasakawa continues the activity begun by the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) – founded in 1986 – which aims to take action to combat hunger in Africa. SAA administers and manages the Sasakawa Global 2000 programme, through which small-scale farmers learn modern farming methods, including the use of high-quality seeds and small amounts of fertilisers. The method, which has enabled a two-fold increase in production, has been used by millions of farmers from 14 Sub-Saharan African countries. The project is currently being conducted in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda.

In June 2025, Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) Nigeria began distributing agricultural inputs – including seeds, fertilisers and agrochemicals – to 9,000 smallholder farmers across six states (Kano, Jigawa, Gombe, Nasarawa, Benue and Kwara), marking the start of the 2025 rainy-season farming season in these regions. The programme aims to strengthen food security, increase household incomes, and promote climate-smart farming practices among small-scale producers.

Emphasizing SAA's long-term approach, Dr Godwin Atser, Country Director of SAA Nigeria, said:

*For more than 30 years, we have worked side by side with Nigeria's smallholder farmers, delivering practical, field-tested innovations.*

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Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) distributed farm inputs to 9,000 smallholder farmers in Nigeria's six states to launch 2025 wet season farming

He added that yields have risen markedly – maize from 1.9 to 5.5 tonnes/ha, rice from 1.8 to 6 tonnes/ha, and soybean and cowpea from 0.6 to 2.5 tonnes/ha – thanks to a combination of improved inputs and hands-on advisory support with community-based learning.

Photo: sasakawa/blog





Yohei Sasakawa, left, with India's President Ram Nath Kovind, right, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, centre, during the Gandhi Peace prize ceremony in New Delhi on 26 February 2019



The Sasakawa Africa Association was founded in 1986 by former US President Jimmy Carter, Nobel laureate Dr Norman Borlaug, and Ryoichi Sasakawa (founder of The Nippon Foundation), in response to the devastating famine in the Horn of Africa in 1984–1985. Nigeria is one of SAA's four focus countries, alongside Ethiopia, Mali and Uganda. As SAA's principal donor, The Nippon Foundation has provided over US\$300 million in support – described as an unprecedented level of sustained funding for an NGO.

## **DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA: SELECTED HONORARY DISTINCTIONS AND HONORS**

Dr. Sasakawa is a figure of exceptional international significance, whose work spans ocean science, maritime studies, marine environmental protection, as well as humanitarian efforts and the promotion of peace. His achievements have been recognized by numerous universities and scientific institutions worldwide, as well as by organizations working in health, education, and sustainable development. Dr. Sasakawa not only advances scientific knowledge but also actively supports maritime education and initiatives related to maritime safety and conservation.

Throughout his career, he has received over twenty honorary doctorates and professorial titles from leading institutions, including the University of Belgrade, Ateneo de Manila University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of York. He is also an honorary professor at several universities in China, including Yunnan, Dalian, and Shanghai. A particularly important aspect of his work is his contribution to maritime education and ocean sciences – he serves as Honorary Chair of the International Association of Maritime Universities and has been repeatedly recognized for his contributions to maritime research and shipping, including the IMO International Maritime Prize (2014; presented in 2015) and the Ocean's 8 Award from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (2017).

Dr. Sasakawa's humanitarian and social contributions are equally impressive. He has received, among other honours, the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award (2022) and the WHO Health-for-All Gold Medal (2017), as well as the Gandhi Peace Prize (2019). In Japan, he was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun (Japan, 2019) and recognized as a Person of Cultural Merit (Japan, 2019). He has also received the International Bar Association's Rule of Law Award (2014). He has been widely recognized by nations and international organizations for promoting peace, health, and education, receiving awards ranging from honorary citizenships to the highest national decorations, including the Royal Order of Monisaraphon in Cambodia, the Polestar Order in Mongolia, and medals from Vietnam, Serbia, Sweden, and Malaysia.



UNIVERSITI  
MALAYA

Home of the Bright. Land of the Brave

Di Sini Berundaknya Rautan, Tanah Tumpahnya Borani



Dr. Sasakawa's achievements demonstrate how scientific and humanitarian work can complement each other. His work on ocean and maritime affairs demonstrates that science can contribute to environmental protection, sustainable development, and global security. As a leader and mentor, he inspires new generations of scientists and social advocates, showing that knowledge and passion can help change the world for the better.

Below is a selection of the honorary distinctions and honours received by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa:

## HONORARY DEGREES, TITLES, AND PROFESSORSHIPS

- 2025 – Doctor Honoris Causa, Gdynia Maritime University, Poland
- 2025 – Honorary Doctorate, Western Balkans University, Albania
- 2023 – Honorary Doctorate, University of Belgrade, Serbia
- 2019 – Doctor of Humanities, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
- 2018 – Honorary Doctor, Institute of Engineering and Technology, Mongolia
- 2018 – Advisory Professor, Jilin University, China
- 2017 – Doctor of Laws, University of Minnesota, USA
- 2016 – Doctor Honoris Causa, Sofia University, Bulgaria
- 2013 – Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University, University of York, the United Kingdom
- 2012 – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities, University of Malaya, Malaysia
- 2012 – Honorary Degree of Doctor of Agricultural Development Honoris Causa, Hawassa University





- 2009 – Honorary Professorship, Yunnan University, China
- 2008 – Honorary Degree of Doctor in Humane Letters, University for Peace, Costa Rica
- 2008 – Honorary Professorship, Dalian University of Foreign Languages, China
- 2007 – Honorary Doctor of Humanity, University of Cambodia, Cambodia
- 2007 – Honorary Professorship, Guizhou University, China
- 2007 – Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
- 2006 – Honorary Professorship, Dalian Maritime University, China
- 2005 – Doctor Honoris Causa, Jadavpur University, India
- 2005 – Honorary Chair, International Association of Maritime Universities
- 2004 – Honorary Professorship, Shanghai Maritime University, China
- 2004 – Doctor Honoris Causa, World Maritime University, Sweden
- 2004 – Honorary Professorship, Heilongjiang University, China
- 2004 – Honorary Professorship, Harbin Medical University, China
- 2003 – Honorary Professorship, China Medical University, China
- 2003 – Doctor Honoris Causa, Academy of Management, Mongolia
- 2000 – Honorary Professorship, Yanbian University, China
- 2000 – Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Bucharest, Romania
- 2000 – Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

