



THE

MARINA NEWSLETTER

February 2023

VOL V No. 02 | Official Publication of the Maritime Industry Authority | Republic of the Philippines



DOTrMARINAPH



marina.gov.ph

PBBM: TIME TO MAKE PH MARITIME INDUSTRY A 'TOP PRIORITY'

MANILA — Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has strongly echoed his mission to make the country's maritime industry a top priority, during the first-ever Philippine Maritime Industry Summit 2023, 28 February 2023.

"Given that the Philippines is a maritime nation, I believe that it is time for us to make the maritime industry once again a top priority. While we already hold a dominant position in the world of global shipping, I certainly believe that we can do more, especially here at home."

President Marcos Jr. also ensured the industry of his 'unqualified support' in building the maritime

sector 'that will be looked upon with admiration by the region and the rest of the world.'

The said event, organized by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) housed the updated Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028

In a statement, DOTr Secretary Jaime J. Bautista emphasized that "the modernization of the country's maritime industry deserves a strong push to keep us in step with global developments."

The MIDP 2028 illustrates its alignment to our long-term vision as a nation, under the Ambisyon

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3

INSIDE STORIES

**MARINA SELECTED
AS DAP QMS...****-PAGE 2****MARINA, UP-OU
team up...****-PAGE 2****MARINA, COMELEC
to establish...****-PAGE 7****MARINA lauds
appointment of Mejia...****-PAGE 8**

MARINA SELECTED AS DAP QMS BENEFICIARY

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) was selected as one of the beneficiaries of this year's Government Management Quality Program (GQMP) of the Development Assistance effort to effectively establish, and harmonize a QMS certifiable to ISO 9001:2015 standard, strengthen our risk management capability and improve our services to contribute to raising the nation's productivity, providing the Filipinos with a "Maginhawa, Matatag at Panatag na Buhay," the Pledge of Commitment stated.



Under the program, the MARINA will be given eight (8) to ten (10) months for 2023 technical assistance by the DAP, as well as capacity-building intervention on the expansion of the Agency's QMS to be certified under ISO 9001:2015 standard.

The said expansion will pave way for the eventual ISO Certification of relevant services of the Agency under the 9001:2015 Standards of all its services nationwide. At the moment, only STCW related services including those in select MARINA Regional Offices are ISO 9001: 2015 standards.

MARINA, UPOU TEAM UP TO ELEVATE PH MARITIME EDUCATION, TRAINING

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), represented by Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia and OIC Executive Director of the STCW Office, Mr. Samuel L. Batalla, forged a Memorandum of Understanding for institutional partnership with the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) represented by Dr. Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria, UPOU Chancellor and Dr. Joane V. Serrano, UPOU Dean for Faculty of Management and Development Studies.

The MOU objectives include joint academic activities including webinars and other training programs; collaborative researches; consultancy

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Write-ups or opinions expressed in this publication are exclusively and solely by the writers and they do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Agency on relevant issues.

The Editorial Board welcomes contributions. Interested officials and employees are invited to submit their articles through email address pps@marina.gov.ph.

Members of the Editorial Board assume full responsibility for all articles and contributions published in this Newsletter.

MARINA, UP TEAM UP TO ELEVATE PH MARITIME...

and other technical services; and resource and information sharing. Further, the MOU aims to elevate the delivery of maritime education and training through open and distance learning.

The historic signing of MOU today coincides with UP Open U's celebration of its 28th Anniversary.

In a statement, Administrator Fabia said "The MARINA and UPOU both recognize the significant contribution of the maritime industry, especially our seafarers, in nation building." He also lauded UPOU's commitment to being a 'University of the Future' which reflects the institution's commitment to excellence and innovation.

The partnership is in line with UPOU's mandate pursuant to Republic Act No. 10650 (Open

Distance Learning Law) which has tasked UPOU to assist relevant national agencies, higher education institutions, and technical and vocational institutions in developing their distance education programs through training, technical assistance, research and other academic programs.



MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia together with OIC Executive Director of the STCW Office, Mr. Samuel L. Batalla and UPOU Officials sign the Memorandum of Understanding for institutional partnership of maritime education and training through distance learning.

PBBM: TIME TO MAKE PH MARITIME INDUSTRY A TOP PRIORITY from page 1

Natin 2040, the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, the National Transport Policy, among others, MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia stressed in his message.

The updated MIDP has three (3) Overriding Programs, (4) Core Programs, and one (1) Enabling Program, with the goals and outcomes of each program interrelated.

With a vision in mind of achieving a Strong and reliable Philippine Merchant Fleet that addresses the sea transport requirements of the archipelago in support of the national development agenda, the updated MIDP is a holistic approach that encourages synergy among industry key players—both from the private and government sectors, DOTr Undersecretary for Maritime, Elmer Francisco U. Sarmiento expressed.

The Overriding Programs include the Enhancement of Maritime Transport Safety and Security, the Promotion of an Environmentally Sustainable Maritime Industry, and the Implementation of a Sustainable Maritime Innovation, Transformation, Digitalization, and Knowledge Center.

