



Photo courtesy of Philippine Merchant Marine Academy

# The Philippine Maritime Industry

## Philippines Asserts Position in IMO White List

The Philippines, through the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), asserted its position in the revised “White List” of Parties to the STCW Convention prepared by the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), through an intervention during the 6th session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW6) held at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom from 29 April to 03 May 2019.

During the Sub-Committee’s session on 30 April, the Philippine delegation,

together with delegations from other Parties of the STCW Convention, raised issues and questions to the Sub-committee and the IMO Secretariat regarding the sudden review and reparation of a draft revised White List, the procedures of the said review, and the criteria for issuance of a revised list.

To thresh out issues and concerns, the creation of a ‘Working Group’ was agreed upon by the HTW to review the consistency of evaluation, and the compliance of Member States to the STCW Convention.

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## Duterte Signs EO 84, Institutionalizing IMSAS Council

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has recently signed Executive Order No. 84, institutionalizing the Inter-agency Council on the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

This milestone further strengthens the Philippine maritime administration’s performance of its obligations and commitments as a Member State to the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The IMSAS Council is composed of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) as Chairperson, Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as Vice Chairperson and representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and Cebu Port Authority (CPA), as members.

EO 84 serves as the legal framework of the IMSAS Council to perform and fulfill its functions relative to the adoption of the provisions of applicable international instruments and conventions, as well as mechanisms to certify that the Philippines fully satisfies its responsibilities as a flag, port and coastal State. Above all, the IMSAS Council shall ensure that its member agencies fully and effectively implement and enforce the IMO Instruments in an integrated manner.

Moreover, the Council is assisted by a Technical Working Group (TWG) responsible for providing support on specific matters concerning IMSAS. The group consists of representatives from the DOTr, MARINA, DFA, PCG, PPA, CPA, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Mapping and Resource Information

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Authority (NAMRIA), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Office for Transportation Security (OTS) and Philippine National Police Maritime Group.

Meanwhile, as part of its preparation for the IMSAS Audit in 2021, the Council convened on 13 June 2019 to discuss the draft Philippine IMO Strategy which contains the measures that the Philippines will adopt to fully comply with its responsibilities as a responsible IMO Member State.



## Philippines Asserts... (from page 1)

For his part, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade welcomed the recent development, and challenged the MARINA to exert all the necessary efforts to prepare for the independent evaluation, which is part of the Philippines' compliance as a Party to the STCW Convention.

In fact, before the delegation left for London, Secretary Tugade has directed the MARINA to ensure the country's compliance with IMO standards to firmly secure the livelihood of thousands of Filipino seafarers.

"This is good news for our maritime industry and the entire country. May this be treated as a challenge so that the MARINA and other concerned agencies perform at their best to prepare accordingly for the Independent Evaluation. We need to make sure that we will exert all the necessary efforts, commitment and support to make this next mission successful," Secretary Tugade said.

## MARINA Celebrates 45th Founding Anniversary

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) celebrated its 45th Founding Anniversary with the formal inauguration of its newly-constructed Central Office building located at Bonifacio Drive corner 20th Street, Port Area, Manila and recognition of the remarkable performances of its employees and offices on 05 June 2019.

Transportation Secretary Arthur P. Tugade led the inauguration of the 12-storey government building with a total floor area of 12,000 square meters and with an actual cost of Php 382 million.

"You have the facility that is called a building. You have the people that is ready to work and be patriotic for the cause of the government, and you have the businesses and processes that will sustain the sustainable effective operation. And this is what today is all about," Secretary Tugade said.

"Trabaho at kinabukasan ng libu-libong marino at kani-kanilang mga pamilya ang nakasalalay dito. Sa katunayan, buong Pilipinas ang umaasa sa atin. Kailangang siguraduhin natin na hindi sila mabibigo," Secretary Tugade added.

In response, VAdm Vingson reaffirmed MARINA's unwavering commitment to do its utmost to maintain the country's status in the IMO White List.

