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PH IS FIRST ILO RATIFYING MEMBER STATE LISTED AS MEETING INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SEAFARER'S IDENTITY DOCUMENT (SID)

The Philippines has been adjudged recently by the International Labor Organization (ILO) as the first ratifying Member State to be listed as fully meeting the minimum requirements referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Seafarers' Identity Documents (SID) Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185). Accordingly, Article 5 of the Convention prescribes regulations for Quality Control and Evaluations where Governments are required to have proper procedures and processes for the issuance of their SIDs, which will be subject to international oversight.

The ILO has likewise released a recommendation that the Philippines SID may be used as template for other ILO Member States in the preparation for the cards of their seafarers.

Administrator Robert A Empedrad said that the decision is timely as it guarantees the continued employment of Filipino seafarers on-board ocean going ships and the security of their persons.

"This is also a good news for our foreign principals providing job opportunities to Filipino seafarers onboard ships entering Brazil and some parts of South America and in Europe such as Russia since no penalties will be imposed against the shipowners", Empedrad further said.

In Brazil, the identity card of a seafarer issued pursuant to ILO Convention No. 185, as amended will be accepted as a travel document and for the purpose of exemption from a temporary visa.

According to the International Airline Services and the ATPI – a multinational travel management



A MARINA employee shows a sample printed Seafarer's Identity Document.

company – the Brazil Immigration now requires an SID for all foreign seafarers instead of the Seaman's book, which is no longer accepted by their authorities to enter/exit Brazil.

As the government agency primarily responsible for giving full and complete effect to the Convention, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) views this development as a strong signal from the Philippines to other ILO Member States to uphold the rights of Filipino seafarers to shore leave as well as their safe transit from one port to another whenever they join or disembark their ships.

Through this document, Filipino seafarers will experience less trouble in filing for shore leaves, cross borders, and repatriation by doing away with the stringent requirements of a traditional travel visa.

The SID, complimenting the existing Seaman's Identity and Records Book (SIRB), is a maritime security document developed by the ILO as a response to the increased need for security at seaports as a consequence of the series of terrorist attacks that ensued following the 9/11 incident in the United States of America (USA).

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

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

MARINA EMPLOYEES DONATE 1 DAY SALARY FOR RELIEF OPERATIONS IN CAGAYAN PROVINCE

In solidarity of the nationwide drive for relief operations for victims of typhoons and the massive flooding of several low-lying towns of the Provinces of Cagayan and Isabela in December this year, officials and employees of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) poured in together, on a voluntary basis, the amount equivalent to their 1 day salary as their contribution for the Agency's relief assistance to severely affected families in Cagayan Province.

MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad, who is a native of Cagayan Province, lauded this initiative and extolled the presence of the spirit of Bayanihan as a demonstration of the Agency's desire to help alleviate the condition of those needing immediate assistance.

The MARINA tapped the Pugad Lawin Tuguegarao Chapter, a socio-civild organization, to distribute the food packs comprising of 500 families with food packs, rice, and other assorted goods. Recipients included the following: 150 families in Pagbangkerwan, Alcala; 125 families in Gabut, Amulung; 20 families in Quibal, Peñablanca; 25 families in Bugatay, Penablanca; 150 families in Kalapangan, Faire; and 30 families in Linao East, Tuguegarao City.



Volunteers of Pugad Lawin Tuguegarao Chapter who distributed the relief items donated by pose for a souvenir photo.

MRO V TO IMPLEMENT THE “FIRST IN - FIRST OUT” (FIFO) SYSTEM AT PORT MATNOG

The MARINA Regional Office V, together with the representatives of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Local Government of Matnog, and four (4) shipping operators/ managers, convened with Governor Francis “Chiz” G. Escudero on 07 December 2020 to discuss the implementation of the “First In – First Out” (FIFO) System for rolling cargoes at Port Matnog, Sorsogon.

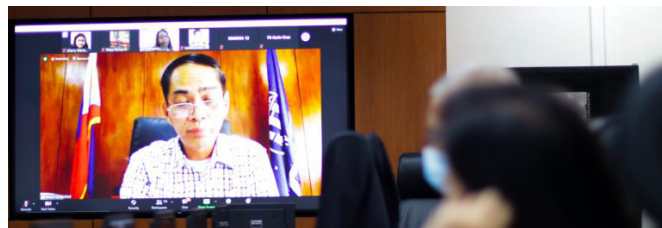
During the meeting, it was finalized that the FIFO system will be effective starting 21 December 2020. This means that ship operators must inform their clients of this system by then. Aside from this, it was also decided that the current PO system will be considered void once the new system is in full swing. A minimum of three (3) ship-calls per day will be required.

