

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARITIME UNIVERSITIES (IAMU) - Asia, Pacific, and Ocean Region

CATCH UP MEETING WITH INDIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

January 21, 2021, 1:04 – 2:05 pm Taipei Time

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

1. Dr. Angelica Baylon –MAAP External Relations Director
2. Dr. (Mrs.) Malini V Shankar, IAS (Retd), IMU Vice-Chancellor
3. Prof. K.M. Sivakholundu, IMU Head (CTCE & Academics, Consultancy, Research)

AGENDA:

1. Renew acquaintance,
2. Exchange of ideas on school operations amidst COVID 19 pandemic, and
3. Possible areas for cooperation.

PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

- **Dr. Angelica Baylon**, MAAP External Relations Director, on behalf of MAAP President VADM Eduardo Ma R Santos, AFP (Ret), called the virtual meeting via Zoom to order 1:03 pm.
- To go about with the meeting, each of the participants introduced themselves.

Briefing on the previous meeting

- **Dr. Baylon** briefed the participants about what they have discussed during the IAMU Asia Pacific and Oceania Region catch up meeting presided by VAdm Santos as IAMU-IEB Regional representative on January 14, 2021.

COVID19 situation and possible areas of cooperation

- On behalf of **VAdm Santos**, **Dr. Baylon** asked Dr. Malini about their experience with the onset of the COVID19 pandemic – the problems encountered and how they have dealt with the problems and to suggest possible areas for cooperation in the region as an IAMU member.
- **Dr. Malini** thanked Dr. Baylon for the briefing. She said that they could not join the meeting on January 14 because they were busy with the most significant annual festival in their region (the equivalent of Thanksgiving Day) happening on that day.

- **Dr. Malini** expressed that they have tremendous challenges in the education sector, which she believed is valid worldwide. She said that their first challenge is the admission to the current academic year, which usually begins around July/August, but they could not conduct the common entrance exam. This examination is typically conducted in more than 70 cities and towns around India, so they had to find alternate methods, which is quite tiresome. She said that they were able to complete their admission in November with great difficulty and much effort.
- **Dr. Malini** added that the second challenge they had was the exams. She related that they had locked down starting in March, and some of their campuses were taken over by the government as COVID centers; so, nobody could enter the campus. She said that those students with job offers or higher education offers have great difficulty because they could not take the exams they have to pass. She said that the theory exams could be done online through technology, but the practical exams and workshops have to be postponed. She mentioned that their university, a multi-campus university, has six (6) campuses in six (6) cities, in different states/regions. Each region/state has different protocols on the COVID depending on the severity of the situation in that particular city. She pointed out that this situation prevented them from making uniform policy to do their tasks. She added that nothing is easy around August to September because the number of cases was peaking. She also said that September and October were really bad in some towns and cities.
- **Dr. Malini** said that beginning in December, they followed the protocol of wearing a mask and social distancing and were able to admit about 1/3 of the students in the final semester to the campus into hostels for practical classes. She said that they have to give them individual rooms, and workshops should be separated by distance. She stated that they were able to finish little by little, and almost all could take the practical exams of their final semester by January. She added that when they are finished with this group, they have to think about the cadets entering the final year of their education, the 8th semester, and the intermediate semester. She said that Practical had been their biggest challenge.
- **Dr. Malini** expressed that though there have been technological developments worldwide in delivering classes and taking examinations online, there is no alternative to conducting exams in person and for the students to interact, deal with their doubts, and be confident with taking their exams. She said that they are afraid that the online exams may be sub-optimal, and the potential employers might use this as an excuse not to employ the graduates.
- **Dr. Malini** also said that the workshop has also been a real challenge as this cannot be conducted online. She added that they could do hybrid and

blended classes, but there is nothing like touching and feeling the engines; hence, the workshop has been one of their biggest challenges.