# HONORS

- 2022 – WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award
- 2021 – Order of Merit in the rank of Grand Officer, Ecuador
- 2019 – Seiron Grand Prize, Fuji Sankei's Communications Group, Japan
- 2019 – Jürgen Palm Award, The Association for International Sport for All
- 2019 – Person of Cultural Merit, Japan
- 2019 – Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, Japan
- 2019 – Gandhi Peace Prize (Awarded in 2018)
- 2018 – Honorary Citizenship of the Republic of Palau
- 2018 – The Royal Order of Monisaraphon Knight Grand Cross, Cambodia
- 2017 – Ocean's 8 Award, The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- 2017 – Health and Human Rights Award, International Council of Nurses
- 2017 – Plus ratio quam vis Medal, Jagiellonian University
- 2017 – Health-for-All Gold Medal, World Health Organization
- 2016 – The Award of Distinction of the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- 2015 – International Maritime Prize (Awarded in 2014)
- 2014 – The Rule of Law Award, International Bar Association
- 2013 – Gold Medal of Merit, Republic of Serbia
- 2013 – Friendship Medal of the State of Vietnam, The Socialist Republic of Vietnam
- 2011 – Royal Order of Sahametrei class Maha Sirivudha (Grand Cross), Cambodia
- 2011 – Commander of the Medal of Gratitude Central Africa
- 2010 – Commander of the Order of the Defender of the Realm (Panglima Mangku Negara) Tan Sri, Malaysia
- 2010 – Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit
- 2010 – Ethiopian Millennium Gold Medal
- 2010 – Royal Order of the Polar Star-Commander First Class, Kingdom of Sweden
- 2010 – Ordem de Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste



नेपाल पर्वतारोहण संघ  
NEPAL MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION (NMA)

34<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING  
2024



WE WARMLY WELCOME  
THE RESPECTED CHAIRMAN OF  
THE NIPPON FOUNDATION  
**MR. YOHEI SASAKAWA**

17TH SEPTEMBER 2024, TUESDAY  
KATHMANDU, NEPAL





Yohei Sasakawa  
and Pope Francis  
in the Vatican

- 2010 – The Grand Cross of the Order of the Falcon with Star, Republic of Iceland
- 2010 – Order of the Knight of Dannebrog, Kingdom of Denmark
- 2010 – Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Medallion of the World Food Prize
- 2010 – Commander of the Order of the White Rose of Finland
- 2010 – The Patriarch's Chart of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill
- 2010 – The Diploma of Honorary Academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences
- 2009 – 'Science for Society' Award, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 2007 – International Gandhi Award (Awarded in 2006)
- 2007 – Polestar Order, Mongolia
- 2007 – Coast Guard Legion of Honor (Degree of Maginoo)
- 2006 – Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Mali à titre Étranger
- 2004 – Yomiuri International Cooperation Prize, Japan
- 2003 – Commandeur de l'Ordre Royal du Monisaraphon, Cambodia
- 2003 – National Construction Medal, Cambodia
- 2003 – Officier de l'Ordre National, Government of Madagascar

- 2003 – The Special Award, World Maritime University, Sweden
- 2001 – Vaclav Havel Memorial Medal, Czech President Vaclav Havel
- 2001 – Millennium Gandhi Award, International Leprosy Union
- 2000 – Order of Merit in the rank of Grand Officer, Government of Romania
- 2000 – International Green Pen Award honour for Pacific Environmental Journalism, Fiji
- 2000 – Decerne la Medaille d'Honneur de Menerbes, France
- 1998 – Al Hussein Bin Ali Decoration for Accomplishment-First Degree, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 1998 – Health-for-All Gold Medal, World Health Organization
- 1997 – China Health Medal, Republic of China
- 1996 – Frantsiska Scarina Medal, People's Republic of Belarus
- 1996 – Medal for Merits Third Degree, Ukraine
- 1996 – Kin Inka Sho, Republic of Peru
- 1996 – Order of Merit for Distinguished Service-Third Grade, Republic of Peru
- 1995 – La Grande Étoile de Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti
- 1989 – Grand Officier de L'Ordre du Mono, Republic of Togo





## LIST OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY PROJECTS FUNDED BY RESEARCH GRANTS FROM THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

### **IAMU Model Course on Training in the Operational Use of Electric Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)**

Individual grant

Date of completion: 2003

Research Coordinator: Adam Weintrit, Gdynia Maritime University

### **Advanced Training for Cadets on Cargo Handling Simulator**

Individual grant

Date of completion: 2003

Research Coordinator: Bogumił Łączyński, Gdynia Maritime University

## **Exploitation of Electrical Equipment in Ship Hazardous Areas**

### **- Lecture and Laboratory Course**

Date of completion: 01.01.2003-22.01.2007

Research Coordinator: Bolesław Dudójć, Gdynia Maritime University

Research Partner: Gdynia Maritime University

## **NetSHs Internet Based Integration of Multiple Ship Handling**

Date of completion: 2004

Research Coordinator: Shi Chaojian, Shanghai Maritime University

Research Partners:

Adam Weinrit, Gdynia Maritime University

Przemysław Dziula, Gdynia Maritime University

Andrzej Bomba, Gdynia Maritime University

Chae-Uk Song, Korea Maritime University

Gyei-Kark Park, Mokpo National Maritime University

## **Research on Algorithm of Collecting Valuable Information**

### **MET system and Human Resource Database in IAMU Members**

#### **Universities/Institutions**

IAMU 2010 Research Project (No. 2010-4)

Date of completion: 2010-2011

Contractor: Professor Mykhaylo V. Miyusov, Odessa National Maritime Academy

Research Coordinator: Dmytro Zhukov, Odessa National Maritime Academy

Research Partners:

Masao Furusho, Kobe University-Graduate School of Maritime Sciences

Bogumił Łączyński, Gdynia Maritime University

47

## **Research on Algorithm of Collecting Valuable Information**

### **MET System and Human Resource Database in IAMU Members**

#### **Universities/Institutions**

IAMU 2011 Research Project (No. 2011-5)

Date of completion: 2011-2012

Contractor: Keiji Oda, Kobe University

Research Coordinator: Masao Furusho, Kobe University

Research Partners:

Dmytro Zhukov, Odessa National Maritime Academy

Bogumił Łączyński, Gdynia Maritime University

Boris Butman, United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point

Jin Soo Park, Korea Maritime University

Xu Bin, Dalian Maritime University

### **IAMU Model Course for Electro-Technical Officers (ETO)**

IAMU 2012 Research Project (No. 2012-3)

