

Part I. PAPER PRESENTATIONS

IAMU FROM INFANCY TO MATURATION THROUGH THE LAST DECADE

Osman Kamil Sag,

Prof. Dr.

Founding Chair and Honorary Fellow of IAMU

Founding Rector of Piri Reis Maritime University of Turkey

E-mail: osmankamilsag@pirireis.edu.tr

More than a decade has passed since Prof. Dr.Kiyoshi HARA, President of Kobe University of Merchantile Marine, and humbly myself started our around-the-world journey to visit Maritime Universities of Excellence of the World in August 1999 to discuss and encourage our colleague universities to participate in the then extremely innovative and ambitious campaign of initiating IAMU, with the very generous sponsorship of the Nippon Foundation.

Two Founding Universities (ITUMF, KUMM) and five Representative Universities (AAST-MT, AMC, MMA, CARDIFF, WMU) one from each Continent to effectively cover the World and NF, all devoted to excellence and innovation in MET gathered in Istanbul in November 1999 for the Preparatory Meeting to design the original BASIC AGREEMENT of IAMU.

Globalisation, standardization, quality assessment in MET leading to Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection, promotion of safety management systems, utilising scientific and academic approach had been some of the Keywords of the Association working out the Basic Agreement.

It was my great honour and privilege to be elected as the Founding Chair of the Association, and the memorably fruitful Preparatory Meeting put ITUMF in the position to host the Inaugural General Assembly of IAMU at Istanbul in June 2000 with the attendance of 24 Universities from 16 Countries, and the Nippon Foundation.

The Goals of the Association in the Original Basic Agreement were then summarised as the scientific and academic approach to:

- The new comprehensive and objective MET system for the next generation;
- Maritime Safety Management System and the new framework of the International Maritime Society;
- The near uniformity in ‘Undergraduate Curricula’ and ‘International Certification Systems’ for Competancy.

I also vividly recall, as the Founding Chair of IAMU; humbly recommending some of my own, personal ideas as then possible future IAMU Project Proposals, which were

- IAMU as an NGO at IMO;
- IAMU as a Registration Authority;
- IAMU as a Training Provider and IAMU Model Courses;
- IAMU Research and Development Facility Activities;

- IAMU as a Seafarers Examination Center;
- IAMU as a Seafarers Language Examination Center;
- IAMU Graduate School;
- IAMU Center of Excellence;
- IAMU Compendium of Maritime Institutions;
- IAMU Maritime Educational Training Awards;
- IAMU Regular Publications in Citation Index.

I am so proud and delighted to witness during the last decade, while reaching to a membership of 51 Universities from the Globe, IAMU achieved much more than the originally targeted goals of the Association, the most important of all, having been granted an NGO Consultative Status at IMO, a clear indication of the recognition of IAMU's contributions towards enhancement of the quality and standards of MET throughout the world.

I would like to utilise this opportunity to fullheartedly convey my utmost indebtedness to Dr. Sasakawa, and Madam Sono; Chairpersons of Nippon Foundation and Honorary Chairs of IAMU; Mr. Terashima and Mr. Nagamitsu; Executive Directors of NF for believing in us and supporting the good cause of IAMU throughout the last decade.

I believe it will also be most loyal to commemorate at this stage all Founding Officers of IAMU, quite a number of whom are not within the Association today. Thus, I like to extend my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Hara of KUMM, President Tyler of MMA, Dr. Laubstein and Prof. Dr. Zade of WMU, Dr. Moukhtar of AAST-MT, Dr. Otway of AMC, Prof. Dr. Inoue of KUMM and Mr. Yamamoto of ITUMF and all other distinguished members of IAMU who had been the driving force and masterminds of the whole Association during the Inauguration Period.

I am also utmost grateful to H/E Madam Atsuko Toyama, then Ambassador of Japan to Turkey, later Minister of Japan for Education, Culture, and Sports who also gave vast support, guidance and encouragement to the establishment of the Association during the embryotic stages.

It has been a great honour, privilege, and heartfelt nostalgia for me to be invited to give one of the Key Note Speeches at IAMU AGA 10, and thus conveying my congratulatory Message in Person on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of IAMU.

The next decade will permit the IAMU Membership and the International Executive Board to develop the Association roadmap for the XXI Century. That certainly is our challenge, and firmly carrying the belief that it will be more than successful, it will leave a legacy from each of us for those who will join us in the near and long term in a common quest for the betterment of the Maritime Society.

May the Future Decades of the Association prove even more successful than the Decade that has gone by, and bring you ALL and IAMU well deserved success on the route to idealise the MET of the Globe.