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February 3rd 2026

Prof. Dr. Adam Weintrit  
President  
Gdynia Maritime University

Dear Professor Dr. Weintrit,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued understanding and support of the activities of The Nippon Foundation. At the same time, I wish to convey my heartfelt gratitude once again for the conferral of the honorary doctorate by your esteemed university, in recognition of my contributions to the maritime industry through efforts in shaping maritime policy, ensuring safety at sea, and advancing international humanitarian assistance.

As I mentioned during the ceremony, the development of today's global maritime industry and the advancement of maritime safety would not have been possible without the indispensable role played by maritime education institutions such as Gdynia Maritime University. To have my activities acknowledged by your distinguished university, which has fulfilled this vital mission for more than a century, is an honor far beyond my expectations.

In order to remain worthy of this distinction, I intend to continue my efforts—as a young man of 87—in supporting the development of the maritime sector, including shipbuilding, shipping, maritime safety, and maritime education, as well as in nurturing the human resources who will carry this industry forward over the next 30 to 50 years. I would be most grateful for your continued guidance and encouragement in these endeavors.

In closing, I sincerely wish you and your university continued success and prosperity. Should you have the opportunity to visit Japan in the future, I would be most grateful if you would kindly let me know.

With the highest respect,

石川 陽平  
Yohei Sasakawa  
Honorary Chair