Date of completion: 2012-2013

Contractor: Mykhaylo V. Miyusov, Odessa National Maritime Academy

Research Coordinator: Vadym Zakcharchenko, Odessa National Maritime Academy

Research Partners:

Gdynia Maritime University

Ruan Wei, Shanghai Maritime University

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### **Model Course on Navigation in Polar Waters**

IAMU 2014 Research Project (No. 20140106)

Date of completion: 2014-2015

Contractor: Youfang Huang, Shanghai Maritime University

Research Coordinator: Qinyou Hu, Shanghai Maritime University

Research Partners:

Yuli Chen, Shanghai Maritime University

Jieying Xie, Shanghai Maritime University

Yongtao Xi, Shanghai Maritime University

Adam Weinrit, Gdynia Maritime University

Nikitas Nikitakos, University of the Aegean

Jeong-Bin Yim, Makpo Maritime University

Shibo Li, Shanghai Maritime University

Yang Sun, Shanghai Maritime University

Chenjia Qian, Shanghai Maritime University

### **Marine Structural Failures Database (MarStrFail)**

IAMU 2017 Research Project (No. 20170401)

Date of completion: 2017-2018

Contractor: Alen Jugovic, University of Rijeka

Research Coordinator: Goran Vukelic, University of Rijeka  
Research Partners:  
Lech Murawski, Gdynia Maritime University  
Naman Recho, Blaise Pascal University

### **Technology for Safer and Greener Shipping: Addressing Cyber Security in Maritime Education and Training (CYMET)**

IAMU 2018 Research Project (No. 20180107)  
Date of completion: 2018-2019  
Contractor: Juha Kämäri, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences  
Research Coordinator: Sauli Ahvenjärvi, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences  
Research Partners:  
Ireneusz Czarnowski, Gdynia Maritime University  
John Mogensen, Svendborg International Maritime Academy

### **A Coefficient of Voltage Energy Efficiency (CoeffVolEff)**

IAMU 2019 Research Project (No. 20190202)  
Date of completion: 01.05.2019-31.05.2020  
Contractor: Ireneusz Czarnowski, Gdynia Maritime University  
Research Coordinator: Piotr Gnaciński, Gdynia Maritime University  
Research Partners:  
Janusz Mindykowski, Gdynia Maritime University  
Tomasz Tarasiuk, Gdynia Maritime University  
Vadym Zakharchenko, National University «Odessa Maritime Academy»  
Jose Manuel Dores Costa, Escola Superior Náutica Infante D. Henrique  
Wei Ruan, Shanghai Maritime University

49

### **Research on New Obstacle Avoidance Algorithms for Ships (NOAA)**

IAMU 2018 Research Project (No. YAS201801)  
Date of completion: 01.05.2018-31.05.2019  
Contractor: Gdynia Maritime University  
Research Coordinator: Agnieszka Lazarowska, Gdynia Maritime University

## THE SASAKAWA HALL



With members of the Board of Trustees of the Sasakawa Memorial Sri Lanka Japan Cultural Center Trust

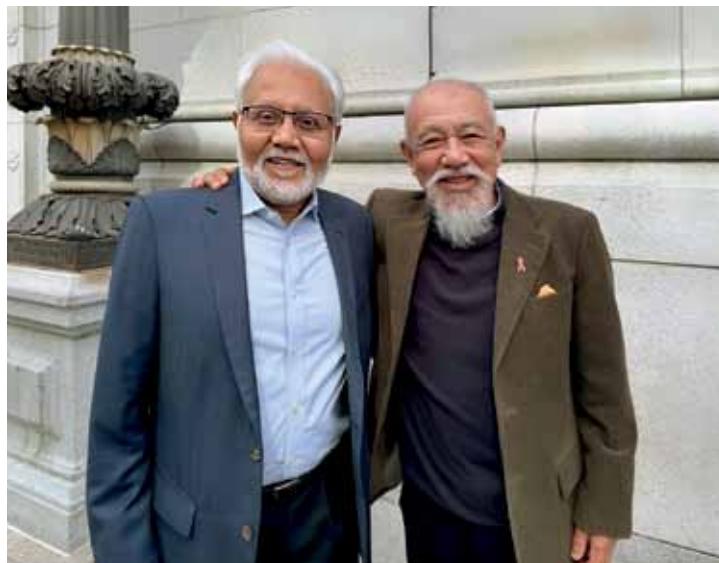
50



With two Sasakawa fellows who are studying at universities in Washington under the foundation's fellowship program – Rina Akiyama (right) of Johns Hopkins University and Hitoshi Iguchi (left) of Georgetown University



With NASA astronaut Sunita Williams (left) and Bruce Strickrott (right), the lead pilot of the DSV (Deep-sea Submersible Vehicle) *Alvin* (at rear) at WHOI



With Dr. Amit Roy, Chair of the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA)



SPE SASAKAWA  
PEACE FOUNDATION

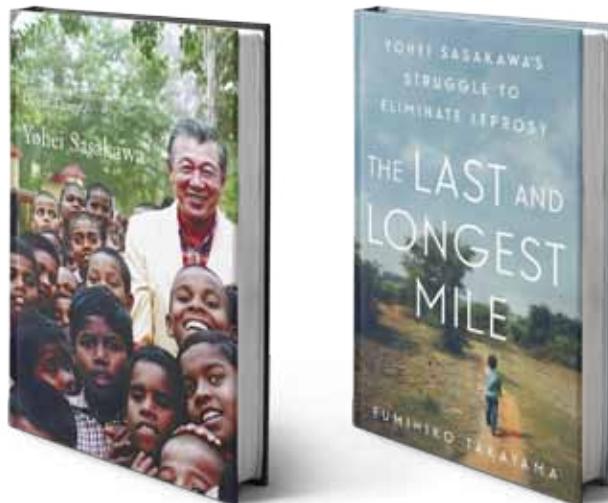


Photo: Sasakawa Peace Foundation





54



# RESOLUTIONS & OPINIONS



## UCHWAŁA NR 41/XVIII

### SENATU UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO W GDYNI

z dnia 27 marca 2025 r.