- As far as classes are concerned, **Dr. Malini** said that teachers across their country have adapted to the changes in delivering their classes. However, she said that there is always this issue in mind about how much have the students are absorbing. So, she affirmed that teaching is a challenge; although teachers may know what they are doing, the learning part is a huge challenge.
- **Dr. Malini** also added that access/connectivity is also a big challenge. She said that even their online examinations could not be taken at home; they have to identify centers where the students can come. She said that students might have smartphones, but they can't do long hours on these devices, they need computers, and many of them do not have one. She also relayed that some may have computers, but the network may not be available. She mentioned that they have students who have to go outside their village and sit down under a tree to connect. **Dr. Malini** said that Australia might do well with online classes, but she said she is unsure if the emerging or developing countries can do that. She said that there is nothing like in-person learning.
- The virtual meeting was interrupted by a technical problem.
- Upon coming back, **Dr. Baylon** apologized, but **Dr. Malini** laughed it off, saying that it is okay because it is just the reality in many places; it is a perfect example of what happens in many online classes. They both agreed that they need much patience for these online activities.
- **Dr. Malini** mentioned that access to the instrument and the instrument has to work.
- **Dr. Malini** relayed that many colleges in India are now opening, and they are thinking that they might be opening in March. She said that they might not be able to get students this semester but on the next semester. She said that they are more concerned about workshops and "practicals" because they offer applied science and technology courses, so it should be in person.
- **Dr. Baylon** asked **Dr. Malini** if IMU is private or state-owned. **Dr. Malini** said that it is a state university run by the federal government.

Possible areas for cooperation

- **Dr. Malini** talked about the collaboration they would like to be involved in with IAMU. She said that she understands that Australia is doing very well in blended learning. **Dr. Malini** suggested that institutions that are very good in blended learning could share what they are doing. She also asked if materials are in public domain or with copyrights or if others can use these. She recommended a blended learning orientation for the faculty members. She mentioned that faculty members/universities are in different stages of

development on blended learning. Dr. Malini explained that this learning could go from what exactly is blended learning, is it hybrid or level B – online class as well as an offline class, or is it something that is going only by email for assessment or computerized and students learn on their own with the faculty sitting offline/online anywhere and teaching them. Dr. Malini said that there could be a good discussion on this topic at the next meeting. She added that they could have pointed and specific talks on blended learning, which could be useful for everybody.

- **Dr. Malini** also endorsed the suggestion of Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport (Vietnam) for exchange programs, including faculty exchange. She also added student exchange wherein the best students going and looking at other countries and learning a little bit by involving even short courses during the vacation period. She added that she is hoping for funding opportunities. She also mentioned that Russia is very good in mathematics and engineering and some countries are good at other things.
- **Dr. Malini** said that exchange programs could be done online if funding is challenging. She said that more students could be accommodated and can interact online. Dr. Baylon agreed that this scheme would be cost-effective. Dr. Malini added that this method could expand the perspectives and horizons of the students.
- **Dr. Malini's** third suggestion is on short-term (e.g., 2 to 3 days) online courses that they are interested in opening, especially to Asian students. She said that they would be interested to know what kind of courses they are interested in. She added that they are interested in the intake of international students. She mentioned that the Philippines, Vietnam, India, Ukraine, and China are the major suppliers of seafarers globally, and it would be interesting for them to learn from each other.
- **Dr. Malini** said that she is interested in knowing what courses the IAMU universities are offering, "Are they offering only Marine Engineering and Nautical Sciences, and Management? Or are they offering other courses?" She also asked if MET schools are offering psychology because she is aware that the Philippines is a front liner in seafarer's well-being as they have this organization, ideas.
- **Dr. Malini** also said that they would like to engage with other institutions for joint research papers.
- **Dr. Malini** said they should have this medium-term ambition and works toward it.
- **Dr. Baylon** clarified if Dr. Malini means the curriculum when she talked about the courses. Dr. Malini said that they could also look into the curriculum, but what she spoke of earlier is what degrees they offer. She said that they could look after the curriculum once they know what the courses are. Dr. Baylon agreed with Dr. Malini's suggestion and said that they could look into the curriculum's common denominators and share best

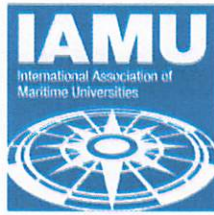
practices. Dr. Malini stated that after looking into the programs, they could know the strengths of each university or that country.

