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SHIPYARDS IN PH FORM FIRST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

For the first time in the history of the country's maritime and shipping industry, shipyards located in the Philippines through their heads or representatives have organized their first t ever national association to provide a 'common voice' to represent the needs of shipyards as its major objective.

Officially named as the Shipyards Association of the Philippines (SHAP), the idea of forming the entity propped up at the Ship Building, Ship Repair (SBSR) seminar cum workshop and road mapping for SBSR industry held in Cebu City last Feb. 5 to 7, 2015, said Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Shipyards regulations service chief Director Ramon C. Hernandez. "Based on MARINA data, in 2013, there were 113 active shipyards in the country. Seven have been categorized as large shipyards, 12 medium and 94 as small - all strategically located across the country", said Hernandez. No significant change in the data is reported.

MARINA Administrator Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr. (PhD) hailed the organizers of the association, stressing, this is a big lift and development in the industry." We must listen to the collective voice of our shipyards. gauge their needs and quantify the help the government could offer towards proactive national SBSR industry", he said. "The Philippines is a maritime country, it is in the crossroad of Asia-Pacific region, a God-given natural strategic location that would really turn the country into an SBSR hub in Asia" he stressed as he thanked Director Hernandez and MARINA region 7 Director Nanette Villamor Dinopol for inspiring and supporting the Cebu SBSR meet delegates in organizing SHAP.

In a manifesto dated May 6, 2015, SHAP signified its holistic intent to be a partner of MARINA and other government agencies in the development and promotion of the Philippines as major center for ship building and ship repair.

SHAP's other major objectives are : " to support shipyards develop physical and manpower capabilities to increase quality, improve occupational safety, hazards and environmental standards, and achieve global competitiveness for the shipyards; to

provide an official mechanism to interface with MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Navy, PPA, DENR, DTI-BOI, PEZA, local government units, Congress and other government agencies, prepare programs for needed legislations, policy and regulations; to make it as a forum for exchange of information on issues pertaining to legislation, environment, quality standards, safety standards, international accreditation, and other issues integral to shipyards operations; to initiate the drafting of proposed legislative measures to enhance the global competitiveness of Philippine shipyards, and to tie up with international associations for collaboration, exchange, technical cooperation, and other matters to support the development of Philippine shipyards”.

The launching of SHAP is slated at 1:30 pm to 4 pm on June 17, 2015, opening day of the three-day 2015 Marine Ship building and offshore event, at the SMX Convention Center, in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines, where the first set of SHAP officers will be elected. The shipyards currently represented in the SHAP include the R & LT Shipyard, RRT Marine Service Corp., Colorado Shipyard Corp., Western Shipyard, Elfa Shipyard Corp., Fortune Shipbuilding and Lighterage, Elfa Shipyard Corp., Keppel Shipyard, Frabelle Shipyard, RBL Shipyard, Austal Shipyard, Philippine Iron Works, Josefa Slipways, Herma Shipyard, SAS Shipyard Inc., Chesteel Marine, and Tsuneishi Shipyard.

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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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