#### **w sprawie wszczęcia postępowania o nadanie dr. Yohei Sasakawa tytułu doktora honoris causa Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni**

Na podstawie art. 28 ust. 1 pkt 16 ustawy z dnia 20 lipca 2018 r. – Prawo o szkolnictwie wyższym i nauce (Dz. U. z 2024 r. poz. 1571 z późn. zm.) oraz § 7 ust. 5 załącznika nr 2 do Statutu Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni Senat uchwala, co następuje:

#### § 1

Wszechy się postępowanie w sprawie nadania dr. Yohei Sasakawa tytułu doktora honoris causa Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni.

#### § 2

Senat Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni upoważnia Rektora do wystąpienia do Senatów:

- 1) World Maritime University.
- 2) Dalian Maritime University.
- 3) Constanta Maritime University,  
z prośbą o wyrażenie opinii w przedmiotowej sprawie.

#### § 3

Senat Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni upoważnia Rektora do wystąpienia do:

- 1) Prof. Takeshi Nakazawa.
- 2) Prof. Maximo Mejia.
- 3) Prof. Tomasza Tarasiuka,  
z prośbą o wyrażenie opinii w przedmiotowej sprawie.

#### § 4

Uchwała wechodzi w życie z dniem podpisania.

Przewodniczący Senatu

prof. dr hab. inż. kpt. z.w. Adam Weinrit



**RESOLUTION NO. 41/XVIII**  
**OF THE SENATE OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY**  
**of 27 March 2025**

**regarding the commencement of proceedings for the conferral  
of the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa* on Dr. Yohei Sasakawa,  
by Gdynia Maritime University**

Under article 28, item 1, point 16 of the Higher Education and Science Act of 20 July 2018 (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1571, with later amendments) and statute 7(5) of Annex 2 of the Statutes of Gdynia Maritime University, the Senate of Gdynia Maritime University adopts the following Resolution:

**§ 1**

Proceedings are hereby initiated for the conferral upon Dr. Yohei Sasakawa of the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa* of Gdynia Maritime University.

**§ 2**

The Senate of Gdynia Maritime University authorises the Rector to seek opinions on the matter from the Senates of:

- 1) World Maritime University
- 2) Dalian Maritime University
- 3) Constanta Maritime University

**§3**

The Senate of Gdynia Maritime University authorises the Rector to seek opinions on the matter from:

- 1) Prof. Takeshi Nakazawa
- 2) Prof. Maximo Mejia
- 3) Prof. Tomasz Tarasiuk

**§4**

The Resolution is valid from the date of the signature.

Chair of the Senate

Professor Adam Weintrit, Ph.D, D.Sc.  
Master Mariner



April 15, 2025

Dear Prof. Adam Weinrit,

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to confer the honorary title of Doctor honoris causa upon Dr. Yohei Sasakawa by the Senate of Gdynia Maritime University. We are honored to be consulted on this important matter.

I would like to convey that Dalian Maritime University fully supports this proposal. Dr. Sasakawa is held in the highest esteem for his remarkable contributions to global maritime education and training, particularly through the far-reaching initiatives of the Nippon Foundation. His long-standing commitment to nurturing the next generation of maritime leaders and advancing international cooperation is truly admirable.

We are pleased to offer our endorsement of this well-deserved honor, and we look forward to continued collaboration and friendship between our universities.

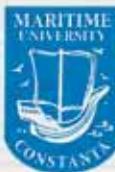
Sincerely,



Prof. Shan Hongjun

President

Dalian Maritime University



## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

### CONSTANTA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

900663, CONSTANȚA, 104, Mircea cel Bătrân Street, ROMÂNIA

Fax: +40-241-617260, Tel: +40-241-664740,

E-mail: [info@cmu-edu.eu](mailto:info@cmu-edu.eu) Web: [www.cmu-edu.eu](http://www.cmu-edu.eu)

CERTIFIED

ISO 9001:2015

ISO 14001:2015



No. 1887/10.04.2025

To:

### GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

Attn.: Rector, Prof. Adam WEINTRIT, Ph.D., D.Sc. Eng.

Master Mariner FRIN, FNI

*Ref.: Proposal to confer the honorary title of Doctor honoris causa of Gdynia Maritime University upon Dr. Yohei Sasakawa*

Dear Mr. Rector,

On behalf of Constanta Maritime University, I extend our warmest congratulations to Gdynia Maritime University for the initiative to award the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to Dr. Yohei Sasakawa.

We deeply appreciate this step, which honors an individual whose contributions to maritime education, safety, and humanitarian work have had a global impact. Dr. Sasakawa's vision - embodied through the remarkable efforts of The Nippon Foundation - continues to shape a more inclusive, collaborative, and forward-looking maritime sector. Your recognition of his legacy is both timely and inspiring.

This distinction is a testament to the shared values that unite our institutions and our collective commitment to excellence, innovation, and service to the maritime community. We commend Gdynia Maritime University for taking this meaningful action.

Constanta Maritime University remains strongly committed to continuing our collaboration with your esteemed university, under the shared framework of IAMU and the vision Dr. Sasakawa has so passionately advanced.

Wishing you a successful and memorable ceremony.

With kind regards,

**Assoc. Prof. Gabriel Răduț, Ph.D. Eng.**

Rector of Constanta Maritime University  
Director of MARCYSCL





1 May 2025

Professor Adam Weintrit, Ph.D., D.Sc., Eng.,  
Master Mariner, FRIN, FNI,  
Rector of Gdynia Maritime University  
81-87 Morska Str.  
81-225 Gdynia  
Poland

Letter of Reference  
for awarding the title of *Doctor honoris causa* upon Dr Yohei Sasakawa

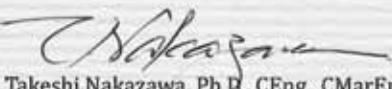
Dear President,

In response to your request on 2 April 2025 (RRB/376/2025), I have carefully reviewed the scientific output, achievements listed on the short biography of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa that you kindly attached for reference. In addition, I also reviewed his continuing contributions to the capacity development activities especially in the field of maritime safety and protection of the oceans.

Consequently, I would like to strongly recommend that Dr Yohei Sasakawa deserves the award of the honorary title of *Doctor honoris causa* from the Gdynia Maritime University.

Should you have any clarification on my recommendation above, do not hesitate to contact me through [nakazawa@iamu-edu.org](mailto:nakazawa@iamu-edu.org).