The officials also said that a list of vehicles that may be exempted from the queuing line (such as ambulances, military and police, perishable goods, water tanks, or transport for IATF officials / LSIs) will be drafted by the local PNP.



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MARINA CONDUCTS ITS GAD FORUM FOR 2020



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad graced the GAD forum, which was conducted by MARINA GAD Unit.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Gender and Development (GAD) unit, conducted a GAD forum on Wednesday, 09 December 2020.

In the forum, the talks and discussions delivered by the esteemed resource speakers and officials revolved around the theme: “Securing the future of the Philippine Maritime Industry through Gender and Development”.

MARINA Administrator VADM Robert Empedrad AFP (Ret), through Director Arsenio F. Lingad II of the Planning and Policy Service (PPS) of the Agency, kicked off the event with the welcome remarks.

Atty. Kristine E. Yuzon Chavez, Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), also graced the forum and delivered a formal address that marked the beginning of the discussions.

Attended by several maritime stakeholders and select MARINA officials and personnel, the forum took a blended approach. Some speakers delivered their discussions in person, while some discussed their topics online through Zoom, a video conferencing software. This ensured that quality discussions were being led during the event, while still taking precautions against the ongoing pandemic.

Topics that were discussed during the GAD forum include GAD and Gender Mainstreaming and the Importance of Implementing GAD in the Maritime Industry. There were also presentations on Women on Watch and Best Practices (Women in Maritime, Philippine Experience).

The forum ended with the closing remarks delivered by MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Empedrad.

MARINA FURTHER EXTENDS VALIDITY, REVALIDATION OF STCW CERTIFICATES EXPIRING IN FIRST SEMESTER OF 2021

As part of its temporary contingency measure amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Advisory No. 2020-88, has issued further extension for the validity of one (1) year from the date of expiration, as well as the revalidation of STCW certificates of Filipino seafarers expiring from 01 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 – continuing its previous extension, which only covered 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.

The said MARINA Advisory states that the validity of all STCW certificates issued by the Agency, which are expiring during the newly issued period, shall be extended for one year without filing for an application at the MARINA.

Moreover, this also applies to all STCW certificates of all Filipino seafarers who are both onboard and ashore at the time of expiration of their certificates, and are compliant with the provisions that are mentioned in the Advisory 2020-88.

Firstly, the seafarer must have a completed approved seagoing service performing duties appropriate to the certificate held, for a period of at least: twelve (12) months in total during the last 5 years prior to revalidation or; three (3) months in total during the last 6 months immediately prior to revalidation.

As for the Certificate of Proficiency (COPs) in tanker courses, the seafarer must have completed the seagoing service performing the duties appropriate to the tanker certificate held, for a period of at least three (3) months in total during the preceding five (5) years.

All concerned licensed manning agencies and shipping companies are required to ensure that the crew are compliant and the above-mentioned STCW requirements. MARINA also directs them to submit the list of their crew members whose validity of STCW certificates have been extended pursuant to the Advisory. An electronic copy of the said

information shall be submitted via email at certificate_extension@mail.marina.gov.ph.

REVALIDATION AND EXPEDITE PROCESSING

Applications for the revalidation of Certificates of Proficiency (COPs) and Certificates of Competency (COCs), which have expired or will be expiring within the above-mentioned period, will still be processed as revalidation. These documents will also be given a five (5) years validity of their issuance, subject to full compliance of the necessary documents.

For revalidation of STCW certificates without the required refresher trainings or practical assessment of competence, the corresponding COCs or COPs will only be valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance subject to compliance with the provisions stated in the Advisory.

For seafarers who want to expedite the processing of applications covered by the Advisory, a letter of the concerned licensed manning agency duly signed by an authorized official requesting for expedited processing of the application of its seafarer is required. Aside from this, an Employment Contract approved by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and a Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) is also necessary.

These documentary requirements should be uploaded to the MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) system. Applications, which are for expedite processing, shall be filed through the Liaison Officer of the concerned licensed manning agency/shipping company. Other previously published issuances, which are contrary to the provisions of MA 2020-88 are now invalid.

MARINA assures stakeholders and seafarers that it will continue to implement such necessary measures, including the extensions of the validity of statutory certificates and other issuances, to ensure the continued employment for Filipino seafarers as the COVID-19 pandemic ensues.