"We accept the challenge of the Secretary. Rest assured that the MARINA remains fully committed to steadily sustain the Philippines' full compliance with the STCW Convention. We will continue to do everything we can to maintain our status in the IMO White List," the MARINA OIC Administrator said

The so-called "White List" refers to a list of parties confirmed by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) to have communicated information that demonstrates full and complete effect to the relevant provisions of the STCW.

Moreover, the MARINA also recognized the invaluable contributions of inter-agency partners and private stakeholders in enhancing the country's shipbuilding and ship repair sector, the domestic and overseas shipping industries, as well as the education and training of maritime manpower.

MARINA OIC Vice Admiral Narciso A Vingson JR also shared the major accomplishments of MARINA since 1974 and highlighted its impacts in the maritime industry such as the reduction in the recorded average death toll from 207 fatalities annually from 1966 to 2015 to 13 fatalities from 2016 to 2018, faster processing time of seafarer documents from five days to just 30 minutes, as well as the application for the seaman's book from eight hours to just 15 minutes.

Furthermore, MARINA OIC assured maritime stakeholders of greater growth in the country's maritime industry with the intensified implementation of the

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## MARINA Celebrates ... *(from page 2)*

10-year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP).

The MARINA is also focused in the reinforcement of its modernization campaign through a vessel retirement program and in the Philippines' reelection to the IMO Council in the 31st General Assembly in November this year.

Finally, MARINA OIC emphasized that aside from the MIDP, the MARINA is also continuing to chart its path guided by long-term national provisions such as AmBisyon Nation 2040 and the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 while remaining keen to the country's compliance to international maritime conventions.

## MARINA, DOE to Promote Green Shipping Industry

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) promote a more sustainable and eco-friendly fuels for Philippine-registered ships in preparation for the implementation of the global 0.50% sulphur cap in 2020.

Guided by the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the MARINA and DOE discussed the specifications of the global 0.50% sulphur cap with petroleum industry stakeholders, oil importers, and shipping industry partners to listen to their concerns and to prepare for possible challenges that may emerge due to the new regulation.

Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention, which the Philippines has ratified in 2018, requires all ships in non-emission control area (ECA) zones to set limit on the sulfur content of fuels from 3.50% to 0.50% by 01 January 2020. To date, the Philippines is a state party to all annexes of the MARPOL Convention.

## MARINA – STCW Office Receives ISO Certification

MARINA – STCW Office received its International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 from the Bureau Veritas Certification – Philippines.

In October 2018, the Bureau Veritas Certification – Philippines conducted an audit of the Quality Management System (QMS) of the MARINA – STCW Office to determine its level of compliance with the requirements of the ISO standards, of which the office successfully passed.

“This certificate is a testament of our commitment to deliver quality services to the public in accordance with established standards, policies, and procedures. It is my sincere hope that the culture of quality will be deeply ingrained in all personnel of the MARINA, so we may continuously serve the nation with professionalism, integrity, and excellence,” MARINA OIC Vice-Admiral Narciso Vingson Jr said, as delivered by MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol.

Administrative Order No. 161 (2006) and Executive Order No. 605 (2007) required the government to institutionalize its QMS for the enhancement of its internal systems and processes, resulting in efficient and effective delivery of public service.

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MARINA – Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS) Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez acknowledged stakeholder concerns such as the need for existing Philippine-registered vessels to undergo retrofitting to be able to utilize sustainable and eco-friendly fuels.

The MARINA and DOE assured the stakeholders that they will formulate a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the global 0.50% sulphur cap in 2020 by identifying other alternative sources of eco-friendly and affordable fuels, among others.



Photo courtesy of Hanjin Shipping

# MARINA Gears up for IMSAS 2021

To gear up the country's overall performance as a Member State in the incoming International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) on 2021, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) hosted a training and workshop for the Philippine maritime administration on 18 to 22 February 2019 in Manila.