Meanwhile, the Core Programs consist of the Modernization and Expansion of Domestic Shipping, including the Tourist Destination Areas and the Coastal Inland Waterways Transport System, Promotion and Expansion of Overseas

Shipping, Modernization, Expansion, and Promotion of the Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Industry, and Promotion of Highly Skilled Maritime Workforce.

The MIDP targets to promote and expand the Philippine Maritime Industry by increasing access to safe, reliable, efficient, affordable, sustainable, and integrated sea transport systems for passengers and shippers, increasing the capacity and production of the shipbuilding and ship repair industry, and enhancing the employability of maritime workforce by reskilling and upskilling.

Further, the MARINA is inviting maritime stakeholders, policymakers, government officials, industry leaders, and maritime experts to participate in future discussions and collaborate towards the sustainable development of the Philippine Maritime Industry.

"The MARINA will organize series of focus group discussions to finalize our proposed measures and results matrices. And as part of our strategy shift, we will endeavor to visit you for further consultations on top of the virtual and face to face meetings that we will be holding," MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Sonia B. Malaluan announced.

During the event, key players of the maritime industry has pledged their support for the MIDP 2028.

MIDP OVERVIEW

PROGRAMS | OUTCOMES | LEGAL BASIS

The country's 10-Year MIDP is pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 474, series of 1974 otherwise known as the Maritime Industry Decree of 1974, issued by former President Ferdinand E Marcos.

Section 5 of the said law mandates the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to prepare and annually update a Ten-Year MIDP which shall contain a rational and integrated development of the maritime industry. Further, the MARINA shall submit the same for approval by the President of the Philippines.

The MIDP envisions to: increase access to a safe, reliable, efficient, affordable, sustainable, and integrated sea transport system for passengers and shippers; increasing capacity and production of the shipbuilding and ship repair industry; and increasing employability of the maritime workforce and creating new and quality jobs through reskilling and upskilling of the maritime workforce.

The amended MIDP consists of Overriding Core Programs, Core Programs, and Enabling Programs. The goals and outcomes of each program are interrelated. The Overriding Core Programs underpins the goals and outcomes of Core Programs, while the Enabling Programs are geared towards facilitating the implementation of both Overriding Core and Core Programs.



MARITIME INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2028

OBJECTIVES

MISSION

Ensure access of passengers and shippersto safe, secure, economical environment-friendly and sustainable sea transport

FOCUS

Accelerate the Integrated Development of the Philippines Maritime Industry

Development and expansion of the Philippine Merchant Fleet

Development of Future-ready Maritime Human Capital

OVERRIDING PROGRAMS



Enhancement of Maritime Transport Safety and Security



Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Maritime Industry



Implementation of a Sustainable Maritime Innovation, Transformation, Digitalization and Knowledge Center

CORE PROGRAMS



Promotion of Highly Skilled and Competitive Maritime Workforce



Modernization, Expansion and Promotion of the Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Industry



Promotion and Expansion of the Overseas Shipping Industry



Modernization and Expansion of Domestic Shipping Industry
[including the TDAs and CIWTS]

ENABLING PROGRAM



Adoption and Implementation of an Effective and Efficient Maritime Administration Governance System

KEYNOTE ADDRESS OF HE PRESIDENT FERDINAND R MARCOS JR DURING THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME INDUSTRY SUMMIT 2023 AT THE MANILA HOTEL ON 28 FEBRUARY 2023



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. delivers his Keynote Address during the Philippine Maritime Industry Summit 2023 at the Manila Hotel, Manila City on 28 February 2023.

Thank you very much, Transport Secretary Jimmy Bautista.

I also like to acknowledge House Speaker, Speaker of the House Martin Romualdez; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Labor and Employment Secretary Benny Laguesma; the MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani Fabia; fellow workers in government; partners in the private sector; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I am honored to join our industry experts, various government institutions, and key stakeholders as we conduct this year's Philippine Maritime Industry Summit and present the Maritime Industry Development Plan or MIDP for 2028.

I recognize the Department of Transportation and the Maritime Industry Authority for spearheading this important and timely event and for taking a huge leap forward in making the country's maritime industry even more globally competitive through the MIDP 2028.

Through this development plan—which was formulated by the MARINA and the DOTr, in coordination with relevant government agencies and key stakeholders—we **will achieve our two core objectives: First, to ensure the development and expansion of the Philippine merchant fleet, and Second, to ensure the advancement of a future-ready maritime human capital.**

Specifically, this plan covers eight priority programs ranging from enhancing maritime transport safety and security; promoting

environmental sustainability; implementing digitalization; modernizing, upgrading, and expanding domestic and overseas shipping industries — including the local shipbuilding and ship repair industry; promoting a highly skilled and competitive maritime workforce; and adopting an effective and efficient maritime administration governance system.