Sincerely yours,

  
Takeshi Nakazawa, Ph.D., CEng., CMarEng., FIMarEST.  
Executive Director  
International Association of Maritime Universities

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council held by correspondence on Friday 15 August 2025.

Members: M. Mejia (Chair)

C. Aporta, K. Auld, F. Ballini, I. Bartuseviciene, R. Baumler, A. Blaisdell, J. Bolmsten, M. Canepa, M. Carrera, C.-J. Chae, G. Chen, D. Cheng, E. D'Agostini, D. Dalaklis, A. Fakhry, J. Harbouk, A. Hebbar, J. Hollander, H. Jessen, M. Kitada, K. Lagdami, R. Long, M. Manuel, T. Matin Johansson, D. Moon, F. Neat, A. Pastra, A. Pazaver, C. Romero, S. Sahoo, J.-U. Schröder-Hinrichs, A. Schönborn, D.-W. Song, A. Stöfen-O'Brien, Z. Sun, G. Theocharidis, A. Ölcer

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61**1. GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY REQUEST**

A request from Gdynia Maritime University (GMU) for a review of Dr. Sasakawa's record, in connection with the proposal to confer on Dr. Sasakawa the honorary title of GMU *Doctor honoris causa* was considered.

- All members received a copy of the letter of request and the short biography prepared by GMU.
- Resolved, that the Academic Council supports the proposal to confer the honorary title of GMU *Doctor honoris causa*.



REFERENCE: WMUOP2025/76

6 May 2025

Prof. Adam Weintrit, Ph.D, D.Sc., Eng., Master Mariner, FRIN, FNI,  
Rector  
Gdynia Maritime University  
81-87 Morska Str., 81-225 Gdynia  
Poland

Dear Professor Weintrit,

Greetings from the World Maritime University.

Further to your request of 2 April 2025 (RRB/375/2025), I am pleased to provide you with this review of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa's scientific output, achievements, merits, and contributions, written in the context of the proposed award of the title *Doctor honoris causa* by Gdynia Maritime University (GMU).

Mr. Sasakawa has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to maritime safety and the protection of the oceans, as well as significant philanthropic work in various other global challenges. In terms of scientific output and contributions, Mr. Sasakawa has actively promoted the development of advanced technologies, the enhancement of global networks, and the creation of new knowledge. Some of his most significant engagements are listed below.

62

- Autonomous Ship Program: Addressing the challenges of crew shortages and human error in maritime accidents, Mr. Sasakawa has led the MEGURI2040 Fully Autonomous Ship Program, aiming to implement autonomous shipping in Japan and revitalize the maritime industry.
- Collaboration and Sponsorship: The Nippon Foundation, under Mr. Sasakawa's guidance, is a key sponsor of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), providing research grants and supporting collaborative and networking activities. This is particularly relevant to Gdynia Maritime University, which is a long-time member of the IAMU and has conducted research projects financed by the Nippon Foundation.
- Focus on Ocean Sustainability: Mr. Sasakawa has spearheaded numerous initiatives focused on critical ocean issues, including global warming, ocean acidification, depletion of fish stocks, and marine waste.
- Development Programs and Research Networks: Under his leadership, the Nippon Foundation has supported the creation of development programs aimed at producing experts in interdisciplinary, international teams dedicated to tackling these problems. This has led to the education of numerous fellows and the establishment of an international network of over 1,000 scientists involved in sustainable ocean development research.
- Project Seabed 2030: Mr. Sasakawa, in cooperation with the IHO GEBCO, launched the ambitious Project Seabed 2030 to create a definitive bathymetric map of the entire ocean floor. This project is crucial for enhancing our understanding of ocean circulation, climate

models, tsunami prediction, and other critical factors related to maritime safety and sustainable development.

Mr. Sasakawa is recognised around the world for his numerous laudable achievements and merits. He is, *inter alia*,

- The Honorary Chair of IAMU: His role as the Honorary Chair of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) since 2005 underscores his commitment to maritime education and research.
- A World Leader in Philanthropy: As Chair of The Nippon Foundation, the largest charitable foundation in Japan, Mr. Sasakawa has demonstrated exceptional leadership in addressing a broad range of global issues related to the seas, education, food security, and healthcare (with particular focus on leprosy elimination), among others.
- A Patron with a Global Impact: Mr. Sasakawa's initiatives have had a significant global impact, particularly in promoting maritime safety, ocean protection, and the well-being of vulnerable populations.
- The Recipient of a Number of Awards and Recognition: Mr. Sasakawa's contributions have been widely recognized through numerous prestigious awards and honorary degrees, including the International Maritime Award, the Gandhi Peace Prize, and honorary doctorates from universities worldwide.

Mr. Sasakawa's work aligns strongly with the mission and values of Gdynia Maritime University. His focus on maritime safety, ocean sustainability, and the development of future maritime leaders resonates with the GMU's commitment to education, research, and innovation in the maritime field. GMU's participation in research grants financed by The Nippon Foundation further strengthens the connection and highlights the potential for continued collaboration.

Mr. Yohei Sasakawa's record is of great relevance to the ongoing process at Gdynia Maritime University for the conferral of the proposed honorary title. Mr. Sasakawa's extensive contributions to maritime safety, ocean protection, and global philanthropy, coupled with his leadership and the recognition he has received, make him an exceptional candidate for the title of *Doctor honoris causa*, a nomination which I have the honour to fully endorse.

With kindest regards

Very truly yours,



Professor Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr.  
President of WMU



## **Opinion on the achievements and merits of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa in connection with the motion of the Senate of the Gdynia Maritime University to award him the title of Doctor *honoris causa***

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa was born on 8 January 1939. His father, Ryōichi Sasakawa, was a businessman and politician known for his philanthropic work. Yohei Sasakawa graduated from the School of Political Science and Economics at Meiji University. Before devoting his life to philanthropy, he held the post of Director of the Japan Shipbuilding Development Foundation (now Ocean Policy Research Institute) for 20 years.

64

Since 1981, he has been involved with The Nippon Foundation, a private, non-profit foundation established in 1962 for philanthropic purposes. Today, the Foundation is dedicated to providing assistance in the areas of humanitarian work and global marine development, working to improve public health and education, alleviate poverty, eliminate hunger, and assist the disabled. Dr. Yohei Sasakawa served as President of The Nippon Foundation from 1989 to 2005, and in 2005 he became Chair. Since 2016, he has also been Honorary Chair of The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, which aims to strengthen cooperation at all levels between Japan and other countries. One of the Foundation's main goals is "Realization of a peaceful world through the ocean" and it promotes "research about comprehensive ocean management and sustainable development."

