



MARINA inaugurates its own training, research development arm in Bacolod City

MARINA Administrator Robert A. Empedrad poses for a photo with Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson, along with MARINA Training Institute (MarTI) Training Director Felisa Orongan during the inauguration of MarTI in Bacolod City.

BACOLOD CITY – To further capacitate the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) personnel, as well as increase the capabilities of maritime professionals all over the archipelago, the MARINA inaugurated its own training, research development arm – the MARINA Training Institute (MarTI) at Panaad Park, Brgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City in Negros Occidental on 24 May 2022.

The MarTI's operationalization aims to improve the capacity of MARINA and other partners to innovate and operate modern technologies, to spearhead programs to help the country tackle the changing trends in the maritime industry and to serve as a systematic educational and training system and facilities for all maritime professionals. To commemorate the event, which was led by MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A. Empedrad, alongside with several officials of the Agency, a ribbon cutting ceremony with Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson was held to kick-start the inauguration.

MARINA Regional Office VI (MRO 6) Regional Director and MARINA Training Institute (MarTI) Training Director Ms. Felisa N. Orongan delivered her opening remarks, expressing her thankfulness that even though there may be challenges encountered along the way before the building could be occupied as a training institute, all of them were addressed through the strong support of Administrator Empedrad. "Through our collective efforts, we were able to see this day and celebrate the joy of a dream coming true. The realization of having the MarTI in this building and in this region is one of those awesome displays of God's outworking through the MARINA."

Negros Occidental Governor Lacson, on the other hand, stated that the inauguration of the MARINA's academic arm is a welcome development for the province. "This building will pave the way for the improvement of the capacities of MARINA to adapt to the fast-changing trends in the maritime industry and to serve as an effective

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

MARINA INAUGURATES ITS OWN TRAINING, RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT ARM...

training and education facility for all maritime professionals." As part of the program, a brief history regarding the MarTI, entitled "How MarTI Came to Be", was presented to the participants from Local Government Units (LGUs), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Higher Education Institutions (MHEIs)/Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs), shipping operators, shipyards, and other maritime stakeholders. Aside from virtual tour, this showcased the Agency officials who took the lead in providing efforts to realize the MARINA's own training and research development arm.

For his part, Administrator Empedrad mentioned the three (3) major anchors that leads to the inauguration of MarTI – a verse from the Bible which is Luke 6:40, stating "Students are not greater than their teachers but the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher."; the Program 9 of the 10-Year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) which is the Establishment of the Maritime Innovation and Knowledge Center (MIKC); and one of his 10-Point Agenda, which is to ensure that MARINA personnel are capacitated by providing them the best available training possible.

Further, Administrator Empedrad emphasized that all the MARINA personnel must be trained first before the Agency will be able to provide good and excellent training to the maritime professionals, to the crew of our ships, to the ship building, and to the whole maritime industry of the Philippines. "I always believe that the development of the maritime industry will catapult our country to become an economic powerhouse. Dapat unahin rin natin ang maritime industry development because we are an archipelagic nation. We have so many islands that are not connected. Ang pag-asa natin ay ang maritima."

"The MarTI will likewise undertake, promote and coordinate related maritime research and development program. Ito ang pinakamahalaga. As far as I'm concerned, the most important aspect of the MARINA is the research and development, which can also be made into provision here in MarTI," Administrator Empedrad added.

It may be remembered that last 11 February 2021, the Agency, through a virtual soft launching, had announced the opening of the MarTI in the four-story MARINA Regional Office – Western Visayas building.

Administrator Empedrad was joined by Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol, OIC Deputy Administrator for Planning Ms. Sonia Malaluan, Shipyard Regulations Service (SRS) Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez, Management, Financial and Administrative Service (MFAS)

Director Ms. Nenita Atienza, and Planning and Policy Service (PPS) Director Mr. Luisito Delos Santos.

Inaugural Training Modules

The inauguration ceremony of MarTI also featured two training courses.

"We are conducting two (2) training courses composed of 69 participants from the MARINA and our stakeholders, and we are giving these for free. Ito 'yung aming tinatawag na 'selfless service' to our industry. Tutulongan naming ang lahat ng nangangailangan ng training to make them experts," Administrator Empedrad also mentioned.

The MARINA, through its Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS), led by Director Engr. Hernandez, conducted its first face-to-face capacity-building training, which was the Intact Stability Training (Track 2), for the MARINA personnel from MARINA

Central and Regional Offices on 24-26 May 2022. This training revolved around the conduct of Inclining Test and Lightweight Survey, Basic Intact Stability and the Requirements and Criteria for different types of ships, as well as the latest discussions and developments of intact stability in the IMO.

