

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

CATCH UP MEETING

January 14, 2021, 1:00 – 2:00 pm Taipei Time

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

INSTITUTION	REPRESENTATIVES/CONTACT PERSONS
1. Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP), Philippines	1. VADM Eduardo Ma R Santos – MAAP President
	2. Dr. Angelica Baylon – External Relations Director
2. Australia Maritime College, Australia	3. Prof. Prashant Bhaskar, Director of National Center of Ports and Shipping at AMC
3. Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport	4. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Ba Hoang, President
	5. Ms. Tran Thi Nguyet Minh of International Relations Department
4. John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University, Philippines	6. CAPT. Luis G. EVIDENTE, Exec. Asst. to the CEO & Maritime Affairs Consultant
5. Maritime State University named after Admiral G.I. Nevelskoy, Russia	7. Assoc. Prof. Aleksei STRELKOV, Task Leader, IMO Convention-based language training
	8. Ms. Oksana BLazhilina, Head of International Relations
	9. Dr. Audrey Bobylo, Rector Adviser on International Relations
6. Shanghai Maritime University	10. Prof Ruan Wei, Dean of International Education College
	11. Ms. Wang Yingning

Regrets: **TUMSAT**, Japan; **Kobe** University, Japan; **AMET** India; **IMS**, India and **MMU**, Myanmar

AGENDA:

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

PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

- MAAP President VADM Eduardo Ma R Santos, AFP (Ret), as the representative of the Asia, Pacific, and Oceania Group called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

- VADM Santos expressed that it is truly an honor to be able to meet in a Zoom virtual meeting. He mentioned that there are 16 member institutions Asia/Oceania area and because of the COVID restrictions, they have great difficulty meeting one another. He also stated that the annual general conference has been postponed and the officers of the Executive Board has been extended to run more for another year because there has been no activity.
- VADM Santos expressed his desire for the group to continue meeting even virtually so that they will continue to stay in touch. He added that one of the benefits of joining IAMU is to be able to network with other schools. In the absence of physical networking during the annual general meetings, he felt that they, in the Asia/Oceania Region, can do their meeting themselves so they can also hear the others talk and hear the ideas from other schools which may not be able to go up during their annual general meeting.
- VADM Santos expressed that this is just the first attempt for them to meet virtually and they will continue with other meetings like this. He conveyed his openness to accept any suggestions that the group might have.
- VADM Santos also said that he took this opportunity to have this meeting today because of an on-going IAMU webinar. He thanked Dr. Prashant, who is one of the speakers of the said webinar, for being still available, in spite of his talk the day before.
- VADM Santos stressed that it is best for them to continue their networking. He added that if there is anything that the Group would like to be brought up to the Executive Board, he is very much willing to take it up. He also mentioned that he is going to report to the Executive Board that the Group have started their meeting and is hoping that all of the 16 members in the Asia/Oceania Group will be active in this activity.

Renewing Acquaintance

- As part of getting acquainted with each other, the participants introduced themselves to the Group.
 - Australian Maritime College, Australia - Dr. Prashant Bhaskar, Director of National Center of Ports and Shipping which runs all courses including the STCW courses. Dr. Bhaskar stated that their Principal cannot attend the meeting with his busy schedule.
 - Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport - Prof. Dr. Nguyen Ba Hoang, Acting President, and Ms. Nguyet Mhinh of their Foreign Relations Office were present. Dr. Hoang conformed to VADM Santos that they will continue networking and cooperating even during this time of COVID19 pandemic. He said that it is very good that they can optimize meeting online.
 - Maritime State University (MSU) named after Admiral G.I. Nevelskoy, Russia - Assoc. Prof. Aleksei STRELKOV introduced himself as the MSU Contact Person for IAMU. He said that MSU provides STCW courses and a lot of interesting fields. Dr. Audrey Bobylo expressed that MSU is open for collaboration with IAMU. While this is a difficult time because of the COVID19, he said that they have to find ways to collaborate such as joint webinar and online courses. Ms. Oksana BLazhilina, Head of International Relations, was also present.

- Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) - VADM Santos stated that he is a member of the IAMU Executive Board and the chair of the Finance Committee. He also introduced Dr. Angelica Baylon who has coordinated the meeting.
- VADM Santos said that although they are only few, at least they are starting to get going. He added that their presence in the meeting show their interest in continuing to network by any other means aside from physically getting together.
- VADM Santos mentioned that the host for AGM 2021 is the Arab Academy. He said that so far, the plan is to have a physical meeting in Alexandria, Egypt; however, this is not really very sure because of the current pandemic. He also added that they are planning to have virtual meetings. He expressed that he is glad that there has been vaccines produced and he is hoping that travel restrictions will ease off and they can be able to travel to Alexandria in November for the Annual General Meeting which everybody is looking forward to.
- The Chairman cautioned the group that they should keep at the back of their minds that the virus is still there, and has not gone away, and may not go away; and they should be prepared for any alternative plans.
- VADM Santos also mentioned that they already had two (2) Executive Board Virtual Meetings as they have no chance to gather together to meet physically. He relayed that one of the comments in their group was that they could meet in smaller groups that is why he initiated their Asia, Pacific and Oceania Region group so that they can already start getting together.
- VADM Santos informed the group that there is a comment from the Nippon Foundation that there are some members who are not really very active, so the Executive Board has put up a committee that will look into the acceptance of new members into IAMU and to look at the level of activity of contribution of the members. He said, anyway, that is just beginning, so he encouraged the participants to keep in touch and be active and make sure that they contribute towards the objectives of IAMU.

Exchange of ideas on school operations amidst COVID 19 pandemic and possible areas for cooperation

- VADM Santos then asked each of the participating institutions how they are doing in their institutions at this time and what they would like them to do as a group. He encouraged them to freely speak in their forum so that he can relay what they want, without mentioning their names, to the Executive Board so that they are aware of what they are doing.
- **AMC** – Dr. Prashant said that the 2020 crisis was not that bad for them; one of the reasons is that they are well prepared for online education because they have already started on a path of blended learning. He added that, in most cases, they were able to switch over when suddenly the meeting of people was banned and people were not allowed to come to where they were. He mentioned that their physical premises were shut down, except for one or two buildings, in the university. He reported that they were still able to continue. He added that for a lot of training courses which involve a lot of practical, they postponed it for a couple of months, and did a lot of risk assessment processes. He said that they asked their academic and technical staff to conduct risk assessment for every activity, and

based on the best advice from government sources, they put measures into place, mainly related to social distancing and monitoring people for COVID symptoms and so on. He reported that 86% of the students who were doing the STCW courses in 2020 were able to complete their courses; the remaining 14% who did not complete were international students who were called back by their governments such as Germany, and UAE. He said that looking ahead, he thinks that there are issues. One concern he mentioned is that for an international industry and the students moving around and coming from different countries, and so on, they are not sure what students will be able to pursue their education because some of them postponed their studies. He said that one good point is that both staff and students, in some cases, were forced to look into new ways of doing things, and in many cases they found pretty good ways. He cited that some students who they thought came from traditional background and would not take new ways favorably so easily were appreciative of these new things. In a nutshell, he said that 2021 is very uncertain and 2020 is not really that bad. For the question on what they would like from IAMU, Dr. Prashant conveyed that it is quite a difficult question for him because it is his first time to represent their institution in IAMU.