41 MASTER MARINERS PASS HARBOR PILOT LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR 2020

A total of 41 Master Mariners successfully passed the three (3) Harbor Pilot Licensure Examinations that were administered separately by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on 6-8 March 2020, 23-25 September 2020, and 2-4 December 2020, respectively. Below is the list of successful examinees.



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad poses for a photo opportunity together with the MARINA officials and the new Harbor Pilots.

(1) Aballe, Derrick S.; (2) Abarado, Alexis N.; (3) Acosta, Edwin O.; (4) Aguirre, Arturo G.; (5) Alcantara, Ulysses G.; (6) Amo, Nazareno D.; (7) Arillaga, Melvin B.; (8) Baguio, Emerson B.; (9) Bernadas, Arcturus D.; (10) Bialen, Raul B.; (11) Bitoy, Alexander A.; (12) Bordios, Judy M.; (13) Cabili, Jackson R.; (14) Campos, Gary Joseph S.; (15) Capangpangan, Sernuel T.; (16) Carcallas, Dexur G.; (17) Casiano, Aldrin S.; (18) Cosina, Orael C.; (19) Damasing, Danilo M.; (20) Deterala, Tirso O.; (21) Dioneda, Nestor; (22) Espiritu, Jovito M.; (23) Flores, Loreto R.; (24) Garrote, Candelario I.; (25) Ilagan, Elmer A.; (26) Juanico, Jessie C.; (27) Jucom, Aldrin B.; (28) Labadan, Arnold B.; (29) Laurente, Arturo R.; (30) Lim, Allan E.; (31) Mella, Leonardo B.; (32) Merin, Michael B.; (33) Oidem, Rommel R.; (34) Osabel, Jonathan P.; (35) Pallega, Felibert P.; (36) Teodisio, Marconi P.; (37) Terazona, Almond J.; (38) Timario, David G.; (39) Tormentar, Khen M.; (40) Yaneza, Zaldy P.; (41) Zamora, Rommel M.

MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad extolled these new Harbor Pilots to be faithful in their sworn duty to ensure safety of property and life, and the protection of the marine environment

as they guide the ships enter ports during their oath taking ceremonies held recently.

"Sana sa inyong bagong trabaho, magtulong-tulong tayo para masigurado natin na safe ang ating mga piers. We are modernizing. We are building a lot of ports. We are building a lot of nautical highways. Ang dami niyan, and so the demand for harbor pilots are getting higher. Increasing. Nakita niyo naman ang Build, Build, Build project ng ating President. We encourage foreign ships to come here and compete with our domestic ships. "

Citing several maritime accidents that happened earlier this year, Administrator Empedrad also elucidated that Harbor Pilots should focus on their main objective, which is maritime safety and protection of the marine environment. "Yan ang pinu-push ng MARINA, safety at all fronts."

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 125/125-A, the MARINA is mandated to undertake the licensing of harbor pilots in the country.

A candidate for the Harbor Pilot Licensure Examinations should be at least 35 years of age at the time of the examination; mentally and physically fit; Master in command of a merchant ship or PCG or NAMRIA and other non-combatant ship of more than 500 GT of not less than five (5) years; of good moral character and not included in the database of watchlisted seafarers.



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad leads the oath-taking of the Master Mariners who passed the three (3) Harbor Pilot Licensure Examinations that were administered separately by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on 6-8 March 2020, 23-25 September 2020, and 2-4 December 2020, respectively.

PHL STANDS UP TO BECOME FIRST COUNTRY TO BENEFIT FROM IMO BIOFOULING TRAINING COURSE

Consistent with the country's commitment of ensuring the sustainability of the marine environment, the Philippines volunteered to be the first beneficiary of the newly developed General Training Course on Biofouling Management and Invasive Aquatic Species which was held on 14 to 17 December 2020 via video conference.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), in coordination with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), convened the said training course which aims to have a general understanding of the issues, potential impacts, different tools available for biofouling management, and the contents of the IMO Biofouling Guidelines. The said training course will likewise provide the country with detailed information to the multiple aspects related to marine biofouling, its role as a pathway for the introduction of invasive aquatic species, and the management solutions and technologies that are available.

Commencing the event, the MARINA Administrator, VAdm Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret), reiterated our commitment of minimizing, if not eliminate, the harmful impacts of aquatic biofouling to the marine environment as one of the Lead Partnering Countries of the GloFouling Project.

"[Let us] be stewards of this social and shared responsibility of ensuring the sustainability and protection of our marine environment," VAdm Empedrad said.

