



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

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MEJIA SPEAKS AT ICS INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CONFAB

Dr Maximo Q Mejia Jr, Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) addressed the delegates of the ICS International Shipping Conference 2014 last 10 September at the British Library, London.

In a presentation entitled “Driving Forward Training Standards: The New Face of Maritime Philippines”, Mejia stressed the unique alignment of purpose and effort between the current Administration, specifically the Executive and Legislative branches, and the private sector, for the country’s pursuit of full compliance of the STCW Convention.

Mejia would like to see the Philippines become a “go to” location in the face of apprehensions over training standards and ferry safety.

Speaking before the conference in London, last week, Mejia said the Philippines has established as the world’s No. 1 source of seafarers, and No. 5 in shipbuilding.

“The country’s vision is to leverage these strengths to become a prominent supplier of other shipping services”, he said. Around 400,000 of the world’s 1.2 million seafarers in the world are Filipinos.

He stressed that the inspection regime for seafarers’ training in the Philippines has been ‘tightened’ with more full-time’ auditors for establishments.

He expressed strong optimism in the London confab that the country can become a “go to” location for shipping companies.

Mejia boldly presented the country's strengths in the area of maritime education and training, such as domestic shipping, naval architecture, shipping management, port management and other growth areas; and shipbuilding for the domestic ferry sector, ships are designed with increased safety features and built for Philippine waters.

The way forward is to optimize efficiencies which necessitates the lowering of base costs, the reviewing of bureaucratic processes, e.g. liberalizing requirements and enactment or repeal of laws.

In closing, Mejia reiterated the Philippine's commitment: enhanced STCW implementation, provide maritime professionals, and leverage the country's strengths -- as the world's number one labour supply country, and the 5th largest shipbuilding nation, and to leverage these strengths for Philippines to become a prominent supplier of other shipping service; to become the "go to location" for shipping companies.

Mejia's co-presenter was Mr. Gerardo A. Borromeo Vice Chairman, International Chamber of Shipping; President, InterManager CEO, Philippine Transmarine Carriers, Inc.; and non-voting member of the MARINA Board.

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) is the principal international trade association for the shipping industry, representing shipowners and operators in all sectors and trade. Its membership comprises national shipowners' associations in Asia, Europe and the Americas whose member shipping companies operate over 80% of the world's merchant tonnage.

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The Maritime Industry Authority is an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications tasked to accelerate the integrated development of the maritime industry in the country. It has been implementing reforms and programs to transform the country's domestic shipping industry to global competitiveness and the MARINA into a premiere maritime administration in Southeast Asia. For more information, visit marina.gov.ph.

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