- VADM Santos agreed with Dr. Prashant that they still don't know what they want from IAMU at this time, but he said that if there be any initial ideas, he can take it up. He said that anyway their next IEB meeting will be sometime in April yet. He added that they can still think about it, whatever they would like them to take up, such as the Global Maritime Professional paradigm, and what help they might need from IAMU.
- **Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport** – Prof. Dr. Nguyen Ba Hoang suggested to make a Newsletter every month. He added that they share how they are coping with technology, and situations in their institutions in this newsletter. Another thing that Prof. Dr. Ba Hoang was joint programs like exchange program among their institutions. Regarding their situation in 2020, Dr. Hoang said that they had online class from January to some time in May 2020; but after that in May, they continue their normal regular classes because they were able to control COVID situation in their country. He added that they learn more of online class system during the pandemic. He mentioned that their joint ventures with other institutions outside their country is limited because of the pandemic.
- VADM Santos extended his congratulations to Vietnam for its very good performance in combatting COVID19. Dr. Hoang responded that maybe their military status helped them in the situation.
- VADM Santos welcomed and introduced Capt. Luis Evidente of John B. Lacson Maritime University, Philippines, who just logged in to the meeting.
- **Maritime State University named after Admiral G.I. Nevelskoy, Russia** - Prof. Aleksei STRELKOV spoke about their 2020 situation during the COVID19 pandemic, mentioning that they have undergone a couple of stages which was quite difficult. He mentioned that their cadets had distance learning from late March to late June. Cadets got their theoretical studies online. Not all run smoothly but generally they did well. He mentioned that one good thing that he want to speak about is the organization of group shipboard trainings which were carried out with a ship that is closely associated with their university. He added that the first year and third year students have their group shipboard training in Summer and in Autumn. There have

been 2-week quarantine before they embark but the process was going on. Strictly speaking, there was no cadet that got behind in his studies. On the other hand, he said that it is a good thing that they had gathered together in this virtual meeting because he said that he, at his age, is not accustomed to that, but now he is getting used to it.

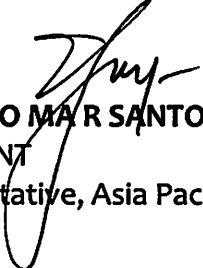
- **Capt. Evidente of JBLMU** relayed that, being a private institution, they have been very much affected by the pandemic which started early in 2020. He shared that they suffered in reduction of enrollees and also in the need to train the faculty in online education and train their students to enroll online so they can continue. He said that they were able to start classes in the first term of this school year. He added that online assessments were conducted but not all assessments can be done online; hence, the results also were affected. Entering the second semester, he said that they are expecting further reduction of enrollees because of the present situation, so they are continuing online class/distance learning. As such, he added that they need to support the faculty and ensure that electronic aids/resources are available to students. He mentioned that they have converted their old computer based training files into electronic mode that the students can access online. He said that it has not been easy at all. He said that what would be most welcome will be what modes of assessment and what rationalized activities can be done remotely and what has to be deferred until a later time. He said that educational sector could decide on that. He added that connectivity of students in online classes was also one of the problems.
- **VADM Santos** appreciated the honesty of Capt. Evidente in sharing the situation in their institution, which resonates what most of the HEIs in the Philippines are experiencing.
- **VADM Santos** mentioned that perhaps MAAP can assist JBFMU with its Sea Gull CBTs which Capt. Evidente said that would help them, but the critical thing for them is on online assessment. VADM Santos said that MAAP has developed its own Student Electronic Assessment System and this is tied up with its Competency Assessment Center which is similar to JBLMU where teaching and assessment groups are separate. He added that this system uses the Question bank from where the assessments are taken. VADM Santos assured Capt. Evidente that MAAP is willing to assist them with developing their own Student Electronic Assessment System which they can further discuss in another private session.
- **VADM Santos** provided a report on the situation in the Philippines which started earlier in 2020. He mentioned that there have been talks about the virus earlier but they did not realize that there would be an immediate lockdown which immobilized movements. He mentioned that MAAP's 1,200 in-house (dormitory) students were restricted inside the campus. He said that some faculty members have gone home to their towns and only a handful were left at MAAP. They cannot travel back to MAAP because of the check points in every town, so there was difficulty in moving as even the transport sector was closed. He added that MAAP, together with the parents, decided to keep the students and had provided them with a COVID free environment. As regards to classroom instruction, VADM Santos mentioned that it is a good thing that all the classrooms are with monitors and they are shifting to