IMSAS expert, Mr. Mourad Ghorbel, administered the activity to assist the government before the scheduled audit that will look into the country's implementation and enforcement of mandatory IMO conventions including the Safety of Life at Seas (SOLAS), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG), International Convention on Load Lines, International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships and the International Convention for the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW).

Ghorbel discussed the procedures of the IMSAS such as the review of the purpose, scope and objectives of the audit, the presentation of observations, the delivery of

actions by the member state being audited and the conduct of special meetings prior to or after the audit closing meeting.

The responsibilities of the Philippines as an IMO Member State was also deliberated which include: to prepare for the mandatory audit, to address the audit findings through corrective actions and to conduct capacity-building of its personnel, as needed. Finally, various learning exercises and activities were also conducted to measure the country's readiness for the audit.



## MARINA Hosts Training, Write-shop for IMSAS 2021



To further improve the implementation of international standards in the country's maritime industry, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) hosted another training course and write-shop for auditors under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) in Manila.

On 22-27 April 2019, training expert from IMO and the International Maritime Safety Security Environment Academy (IMSSEA) Mourad Ghorbel, discussed the roles and responsibilities of the audit team, the audit preparation and processes among others. He also trained the auditors in recognizing and resolving potential challenges that may be encountered during the audit processes.

The two-day write-shop on 29-30 April 2019, on the other hand, is allotted for the drafting of the country's pre-audit questionnaire and national maritime strategy to ensure that its international obligations and responsibilities as a flag, port and coastal State are met.

MARINA Officer-in-Charge Vice Admiral Narciso Vingson Jr believed that the continuous support of various government agencies in the country's preparation for the IMSAS audit in 2021 is vital in the enhancement of the Philippine maritime industry.

"Let us work together in concretizing our actions and schemes to enhance maritime safety, ensure marine environment protection, and effectively implement mandatory IMO instruments that guide our ship operations into complying with international standards," Vice Admiral Vingson said.

The IMO conducts IMSAS to provide member states, such as the Philippines, with comprehensive and objective assessment on the implementation and enforcement of mandatory IMO instruments pertaining to safety of life at sea, prevention of pollution from ships, regulations for preventing collisions at sea, load lines, and tonnage measurement of ships and standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers.



# MARINA Conducts MAGIC Orientation and Workshop



As part of its initiative to strengthen the participation of the Philippines in different International Maritime Organization (IMO) commitments, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) conducted the Multi-sectoral Advisory Group on IMO Concerns (MAGIC) Orientation and Workshop held at the MARINA Central Office Board Room, January 29, 2019.

The Overseas Shipping Service (OSS) Director, Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia, PhD, presided the orientation wherein she emphasized the importance of submitting the Philippine position papers and interventions in a timely manner to strengthen the country's

participation in different IMO meetings.

She likewise shared the directive of VADM Narciso A Vingson Jr, Officer-in-Charge of MARINA, regarding the new structure of MAGIC.

“The vision of the Administrator is to mirror the structure of the IMO,” Atty. Pia said.

In her presentation, the MAGIC Organizational Structure will consist of the following five (5) committees: a.) Legal Committee (LEG); b.) Facilitation Committee (FAL); c.) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC); d.) Maritime Safety Committee (MSC); and e.) Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) and seven (7) sub-committees. The committees have their respective representatives from Focal Point agencies to perform set roles and responsibilities.

Moreover, Ms. Nenita S. Atienza of the OSS presented the Guide to IMO delegates and the template of post travel report while Officer-in-Charge Deputy Administrator for Planning, Mr. Arsenio Lingad II, discussed on the format of paper submission to IMO.

## MARINA Strengthens Collaboration with Overseas Shipping Stakeholders

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has strengthened its collaboration with the government agencies and private sector whose interests are anchored on the overseas shipping industry.

In a meeting with the involved stakeholders, the MARINA highlighted the importance of active cooperation and collaboration in achieving the plans and programs for the maritime industry, specifically those under the 10-year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP).