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa has dedicated his life to helping those who are marginalized and isolated for any reason. Particularly, he is devoted to two goals: eliminating leprosy from the world and improving the lives of people with disabilities. For over 40 years, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa has focused on the first goal, namely eliminating leprosy, working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), governments, international organizations, and organizations of people affected by leprosy. To achieve the second goal, he has supported Paralympic athletes, disabled artists, and promoted the inclusion of people with disabilities in business. Most recently, he has been helping people with disabilities in Ukraine during the ongoing war with Russia.

His efforts and personal commitment to humanitarian work have earned him international recognition, including the WHO Health for All Gold Medal, the International Leprosy Union Gandhi Millennium Prize, the Yomiuri International Cooperation Award and the International Gandhi Prize, among many others, as well as numerous honours from governments and universities around the world.

However, maybe less known but equally important is his work in the area of global oceans and maritime affairs. Dr. Yohei Sasakawa is committed to protecting marine resources and promoting sustainable ocean management, which also benefits the poor and excluded, whose lives often depend on the seas and oceans. Therefore, after becoming the president of The Nippon Foundation in 1989, he has been committed to connecting people around the world in order to promote initiatives to protect the world's oceans and solve the problems facing the oceans, such as: global warming, ocean acidification and litter, depletion of fish stocks, etc. Under the leadership of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation, in cooperation with the UN, international organizations, research institutions and universities, has established programs to develop human potential in various fields of knowledge, from ocean governance and maritime law to ocean observation and bathymetry. One of these efforts is focused on developing unmanned technology for mapping the ocean floor. In 2017, The Nippon Foundation, together with the General Bathymetry Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO), concluded that ocean mapping can support the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: "to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development." As a result, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of The Nippon Foundation, initiated the Seabed 2030 project in collaboration with GEBCO to build a framework for developing a digital map of the world's ocean floor by 2030. The initiative is currently supported by more than 200 partners from 50 countries.

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa is also concerned about the state of ocean pollution caused by sewage, chemicals and plastics. He recognizes the importance of joint action by governments, international institutions and companies to implement coordinated countermeasures against ocean pollution. During the 12th World Ocean Summit held in Tokyo on March 12-13, 2025, while welcoming the participants, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa noted: "We must not forget that there are more than 180 nations in the world, yet the ocean remains singular, absorbing the full impact of the actions of all nations."

Last but not least, under the chairmanship of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation strongly supports the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), and he is the Honorary Chairman of IAMU. The Nippon Foundation funds numerous IAMU activities, for example: IAMU research projects or scholarship programs that support maritime professionals and students at member universities to promote maritime research and lead to capacity building at maritime universities worldwide. Gdynia Maritime University (GMU) joined IAMU during the first meeting of the IAMU Annual General Assembly (AGA IAMU) convened in 2000, shortly after its establishment in 1999.

From the very beginning, GMU has been actively involved in the organization's work, hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> IAMU General Assembly, acting within the Academic Affairs Committee and the International Executive Board. Finally, the Rector of GMU, Prof. Adam Weinrit, was elected Chair of the entire International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) and at the same time head of the Policy and Planning Committee for the term 2023-2025.

GMU faculty members have also actively participated in IAMU research projects, financially supported by The Nippon Foundation under the leadership of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa. To date, the University has been involved in 12 such projects, mostly in international collaboration with other IAMU members. As many as 14 GMU faculty members have participated in research initiatives, some of them multiple times. Participation in projects leads to the development of research in the maritime field, acquiring new knowledge, promoting international cooperation and ultimately the professional development of GMU staff.

In recognition of his contributions to the maritime sector, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa was awarded the 2014 International Maritime Prize by the International Maritime Organization, and has also received numerous honorary degrees and awards from universities and organizations related to the maritime sector.

In preparing this opinion, I can refer only to a subjective and necessarily limited selection of the exceptional achievements of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa. His dedication to humanity's well-being and the protection of the Earth's resources, and his entire life path commands my sincere admiration and deep appreciation. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the motion of the Senate of the Gdynia Maritime University to award him the title of Doctor *honoris causa*.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tomasz Tarczynski'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'T' at the beginning.





## UCHWAŁA NR 70/XVIII

### SENATU UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO W GDYNI

z dnia 25 września 2025 r.

w sprawie nadania dr. Yohei Sasakiewie  
honorowemu Prezesowi The Nippon Foundation  
tytułu doktora honoris causa Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni

Na podstawie art. 28 ust. 1 pkt 9 ustawy z dnia 20 lipca 2018 r. – Prawo o szkolnictwie wyższym i nauce (Dz. U. z 2024 r. poz. 1571 z późn. zm.) oraz § 14 ust. 1 pkt 8 Statutu Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni Senat uchwała, co następuje:

#### § 1

Senat Uniwersytetu Morskiego w Gdyni nadaje dr. Yohei Sasakiewie tytuł honorowy doktora honoris causa w uznaniu wybitnego wkładu w działania na rzecz pokoju, zdrowia publicznego i współpracy międzynarodowej, a także wspierania dialogu międzykulturowego oraz zaangażowania w budowanie mostów między narodami, a przede wszystkim kształtowania polityki morskiej i bezpieczeństwa na morzu.

#### § 2

Uchwała wchodzi w życie z dniem podjęcia.

Przewodniczący Senatu

prof. dr hab. inż. kpt. z.w. Adam Weinrit



**RESOLUTION NO. 70/XVIII**  
**OF THE SENATE OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY**  
**of 25 September 2025**

**regarding the conferral of the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa* on  
Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, Honorary Chair of The Nippon Foundation,  
by Gdynia Maritime University**

Under article 28, item 1, point 9 of the Higher Education and Science Act of 20 July 2018 (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1571, with later amendments) and statute 14(1)(8) of the Statutes of Gdynia Maritime University, the Senate of Gdynia Maritime University adopts the following Resolution:

**§ 1**

In recognition of his contributions to promoting peace, public health, and international cooperation, and for supporting international dialogue, building bridges between nations, and, above all, shaping maritime policy and ensuring safety at sea, Gdynia Maritime University confers upon Dr. Yohei Sasakawa the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa*.