learning management system so the faculty members uploaded their teaching and learning materials in the system for the students to access. Most cadets have tablets (given by their Sponsors) and laptops, so they have devices available. For the online scheme, it is blended because the students are inside the classroom maintaining about 6 feet distance while the instructor is in his/her office or off campus teaching them through a monitor and a wide angle camera; the Institution is really moving towards online. VADM Santos reported that MAAP has graduated the 320 cadets of Class 2020. With the students all inside the Academy, VADM Santos said that his problem was how to keep the students busy, so the Academy allowed electronic gaming sessions during the weekends, vegetable gardening of which the produce were sold to the galley for the cadet mess, and doing their own haircuts. He said that they are improving. VADM Santos also admitted that he is not satisfied with the transfer of learning with the distance learning because of the difficulty in not having face-to-face interaction which may cause the faculty members to teach toward the examinations. He mentioned that since the question bank is sourced from faculty members/ subject matter experts, they have an idea of what would come out of the examination and they might focus their online teaching on the topics that would come out in the exam. He said that MAAP is moving towards ensuring that instructions are aligned with the laboratory and examinations. He said that he would like the students to move away from mere memorizing which will not prepare them when they are interviewed by their Sponsor about their profession. VADM Santos also mentioned that they were able to seek permission to continue with Laboratory such as the Machine Shop with limited students working at one time. Instructors have a booth in the workshop areas with automatic shutdown switch which they can use in case they see problems with what the students are doing. Welding was also allowed but took longer time, even at night, to make sure that all of the cadets have accomplished their laboratory exercises. Simulator exercises were done and each cadet was able to do simulation work. The only problem was that they were allowed to practice individually (one cadet per engine, deck, or desktop simulator station) which is contrary to what is actually going on at sea where there is interaction among the crew. VADM Santos stated that the Academy wants to develop team working in the simulator because that is the situation aboard ship.

- Further, VADM Santos encouraged the participating institutions to exchange information with each other. He spoke of his willingness to help out JBLFU if they need help in their assessment.
- VADM Santos also mentioned that audits by the government was done remotely; they had to be creative in making sure that the requests of the Auditors are met; though this comes with challenges especially if the auditor has not visited MAAP before. Nonetheless, VADM Santos said that MAAP gained its ISO 9001:2018 in 2020 through offsite audit by the DNV-GL.
- VADM Santos mentioned that MAAP needs assistance in so far as electro technology is concerned. He said that with the advent of autonomous ships and electronic engines, they need to upgrade. He added that MAAP is currently preparing to offer Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering with Electro-technology which is aligned with the 2010 STCW guideline on Electrotech Officer.

- VADM Santos welcomed the new participants from Shanghai Maritime University, China. He briefed them about the exploratory meeting and wished them to be there in succeeding meetings with the other 16 member institutions from Asia, Pacific and Oceania region.
- Prof. Ruan Wei asked for apology for coming in late because he had not seen his email sooner. VADM Santos assured him that he has nothing to worry about because this is just exploratory meeting and regrets that they have given the participants short notice for the meeting. He added that they would send invitations ahead of time so everyone would be well informed and prepared.
- Prof. Wei said that since they will be having another meeting later, they would like be asking for the proceedings of the meeting so that they can communicate what they can share for the group.
- Finally, since all of the participating institutions have other meetings to attend to, VADM Santos concluded their meeting, encouraging them to continue to get in touch, offer help to each other, and meet online so that they can have free exchange of ideas to strengthen each other and ultimately IAMU itself.
- The meeting ended at 2:05pm

Noted by:



VADM EDUARDO MAR SANTOS AFP (RET)
MAAP PRESIDENT
IAMU Representative, Asia Pacific and Oceania Group



IAMU—ASIA, PACIFIC AND OCEANIA GROUP First Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