In an inspirational message, Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Dinopol reminded the participants to comprehend not only the lectures but also the case studies which will help the MARINA to apply theoretical concepts on existing ships and enhance our capability to translate skills and knowledge into efficient work.

The other training course was the Modified Basic Safety Training (MBST) for Crews of Ships 35 GT below, which was held by the MARINA Regional Office VI, led by its Regional Director and MARINA Training Institute (MarTI) Training Director Ms. Orongan.

MARINA BARES INITIATIVES BEFORE JOINT MARITIME COMMITTEE; ENSURES FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRY

MANILA – "A progressive maritime industry," that's the battle cry of the Maritime Industry Authority as it laid out its initiatives before the Joint Maritime Committee (JMC) last 28 April 2022, at the MARINA Central Office.

The presentation was given by MARINA Administrator Robert A Empedrad, who also expressed his gratitude to the JMC, and vowed that the agency will continue to work with the committee.

"We're hoping that the Joint Maritime Committee will continue to provide us with advice, and the good counsel that we need to perform well in the future. We're looking forward to making the Philippine maritime industry a progressive one, and with your help, I am sure, we will go a long way," Administrator Empedrad said.

During the hybrid meeting, the Administrator put emphasis on the agency's strategic initiatives

and ways to implement the remaining corrective actions on the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) Audit.

As for the Independent Evaluation on quality standard system of the Philippines, Administrator Empedrad assured that the Philippine maritime industry will continue to give full and complete effect to the requirements of the STCW Convention.

Further, the MARINA also reported its efforts for



Administrator Robert Empedrad, together with other MARINA officials after their presentation before the Joint Maritime Committee held on 28 April 2022, in Manila.

MARINA BARES INITIATIVES BEFORE JOINT MARITIME COMMITTEE...

the welfare of the Filipino seafarers such as: Establishment of One-Stop Shop/Additional Crew Change Hubs; Ease on the issuance of Digital Certificates through MISMO system; Easy access on the Competency Reviewer Portal; Maximizing the Use of MISMO System; Vaccination Program for Seafarers; Extension of validity of STCW certificates; Reduction of fees for Seafarer's Record Book (SRB); and

Reduction of Fees on COP, and COC.

As for the digitalization efforts of MARINA, the agency discussed its OBT Portal in the MISMO System, and the Electronic Record Book (e-TRB) which is an additional feature of the MISMO System.

The Administrator was joined with STCW Office (STCWO) Executive Director Vice Admiral Rene Medina AFP (Ret), STCWO Deputy Executive Director Captain Jeffrey Solon, and OIC – Deputy Administrator for Planning Director Sonia Malaluan.

MARINA FACILITATES WORKSHOP ON SAFETY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF DOMESTIC PASSENGER SHIPS; TARGETS REDUCED MARITIME CASUALTY, GREEN MARITIME PHILIPPINES



MANILA — The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), together with the World Maritime University (WMU) and the University of Strathclyde, on behalf of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Bank Group, facilitated a Virtual Workshop for the ongoing Study on Safety and Energy Efficiency of domestic Passenger Ships in the Philippines (FSA-ENV) Project last 12-13 May 2022.

The virtual workshop focused to present the initial findings of the FSA-P and ENV-P Projects, including the results verification, challenges, gaps, and opportunities, as well as the feasible solutions to reduce the risk of domestic ferry

hazards and incidents in the country.

“We instill and sustain a culture of safety in the Philippine domestic shipping sector, to ensure that maritime casualty in the Philippines in the coming years is significantly reduced. The Philippines is privileged to have been selected as a beneficiary of the FSA-ENV study,” MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) said during the opening ceremony of the virtual workshop.

Together with MARINA Administrator Empedrad, the participants were warmly welcomed by Mr. Subrata Barman, from the International

MARINA FACILITATES WORKSHOP ON SAFETY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF DOMESTIC PASSENGER SHIPS; TARGETS REDUCED MARITIME...

Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group, and Dr. Bekir Sitki Ustaoğlu, Head of IMO Asia and Pacific Section.

Atty. Josephine Uranza, IMO Regional Coordinator in East Asia, in her role as moderator, opened the discussion on the current issues with regards to the improvement of safety and energy efficiency and environmental footprints of domestic passenger ships to strengthen the collaboration of the International Consultants, National Focal Persons, the implementing partners from the national government as well as the concerned stakeholders on this Study.