**§2**

The Resolution is valid from the date of the signature.

Chair of the Senate

Professor Adam Weinrit, Ph.D, D.Sc.  
Master Mariner



**PROF. JANUSZ MINDYKOWSKI, D.Sc.  
(Eng.), Dr h.c.,  
GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY:  
LAUDATIO  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
CONFERRAL OF A DOCTORATE  
HONORIS CAUSA BY GDYNIA  
MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
UPON DR. YOHEI SASAKAWA**

>Your Magnificence,  
Esteemed Senate,  
Distinguished Doctor,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

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71

It is a special honour and pleasure for me to give this Laudatio, that is, according to academic tradition, a speech dedicated to the most outstanding individuals awarded with the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa*. Such extraordinary persons have contributed exceptionally to the development of science, culture, and economy, and their work has strongly impacted the modern world. Moreover, this honorary title is given to those who enjoy undisputed authority and unquestionable moral standing. I have no doubts that the distinguished Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, who has not only demonstrated an impressive potential to change the world around him, but has also successfully made effective contributions to three areas vital to life: food security, healthcare and education, belongs to a group of the most influential and outstanding personalities from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Dr. Yohei Sasakawa was born on 8 January 1939. He graduated from the School of Political Science and Economics at Meiji University, one of the best universities in Japan. Looking at his professional career, Dr. Sasakawa has been deeply involved in and demonstrated a long-standing commitment to maritime safety and protection of the oceans, as well as significant philanthropic works in various other global challenges. These two pillars, namely his dedication to the protection of the Earth's resources and to fighting social exclusion in many forms, have defined the entire life path of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa. Before devoting his life to philanthropy, he held the post of Director of the Japan Shipbuilding Development Foundation (now Ocean Policy Research Institute) for 20 years. Since 1981, he has been involved with The Nippon Foundation, a private, non-profit organization established in 1962 for philanthropic purposes. Presently, the Foundation is dedicated to providing assistance in the form of humanitarian work and global maritime development.

Among the most important charitable works of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa are, *inter alia*: work for the elimination of leprosy and support for persons affected by the disease, support for persons with disabilities, and activity in the fight against hunger in Africa. Dr. Yohei Sasakawa sees Leprosy elimination as a personal mission inherited from his father, Ryochi Sasakawa. In 1965, he accompanied his father to a leprosy treatment facility in South Korea. The shock at seeing the discrimination faced by the people affected by leprosy first-hand convinced him of the need for leprosy control. Following this leprosy treatment experience, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa has dedicated his life to helping those who are marginalized and isolated, no matter the reason. Working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), governments, and international organizations, he has effectively supported the fight against leprosy and endeavours to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

His efforts and personal commitment to humanitarian work have earned him international recognition, including the honour of the role of WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination (2001), India's International Gandhi Award (2007), the WHO Health for All Gold Medal (2017), and the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Award (2022).

In providing a brief overview of the achievements of the most honourable Doctor in the area of global maritime development, it should be strongly underlined that they are closely connected with his activity via The Nippon Foundation and the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU). From 2005 until 2025,

he was the Chair of The Nippon Foundation and Honorary Chair of the IAMU. Under Dr. Sasakawa's guidance, The Nippon Foundation served as a key sponsor of the International Association of Maritime Universities, providing research grants and supporting collaborative and networking activities to promote maritime research and lead to capacity building at maritime universities worldwide. This is particularly relevant to Gdynia Maritime University, which is a long-time member of the IAMU and has conducted research projects financed by The Nippon Foundation. From the very beginning, GMU has been actively involved in the Association's work, hosting the 12th IAMU General Assembly, and acting within the Academic Affairs Committee and serving on the International Executive Board. A GMU representative was elected chair of the entire International Association of Maritime Universities and Head of the Policy and Planning Committee for the term 2023-2025. Due to financial support from The Nippon Foundation under the leadership of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, GMU faculty members have also actively participated in 12 projects to date, mostly in international collaboration with other IAMU members. As many as 11 GMU faculty members have participated in research initiatives as research coordinators or partners, some of them multiple times. Participation in projects leads to the development of research in the maritime field, acquiring new knowledge, promoting international cooperation, and ultimately the professional development of GMU staff.

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During its many years of activity, The Nippon Foundation has created development programmes aimed at producing experts for interdisciplinary, international teams dedicated to tackling problems such as global warming, ocean acidification, the depletion of fish stocks, and issues related to the vast amount of marine waste. The main focus of programmes conducted by The Nippon Foundation is the education of new experts – leaders involved in the comprehensive protection of oceans, who recognise not only the complexity of the phenomena they study but also their global and communal nature. Under the leadership of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation is currently conducting projects vital for the sustainable development of ocean science and advanced maritime technologies. Important examples of such projects are:

Seabed 2030 – a project aimed at creating a definitive bathymetric map of the entire ocean floor. The project is critical for enhancing our understanding of ocean circulation, climate models, tsunami prediction, and other critical factors related to maritime safety and sustainable development;

*Black to blue* – a project focused on such issues as plastic and chemical pollution and ocean acidification; and finally, *MEGURI 2024 Fully Autonomous Ship Program* – which addresses the challenges of crew shortages and human error in maritime accidents.

In recognition of his contribution to the maritime sector, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa was awarded the 2014 International Maritime Prize by the International Maritime Organization, and has also received numerous honorary degrees and awards from universities and organizations related to the maritime sector. While valuing these honours, it is worth noting that some of the distinctions cited – such as honorary professorships – were conferred by Dalian Maritime University and Shanghai Maritime University – both consistently ranked amongst the world's leading maritime universities. The full list of distinctions and awards is not limited to those related to his activity on behalf of the maritime sector, but also covers his enormous achievements concerning philanthropy.

A complete list of the honorary degrees of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa includes 27 positions, and the a list of awarded honours includes a further 55 positions. The number of obtained honorary degrees and honours is really impressive, but it is the extent of his merits and diversity of the fields of the Candidate's activity which command the deepest respect.

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In nearing the end of my Laudatio, I would like to stress that the nomination of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa for the award of an honorary doctorate by Gdynia Maritime University received a favourable opinion from the Senate of four higher education institutions: Gdynia Maritime University, World Maritime University, Dalian Maritime University, and Constanta Maritime University. Moreover, three invited reviewers nominated by the Senate of Gdynia Maritime University provided positive opinions.

