



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE
04 November 2011

MARINA'S INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) takes the lead in the conduct of a 3-day **"National Workshop on the Growth of an International Ship Recycling Industry in the Philippines Based on Compliance to International Safety and Environmental Standards"** on 08 – 10 November 2011 at the Casa Marinero, Intramuros, Manila.

The Workshop with nine (9) sessions, including a Plant Visit to a Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Treatment Facility in Bataan, will have 12 Resource Speakers of which nine (9) will be coming from various countries and three (3) from the Philippines. The nine (9) international experts will be coming from international organizations such as International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labor Organization (ILO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey and from the business sector group such as Global Marketing Systems, Inc., RWEC Environmental Consulting (UK), Overseas Business Group (Japan Marine Science, Inc.), and Green Ship-Recycling Services (Germany). The Resource Persons from the Philippines will be coming from the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

As a background on this Workshop, according the MARINA Administrator, Emerson M. Lorenzo, "The Philippines, through the MARINA, is considering the encouragement of the growth of a ship recycling industry in the country, on the basis that this industry shall comply with international safety and environmental standards pursuant to the ***Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009***. Consequently, the Philippines has requested IMO's Technical Cooperation Division to arrange a national workshop within the context of IMO's policy of assisting Member States in their preparation for the ratification and implementation of the Hong Kong Convention."

In 2009, the IMO adopted a Resolution that called on the development of an instrument, legally binding throughout the world, to effectively address the environmental, occupational health and safety risks related to ship recycling, taking into account the particular characteristics of maritime transport and the need to secure the smooth withdrawal of ships that have reached the end of their operating lives. This instrument was later on adopted to become the ***Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009***.

Approximately, 60 technical officers from various government agencies and representatives from shipyards, ship breakers, and PCB treatment facility are expected to attend this Workshop.

Administrator Lorenzo further underscored the importance for the Philippines to receive this IMO capacity building program. According to him, assuming that the government will implement the ship retirement program covering ships 31 years old and above under RA 9295, there are around 384 domestic ships of different sizes plying the domestic trade projected to be retired. Still to be considered are foreign registered ships that have reached the end of their operating lives. If the Philippines so decides to become a ship recycling country, this is the number of ships projected to undergo ship recycling.

"It is very important that we need to prepare and implement a national action plan to address some concerns leading to the ratification of this Convention," Lorenzo added.