- **Dr. Malini** said that they are looking into government universities and even private universities, especially for international exchange students taking online courses. She said that they are in the process of identifying four (4) or five (5) courses that they can give to students, to faculty, or the shipping fraternity. She said that there is a whole supply chain – the students are just the beginning of it.
- When **Dr. Baylon** asked if IMU has Filipino or international students, Dr. Malini said they have none. She said that they had conducted short-term courses for African students before.
- **Dr. Malini** mentioned that their government is encouraging international students, so they would like to look into this program. She added that these IAMU meetings could be the best forum to look into having international students.
- **Dr. Baylon** appreciated Dr. Malini's bright ideas and said that a minute of their meeting would be prepared to be submitted to IAMU and their co-members that participated in the first virtual meeting.
- **Dr. Baylon** told Dr. Malini about a planned second virtual meeting among IAMU members from the Asia, Pacific, and Oceania region on the fourth week of February. Dr. Malini said that she would prefer to have the meeting the first week of March instead. She also agreed with 1 pm Philippine time.
- **Dr. Malini** sent her regards to VADM Santos.
- **Dr. Baylon** appreciated the ideas of Dr. Malini and said that she would report her valuable suggestions to VADM Santos and send her a copy of the minutes.
- The virtual meeting ended at 2:05

Noted by:



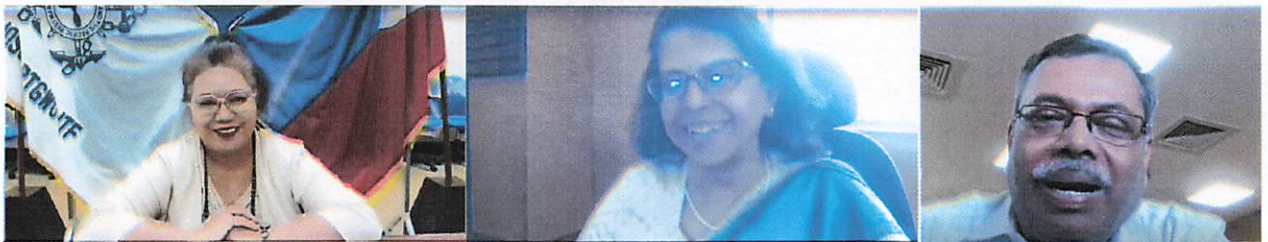
VADM Eduardo Ma R Santos, AFP (Ret)
MAAP President / IAMU- IEB Region 2 Representative



IAMU - ASIA, PACIFIC AND OCEANIA GROUP Virtual Meeting Between MAAP and IMU (via Zoom)

January 21, 2021

PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION



Dr. **Angelica Baylon** (Left photo), on behalf of **VADM Eduardo Ma R Santos, AFP (Ret)** of Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific, Philippines (MAAP)/ IAMU-IEB Region 2 representative, hosted the meeting with India Maritime University (IMU) Vice-Chancellor **Dr. Malini V Shankar** and IMU Head (CTCE & Academics, Consultancy, Research) **Prof. K.M. Sivakholundu**.



Dr. Angelica Baylon briefing **Dr. Malini V Shankar** and **Prof. Sivakholundu** about what transpired during the first virtual meeting of the IAMU institutional members from Asia, Pacific, and Oceania Region that was presided by **Vadm Eduardo Ma T Santos, AFP (Ret)**, the IAMU-IEB Region 2 representative



India Maritime University (IMU) **Vice-Chancellor Dr. Malini V Shankar** sharing their experiences in the 2019 COVID pandemic and provided suggestions for collaboration with IAMU member institutions.