As expressed by Professor Tarasiuk from Gdynia Maritime University, “the dedication of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa to humanity's well-being and the protection of the Earth's resources, and his entire life path commands my sincere admiration and deep appreciation.”

Next, Professor Maximo Mejia, the President of World Maritime University, stated that “Mr. Sasakawa's extensive contributions to maritime safety, ocean protection and global philanthropy, coupled with his leadership and the recognition he has received, make him an exceptional candidate for the title of Doctor *honoris causa*.”

Finally, Professor Takeshi Nakazawa the Executive Director of International Association of Maritime Universities also stressed that "after careful reviewing the scientific output, achievements listed on the short biography of Dr. Yohei Sasakawa as well as his continuing contributions to the capacity development activities, especially in the field of maritime safety and protection of the oceans, Dr. Yohei Sasakawa deserves the award of the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa* from Gdynia Maritime University."

In summing up, for my part, I would like to emphasize once again that the acceptance of this honorary doctorate by Dr. Yohei Sasakawa is a great honour and distinction not only for the distinguished Candidate, but also for Gdynia Maritime University. I am convinced that he will continue to contribute significant value to the development of our University, serving as its prominent ambassador as well as a pioneer in international maritime education as a whole. His complete dedication to fighting social exclusion in many forms and the protection of the Earth's resources, focused on the common heritage of seas and oceans, fully deserves to be awarded with an honorary doctorate from Gdynia Maritime University. Therefore, I am deeply convinced that the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa* of our University is conferred on the most deserving recipient.

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75

Gdynia, 15 December 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. M. Kowalski".

Promoter of the procedure for the conferral  
of the honorary title of Doctor *honoris causa*

# **DIPLOMAS**



## NOS SENATUS UNIVERSITATIS MARITIMAE GDINENSIS

CUM FAVORE SENATUUM

UNIVERSITATIS MARITIMAE MUNDANAЕ  
UNIVERSITATIS MARITIMAE DALIANENSIS  
UNIVERSITATIS MARITIMAE CONSTANTIENSIS

CONTULIMUS  
EX DECRETO AMPLISSIMI SENATUS  
n. 70/XVIII die XXV mensis Septembris anno MMXXV facto

DOCTORI

*Yohei Sasakawa*

PRAESIDI HONORARIO COLLEGII BENEFICENTIAE EXERCENDAE, CUI NOMEN EST  
IAPONIA, QUOD LINGUA ANGLICA THE NIPPON FOUNDATION VOCATUR,

## HONORABILEM NOMEN DOCTORIS HONORIS CAUSA UNIVERSITATIS MARITIMAE GDINENSIS

PROPTER IMMENSAM CONTRIBUTIONEM AD EAS ACTIONES, QUAE PERTINENT AD PACEM  
PETENDAM, SALUTEM PUBLICAM FIRMANDAM, COOPERATIONEM INTERNATIONALEM  
EXERCENDAM, DIALOGUM INTER CULTURAS SUSTINENDUM, ATQUE OB CURAM PONTES INTER  
NATIONES EXSTRUENDI, PRAESERTIM OB FORMATIONEM RATIONIS ET SECURITATIS MARITIMAE.

PROMOTOR RITE CONSTITUTUS

*J. Mindykowski*  
Prof. Dr. Janusz Mindkowski, Dr. h.c.

H.T. RECTOR MAGNIFICUS

*A. Weisstrit*  
Prof. Dr. Adamus Weisstrit

datum Civitate Gdinensi, die XXVII mensis Ianuarii anno MMXXVI



**SENAT  
UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO W GDYNI**

PRZY POPARCIU SENATÓW

WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
DALIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
CONSTANTA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

NADAJE

UCHWAŁĄ SENATU Nr 70/XVIII z dnia 25 września 2025 r.

DOKTOROWI

*Yohei Sasakawie*

HONOROWEMU PREZESOWI THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

ZASZCZYTNY TYTUŁ

**DOKTORA HONORIS CAUSA  
UNIWERSYTETU MORSKIEGO W GDYNI**

W UZNANIU WYBITNEGO WKŁADU W DZIAŁANIA NA RZECZ POKOJU, ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO I WSPÓŁPRACY MİĘDZYNARODOWEJ, A TAKŻE WSPIERANIA DIALOGU MİĘDZYKULTUROWEGO ORAZ ZAANGAŻOWANIA W BUDOWANIE MOSTÓW MİĘDZYNARODOWYMI, A PRZEDSZ WSZYSTKIM KSZTAŁTOWANIA POLITYKI MORSKIEJ I BEZPIECZEŃSTWA NA MORZU.

PROMOTOR

*J. Mindykowski*  
Prof. dr hab. inż. Janusz Mindykowski, dr h.c.

REKTOR

*A. Weintrit*  
Prof. dr hab. inż. kpt. zw. Adam Weintrit

Gdynia, 27 stycznia 2026 r.



## THE SENATE OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATES:

WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
DALIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY  
CONSTANTA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

BY WAY OF RESOLUTION No. 70/XVIII of 25 SEPTEMBER 2025  
HEREBY CONFERS ON

DOCTOR

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

THE HONORARY TITLE OF

## DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA OF GDYNIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEACE, PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AS WELL AS FOR PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE  
AND COMMITMENT TO BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN NATIONS, AND ABOVE ALL FOR SHAPING  
MARITIME POLICY AND SAFETY AT SEA.

PROMOTER

Prof. Dr. Janusz Mindkowsk, Dr h.c.

PRESIDENT

Prof. Dr. Adam Weintraub, PNI, PRIN

Gdynia, 27 January 2026



## グディニャ海洋大学評議会は

世界海事大学  
大連海事大学  
コンスタンツア海事大学  
より支持を受け

2025年9月25日付評議会決議第70/XVIII号に基づき

日本財團 名誉会長

# 笹川陽平氏

に対し

栄誉ある称号として

## グディニャ海洋大学 名誉博士号

を授与する

これは、平和の構築、公衆衛生の向上および国際協力の推進に対する  
卓越した貢献、ならびに異文化間対話を支援し、諸国民の架け橋を築く活動に尽力してきた功績、とりわけ海洋政策およ  
び  
海上安全の形成における顕著な業績を称えるものである。

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