In addition to this, the MIDP will establish a system that aims to lessen the detrimental impacts of both natural and man-made eventualities as well as to prepare for the future and its contingencies that may affect the sector.

It is my great pride to report to you that the Philippines is the world's primary source of maritime manpower — constituting 25% of the global seafarers and bringing in a total of 6.71 billion dollars in remittances in 2022.

With that being said, ***I laud the commitment of our Filipino seafarers to bring honor and pride once again to our country.*** They do this by providing quality service across the globe and contributing to our nation-building efforts. I extend my gratitude as well to the officials and members of our domestic and overseas shipping, shipbuilding, and ship repair sectors.

As of 31 December 2022, there are nearly 16,000 registered domestic ships plying the nearly 1,300 inter- island shipping routes across the country.

Similarly, there are almost a hundred

KEYNOTE ADDRESS OF HE PRESIDENT FERDINAND R MARCOS JR ...

Philippine- registered overseas ships that yielded 30.75 million pesos in tax collections in 2022.

With regard to the local shipbuilding and ship repair sector, as of 2021, there are 116 MARINA registered shipyards across the country.

Given that the Philippines is a maritime nation, ***I believe that it is time for us to make the maritime industry once again a top priority.***

While we already hold a dominant position in the world of global shipping, I certainly believe that we can do more, especially here at home.

We already hold the most vital ingredient to success— which is our seafarers. All we need to do now is to ensure that we harness their knowledge, make use of their experience, and mobilize our local industries to build an even stronger domestic maritime industry for the benefit of our people.

So, I encourage all government institutions and key stakeholders to collaborate, to cooperate

to ensure the continued growth and development of this extremely important sector.

I also urge all concerned agencies to pursue a whole-of-government approach to effectively implement the MIDP 2028 as well as to continue communicating with member-states of the International Maritime Organization and the European Union-Committee on Safe Seas.

As the leader, ***I assure you that this administration will give its unqualified support in your aspirations of building a Philippine maritime industry that will be looked upon with admiration by the region and the rest of the world.***

Together, let us synergize all our efforts and harness the potential of this event and of the MIDP 2028. This to provide better opportunities for our fellow Filipinos, to build a more progressive, sustainable, and resilient maritime sector.

Thank you. Mabuhay tayong lahat, at magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

MARINA, COMELEC TO ESTABLISH REGISTRATION CENTERS FOR OVERSEAS VOTERS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) on 02 March 2022 which aims to establish several Registration Centers for Overseas Voters within the

MARINA premises nationwide as part of the latter's preparations for the May 2025 national and local elections.

The initiative guarantees the continuous



Along with other government agencies, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Commission on Election (COMELEC) sign a Memorandum of Agreement which aims to establish several Registration Centers for Overseas Voters.

MARINA, COMELEC TEAM UP...

registration of qualified overseas Filipino voters from 09 December 2022 until 30 September 2024. With this partnership, the two organizations aim to ensure that every eligible Filipino voter can exercise their right to suffrage.

In a statement, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Nannette V. Dinopol expressed her confidence in the collaboration, saying, "Consistent with the principle of leaving no one behind, ***the MARINA remains a strong partner of Comelec in promoting the continuing registration for qualified overseas Filipino seafarers*** through the Comelec-MARINA Registration Centers for Overseas Voters."

"We definitely have one aim or hope in mind — that is, they [overseas voters] will be able to exercise their right to suffrage come the 2025 National and Local Elections wherever they may be or whatever seas their ships may sail, their votes will be counted," she furthered.

The Registration Centers are expected to operate from the signing of the agreement until 30 September 2024, from Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM. By establishing these registration centers, MARINA and COMELEC aim to ensure that every Filipino, regardless of their location, can participate in the upcoming elections.

The MoA was signed by officials from both organizations, along with other government agencies such as the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).



MARINA LAUDS APPOINTMENT OF MEJIA AS NEXT WMU PRESIDENT



Former MARINA Administrator, Maximo Q. Mejia Jr. is the new President of the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmo, Sweden.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has lauded the recent appointment of Professor Maximo Q. Mejia Jr, former MARINA Administrator as new President of the World Maritime University (WMU) based in Malmo, Sweden. He was selected by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Chancellor of the University following a competitive selection process, according to the website of the IMO. Professor Mejia is expected to take over the helm of the University on 29 June 2023 when Dr Dombia-Henry's term expires.

Between 2013 to 2016, ***Dr. Mejia served as MARINA Administrator*** during the incumbency of President Benigno S Aquino III.

Mejia is credited for the achievement of the following initiatives for the MARINA such as the following : Enactment into law of Republic Act No. 10635 which designated the MARINA as the single maritime administration for the implementation of the STCW Convention in the Philippines; Extension of the validity of the Seafarers Identification and Record Book (SIRB) from 5 years to 10 Years; Expansion of the organizational structure of the STCW Office; among others.

He studied Political Science at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland and went on to obtain a Master of Arts in Law & Diplomacy at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, United States.