Engr. Ramon Hernandez of the MARINA – Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS) emphasized that Priority Program #5 of the 10-year MIDP or the global maritime hub shall promote the Philippine flag registry, develop the Philippines as transshipment

and bunkering hub in the Southeast Asian Region, upgrade and expand local shipyards, as well as lead to the establishment of an eco-industrial maritime park and maritime training and research center.

“The implementation of the MIDP will lead to the development of the maritime industry and consequently contribute to the growth of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The MIDP priority programs shall only mean good and positive to the country's maritime industry as we strive to reform, revitalize and innovate for the future,” Engr. Hernandez said.

Furthermore, Atty. Jean Ver Pia of the MARINA – OSS discussed the activities under the different components of having an attractive Philippine registry which is one of the projects under the Priority Program #5: Establishment of the Global Maritime Hub of the 10-year MIDP.

The meeting ended with the re-launching of the MARINA – OSS online registration system to promote ease and convenience in doing business in the overseas shipping industry.



# MARINA Holds 1st IMSAS Council Meeting

In preparation for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) in 2021, the first IMSAS Inter-agency Council meeting convened at the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Central Office on 13 June 2019 to consider the preparatory activities undertaken by the agencies performing maritime administration functions.

Through Department Order No. 2018-006, the IMSAS Inter-agency Council which is composed of representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Office for Transportation Security (OTS), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) was institutionalized to ensure that the Philippines meets its obligations and responsibilities as an IMO Member State.

In the first IMSAS Inter-agency Council meeting, DOTr OIC – Undersecretary for Maritime Fernando Juan C. Perez spearheaded the discussions on the draft Philippine IMO Strategy and Cross Table of Responsibilities.

The draft Philippine IMO Strategy contains the measures that the Philippines will adopt to fully and effectively implement and enforce the mandatory IMO Instruments which it has ratified including the Safety of Life at Seas (SOLAS), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG), International Convention on Load Lines, International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships and the International Convention for the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers (STCW). The paper also highlights the key performance indicators (KPIs), timeline, office, and budget to ensure that the instruments are given full and complete effect.

Furthermore, the Council discussed on the Cross Table of Responsibilities, specifically on the delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the Philippine maritime administration under the mandatory IMO instruments.

Meanwhile, the Council also tackled the draft department order on the designation of a single point of contact for IMSAS 2021 and the creation of an IMSAS support and implementation unit as action plans after the IMSAS mock audit conducted in 2018.

Finally, MARINA OIC-Administrator Vice Admiral Narciso A Vingson Jr emphasized the importance of complying with international obligations and responsibilities of the Philippines as a State Party, specifically in boosting the confidence of the Philippines as a maritime nation to trade with other countries.



## MARINA ADVISORIES

### MARINA Advisory No. 2019-01

“MARINA Flag Advisory Providing Updates on the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973/1978, Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI)”

### MARINA Advisory No. 2019-03

“Issuance of Special Permit for Operation of Domestic Ships Exclusively in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Routes”

### MARINA Advisory No. 2019-08

“List of Approved IMO Resolutions/ Circulars Approved Amendments on the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) during the 97th and 98th Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) Sessions”

### MARINA Advisory No. 2019-06

“Effect of the Transitory Provision of MARINA Circular No. 2018-01 to Existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Recognized Organizations”

### MARINA Advisory No. 2018-38

“Change of Contact Details under MARINA Advisory No. 2017-03 in Response to Urgent Requests, Applications or Filing of Reports Involving Philippine-registered Ships during Weekends, Non-working Days and After Office Hours”

### MARINA Advisory No. 2018-08

“Travel Advisory to all Vessels Plying their Trade in the Libyan Coast”



# MARINA Strengthens Philippine Ship Registry; Upholds Commitment to IMO

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) strengthens the Philippine Ship Registry through the implementation of the 10-year Maritime Industry Plan (MIDP), regular joint collaboration with the private stakeholders and by being a responsible member of the international maritime community.