January 14, 2021

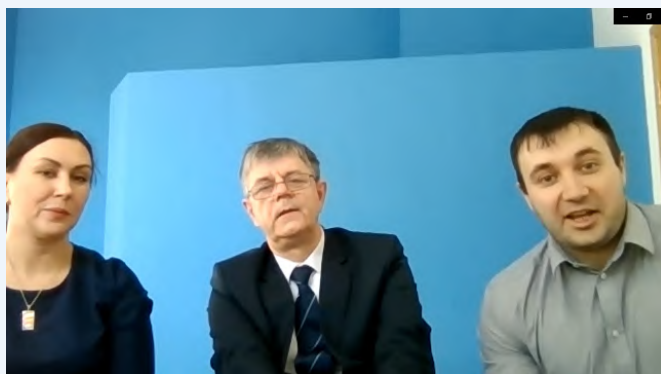
PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION



VADM Eduardo Ma R Santos (IAMU Representative for the Asia, Pacific and Oceania Region) and Dr. Angelica Baylon of Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific, Philippines (MAAP)



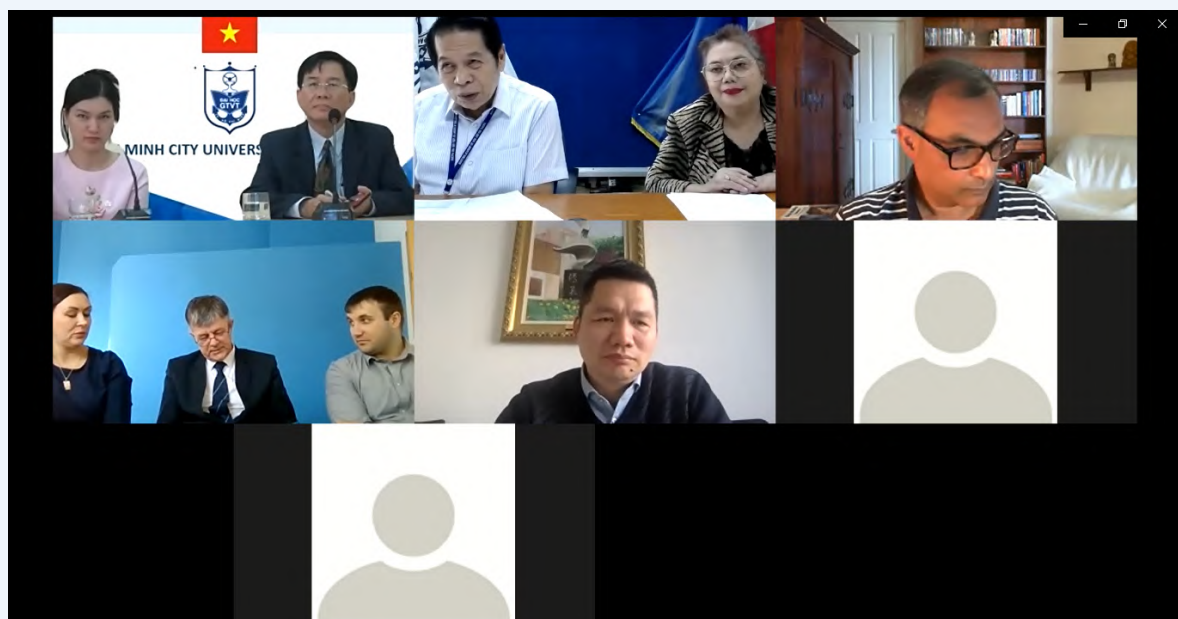
Prof. Prashant Bhaskar of Australia Maritime College, Australia



Assoc. Prof. Aleksei STRELKOV, Ms. Oksana BLazhiliria, and Dr. Audrey Bobylo of Maritime State University named after Admiral G.I. Nevelskoy, Russia



Prof. Dr. Nguyen Ba Hoang and Ms. Tran Thi Nguyet Mhinh of Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport, Vietnam



Exploratory meeting (January 14, 2021). Also in the meeting are Capt. Luis Evidente of John B. Lacson Maritime University, Philippines and Prof Ruan Wei (2nd row, 2nd photo) and Ms. Wang Yingning of Shanghai Maritime University, China