FSA-P and ENV-P Projects are structured and systematic methodology, aimed at enhancing maritime safety, including protection of life, health, the marine environment, and property, by

using risk analysis and cost benefit assessment.

"In the forthcoming various phases of the FSA-ENV Projects, we shall dedicate ourselves to fostering an environment that supports this development. We also encourage our industry stakeholders to eventually join us in the execution of this project that will carve a new path for the enhancement of safety and energy efficiency in the domestic shipping sector; as well as strengthening the Philippines' participation in the global efforts to mitigate climate change," MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol concluded.

Engr. Dinopol was joined in closing the program with Dr. Sitki, and Maritime Transport Specialist from the World Bank Group, Mr. Ninan Oommen Biju.

The event was also graced by Deputy Administrator for Planning Ms. Sonia Malaluan, Maritime Attaché in London Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia, PhD, SRS Director II Engr. Ramon C. Hernandez in his capacity as the FSA-ENV Project National Focal Point and MARINA Service Units and Regional Directors.

PHL LEADS FIRST RTF ON BIOFOULING MANAGEMENT MEETING



The Philippine delegation during the first meeting of the Regional Task Force on Biofouling Management Meeting for East ASEAN Seas Region.

MANILA -- Consistent with its commitment of protecting and ensuring the sustainability of the marine environment, the Philippines, as one of the Lead Partnering Countries (LPC) of the GloFouling Partnerships Project, led the first meeting of the Regional Task Force (RTF) on Biofouling Management for East ASEAN Seas Region on 28 April 2022 via video conference.

The Philippines, represented by the Deputy Administrator for Operations of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol, was nominated as Chair of the first RTF meeting. She expressed the country's appreciation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) for their unwavering support and assistance in raising awareness on how to combat the negative impacts of

PHL LEADS FIRST RTF ON BIOFOULING MANAGEMENT MEETING

invasive aquatic species (IAS) in the marine biodiversity.

Dr. Lilia Khodjet El Khil, Project Manager of the UNDP-GEF-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project commenced the meeting by highlighting the importance of the undertaking.

"No country can deal with IAS on its own. There is a need for regional cooperation and harmonized approach to address these threats," Ms. Lilia Khodjet El Khil emphasized.

Dir. Ramon Hernandez of the MARINA-Shipyards Regulation Service (MARINA-SRS) presented the overall updates on the Philippines' progress and initiatives relevant to biofouling management.

He mentioned the National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) entitled, "Green Maritime Philippine: Protect and Conserve", which was adopted by the Inter-agency Coordinating Committee to Facilitate the Ratification and Accession to and Implementation of Maritime Conventions or ICCFRAIMC and was enrolled in the 10-year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) under Program 10. It will likewise serve as the roadmap for the Philippines to effectively implement Conventions concerning maritime environment protection, where biodiversity and biofouling are included.

Dir. Hernandez also shared the study made

by the country's National Consultant for the said project, Dr. Benjamin M. Vallejo of the University of the Philippines-Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (UP-IESM) entitled, "An Assessment on Biofouling Management and its Potential Risk to the Maritime Industry in the Philippines".

Aside from the Philippines, Indonesia also reported its best practices for biofouling management.

Further, the Terms of Reference for the Regional Task Force were also discussed during the meeting.

In addition, Ms. Erneta Swanpoel, IMO Biofouling Strategy Consultant, introduced the background and features of a regional biofouling strategy while Dr. Won-Tae Shin, PEMSEA Consultant, presented the zero draft of the Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management in ASEAN Region.

The first meeting of the RTF on Biofouling Management was attended by representatives from the Philippines and Indonesia which are the two LPCs in East ASEAN Seas Region, IMO, PEMSEA, Regional Coordinating Organizations (RCOs), and other partner organizations.

It can be recalled that the Philippines also shared its best practices in protecting and conserving the marine environment during the 2nd Global Project Task Force (GPTF) Meeting of the GloFouling Partnerships Project which was held from 11 to 13 April 2022 at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom.



The Philippine delegation during the first meeting of the Regional Task Force on Biofouling Management Meeting for East ASEAN Seas Region.

MARINA MEETS WITH PHL IMO GMAs

As it aims to promote the maritime industry through the establishment of collaborative efforts and programs that are anchored with the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2019-2028 and MARINA Strategic Voyage Plan 2022-2028, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) convened the first meeting with the appointed International Maritime Organization (IMO) Goodwill Maritime Ambassadors (GMAs) of the Republic of the Philippines for 2022-2023 on 05 May 2022 via video conference.



The MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations, Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol, graced the said meeting by expressing her gratitude for the unmeasurable support and commitment of the IMO GMAs in promoting the maritime industry.

"With this new role as IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassadors, I am confident that you will be able to reach and inspire new and young generation of seafarers as you continually raise awareness on the benefits of being in the maritime field," Engr. Dinopol said.

The overall objective of an IMO GMA is to reach new target audiences to educate and inform on the importance of shipping and the role of IMO, and inspire a new generation of seafarers and other maritime professionals.

Meanwhile, the IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassadors of the Philippines - Ambassador Carlos Salinas, Ambassador Josephine Francisco, Ambassador VADM Eduardo MA R Santos and Ambassador Yrhen Balinis delivered their messages wherein they have shared their plans and initiatives to promote the industry.

The first meeting with the IMO GMA of the Republic of the Philippines for 2022-2023 was attended by the IMO Regional Coordinator in East Asia, Atty. Josephine Marie G. Urazna, IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassadors – Ambassador Carlos Salinas, Ambassador Josephine Francisco, Ambassador VADM Eduardo MA R Santos and Ambassador Yrhen Balinis, Maritime Attaché in London, Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia and officials and representatives from the MARINA.

MARINA SALUTES WOMEN IN MARITIME SECTOR, ENSURES SUPPORT TO FEMALE WORKFORCE IN INDUSTRY

MANILA – Aiming to provide an avenue for women to resolve challenges, and barriers in a male-dominated industry, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) celebrated the International Day of Women in Maritime through series of panel discussions, on 18 May 2022 at the MARINA Central Office, in Port Area, Manila.

During his speech, MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) lauded female senior officers of the agency, as he stressed that "gender and development is alive" in his office.

"Here in MARINA, we treat you fairly, the gender and development is alive here. In fact, nag-open tayo ng isang office just to emphasize that our support for gender and development is hundred percent (100%)."

"I'd like to congratulate all the females all over the archipelago in the maritime industry, alam ko na nagpe-perform kayo similar to what your counterparts are doing. I am encouraging all the females to keep on pushing, and tell the whole world that you're equally capable with your male counterpart," he added.

Further, Administrator Empedrad called women to take part in serving under the wing of the maritime sector, as he guaranteed that the

MARINA SALUTES WOMEN IN MARITIME SECTOR, ENSURES SUPPORT...

MARINA will back them up to ensure that their problems will be acted upon.

"Now, the opportunities for females are present. I'd like to encourage our women in the maritime to go out there to serve. Alam kong may mga problema [I know there are problems], but don't worry, we're here to support you. Just call us, and we will do everything we can to ensure that your problems are properly acted upon by the MARINA," Administrator Empedrad pledged.

Based on records, there are approximately 59,251 female seafarers registered under the MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) System.

During her welcome remarks, one of MARINA's female senior officers, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol, stated that the celebration was not only for the women in maritime but also for everyone who serves as a "catalyst of change, equality, and empowerment."

"Women are the integral part of the maritime

workforce, contributing to the success of shipping lines, ports, onshore services and more. There is ample evidence that the countries with more gender equality have better economic growth which implies that the equality for women means progress for all," Engr. Dinopol expressed.

The topics for this year's celebration revolved around gender equality, breaking barriers, and a workplace that is inclusive of diverse participation by all. Resource speakers and panelists from different entities in the country's maritime sector tackled the realities of women amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the barriers women face in terms of employment in the industry.



SALUTE FOR WOMEN: Administrator Empedrad together with the women in the industry from various maritime entities.

MARINA RELEASES MISMO-RELATED UPDATES

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) released MISMO-related updates and guidelines for seafarers, licensed manning agencies (LMAs), and MARINA-Compliant Medical Facilities of Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS) together with their accredited Medical Practitioners, through MARINA Advisory 2022-35.

These published updates and guidelines are in line with the full implementation of MARINA Circular SC-2022-02 on the revised fees of two STCW Certificates and MARINA Advisory 2022-04 or the "Amendment to MARINA Advisory 2021-65" on New COC and COP Formats which are pursuant to RA 10635 and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations, the relevant provisions of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code, and RA 11032 or the "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018".

The MARINA enjoins all concerned to be guided with these new updates as they are relevant to a seafarer's STCW Certificates application processes, related fees, transfer of payments, sea service and medical certification requirements and the accredited LMAs' and medical facilities' role in the issuance of their certificates.

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