Being the country's agency responsible in promoting and developing the Philippine maritime industry, the MARINA, through its 10-year MIDP, has targeted to address the key concerns in the country's maritime sector through its integrated and holistic long term programs. One of its eight (8) priority programs is the establishment of maritime industrial hub which is intended to promote the country's flag registry.

The MARINA also organizes workshops, consultations and conferences with private stakeholders to discuss and resolve prevalent challenges in the Philippine Ship Registry. One of which is the regular bi-annual meeting that is conducted to assess the overseas shipping sector's overall situation, propose changes in the legal framework and/or revisions to national laws and circulars, among others.

These efforts led to the approval of House Bill (HB) 1286 entitled: an Act providing for the full and effective implementation and enforcement of international maritime instruments of which Philippines is a State party and HB 1288 entitled: An Act providing for the registration of ships and incentives therefor and other purposes. These proposed laws aim to strengthen the Philippine Ship Registry, as well as the implementation of rules and regulations for maritime safety and security, and the protection of the marine environment.

As a responsible member of the international maritime community, the Philippines continues to prepare for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) scheduled in 2021. The MARINA has successfully conducted a mock audit and shortly thereafter, worked on the areas for improvements raised during the activity.

In 2018, the Philippines has ratified six (6) IMO conventions: 1.) Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating thereto (MARPOL Annex VI); 2.) Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended (SOLAS PROT 1978); 3.) Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (Load Line Protocol 88); 4.) Protocol of 1988 Relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended (SOLAS PROT 1988); 5.) International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 (AFS 2001); and 6.) International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention).

Finally, the MARINA has also asserted its commitment to uphold its position to the IMO Council under Category C for 2020-2021 Biennium to prove its unwavering commitment in ensuring the full and complete compliance to IMO conventions. Countries elected under Category C have special interests in maritime transport and/or navigation.

The Philippines has been part of the IMO Council since 1997. Since then, the country has been an active contributor in drafting international rules and regulations for the development of the global maritime industry, especially in the field of maritime transport and/or navigation.





# OVERSEAS SHIPPING SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

## January - June 2019

### Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) Inter-agency Orientation (January 30, 2019)



Spearheaded by the Director of OSS, Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia, PhD, the body was given an overview on GISIS and its modules. They also had an online demonstration of GISIS for better understanding. They likewise tackled the designation of focal points on each module and the next meeting schedule.

### Pre-delegation Meeting on International Maritime Organization (IMO) Meetings (April 11, 2019)

Presided by the Overseas Shipping Service (OSS) Director, Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia, PhD, the body discussed the agenda of the forthcoming meetings in IMO: a.) 6th Session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), April to 03 May; b.) 74th Session of Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), 13-17 May; and c.) 101st Session of the Maritime Safety Committee, 05-14 June.



### Inter-agency Cooperation Committee on the Ratification and Implementation of Maritime Conventions (ICCRIMC) Meeting (May 15, 2019)



During the ICCRIMC Meeting, the body discussed the following matters: a.) Matrix of Procedure for the Ratification and Implementation of IMO Instruments; b.) The Revised Marine Environment Protection of the South East Asian Seas (MEPSEAS) Project National Work Plan (NWP); c.) National Strategic Action Plans for the Implementation of the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling

Systems on Ships (AFS) Convention and Ballast Water Convention (BWM); e.) National Interest Analysis and Implementation Plan with budget of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 and Hazardous and Noxious Substance Convention; and f.) Identification of responsible agencies for the unratified IMO Instruments.

### International Maritime Organization (IMO) Inter-agency Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) Inter-Agency Meeting (May 29, 2019)

The body, presided by Director Jose Venancio Vero, Jr. of the Maritime Safety Service (MSS), reviewed the IMO Strategy and discussed the Cross Table of Responsibilities that delineates the obligations under the IMO Instruments Implementation (III) Code.



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