During the said training course, Dr. Frank Stuer-Lauridsen discussed about biofouling, invasive species, and the reactive practices to combat biofouling. He likewise talked about the IMO Biofouling Guidelines, which is intended to provide a globally consistent approach to the management of biofouling. He also explained about the legislations and requirements for biofouling of other countries.

Dr. Justin McDonald and Dr. Dinis Oliveira provided presentations on the factors influencing biofouling

On the other hand, Dr. Richard Piola shared his expertise regarding the preventive practices on biofouling.

The discussions continued with presentations of case studies. The participants were introduced to the new training methodology of interactive activities such as but not limited to – live presentations with recorded video snippets; live questions and answers (Q & A) sessions; quizzes and polls and role-playing, which encouraged adaptive thinking based on the knowledge acquired during the said training course.

The MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations, Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor – Dinopol, concluded the activity by expressing her gratitude to the IMO for their unwavering support to the Philippine maritime industry and to the speakers for sharing their expertise and knowledge as well as to the participants for their time and active participation during the said training course.

The Training Course was attended by the IMO Regional Presence Coordinator, Atty. Josephine Marie G. Uianza, representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Cebu Port Authority (CPA), Biodiversity Management Bureau – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD), University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UP – MSI), University of the Philippines – Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, (UP – IESM), AMOSUP Seamen's Training Center, Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB), Philippine Association of Maritime Institutions (PAMI), and PORTEC.

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PHL STANDS UP TO BECOME FIRST... BIOFOULING AND INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

The IMO Biofouling Guidelines of 2011 defined biofouling as the accumulation of aquatic organisms such as microorganisms, plants, and animals on surfaces and structures immersed in or exposed to the aquatic environment.

Biofouling is mostly found in the submerged areas of vessels of all sorts and the aquatic environment, permanent structures in ports, bouis, platforms, and energy facilities. It can also be obtained in aquaculture cages, nets, and other structures.

On the other hand, invasive aquatic species (IAS) are species, which may pose threats to human, animal and plant life, economic and cultural activities, and the aquatic environment. The spread of IAS is now considered a major threat to the world's oceans, ecological, and economic well-being as the said species are causing vast damages to biodiversity.



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), in coordination with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), convenes the newly developed General Training Course on Biofouling Management and Invasive Aquatic Species which was held on 14 to 17 December 2020 via video conference.

VALIDITY OF EXPIRING SRBS, SIRBS ON 01 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2021 NOW EXTENDED TO ONE YEAR – MARINA

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has issued MARINA Advisory 2020-91, which grants a one (1)-year extension of validity for expiring Seafarer's Record Books (SRBs) and Seafarer's Identification and Record Books (SIRBs) on 01 January to 30 June 2021.

The Advisory supports the Agency's initiatives in forwarding the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2020-2028 which highlights the importance of pursuing the further development of technologies and educational facilities to produce qualified and competent seafarers. It is also consistent with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) categorization of seafarers as "key workers", which grants them lesser travel restrictions to expedite crew change or disembarkation.



The issuance of this Advisory effectively amends MARINA Advisory 2020-67, which stated the one (1) year extension of validity SIRBs and SRBs only for the year 2020 – from 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.

On the other hand, MARINA strongly encourages seafarers on board plying international routes to apply for their respective Seafarer's Identity Document (SID).

Manning/crewing agencies and shipping companies, meanwhile, are directed to submit to MARINA the list of their crew members whose validity of their SIRBs and SRBs have been extended pursuant to the said Advisory via email at mds@marina.gov.ph. A format is provided in Annex A of the said Advisory which can be downloaded in the MARINA website.

With the issuance of the said Advisory, the MARINA assures the public that this can help promote for the continued employment of our Filipino seafarers, facilitate crew change and their repatriation, and to allow those ashore to spend more time at home with their loved ones.

MARINA PAYS TRIBUTE TO 17 RETIREES FOR 2020



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad poses for a photo opportunity together with the retiring officials and employees.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) held a ceremony to honor the officials and employees who will be retiring from the agency this year at the MARINA Central Office today, 15 December 2020.

The event featured messages from retirees Director Efren Juan B. Borci, Jr. and Director Ma. Concepcion C. Albolario, who have both been with the Agency for more than three decades. The retirees fondly recalled their experiences as public servants and how their workplace trained them to become the leaders of their respective divisions.

Plaques and special tokens were also awarded to the 17 retirees to commemorate their honorable service.

"It's time to say goodbye, but this is not formally goodbye. You are always welcome here at the Maritime Industry Authority," the Administrator said, addressing the retirees during his message. "You are the ones who have been here, and as you take your last and final bow, we say maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. I salute you all."



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