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MARINA NEWSLETTER

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MARINA REITERATES PASSENGER RIGHTS AMID CANCELLED, DELAYED, OR UNCOMPLETED INTER-ISLAND SHIP VOYAGES CAUSED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC



MARINA personnel, together with port authorities, provide assistance to locally stranded individuals (LSIs) arriving at the every port nationwide.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its recently issued MARINA Advisory 2020-76, reiterated the observance by ship operators of their obligations relating to the rights of passengers in cases of cancelled, delayed, or uncompleted voyages.

Following the subsequent declarations by various local government of different levels of community quarantine as a precautionary measure against the spread of the corona virus, the MARINA urges shipping companies to communicate to their confirmed passengers at the fastest available means appropriate information about the status of their voyages, particularly cancelled or delayed voyages.

MA 2020-76 stated provisions under the MARINA Circular 2018-07 regarding a passenger's Right to Refund, Right to Revalidate Ticket, and Right to Amenities in the event of a cancelled or delayed voyage.

MARINA further reminded ship operators about the rights of passengers to refund / revalidate a

ticket, and their obligation to provide amenities such as free meals, access to first aid / medicine, access to communication facilities and services, or accommodation as necessary.

Refunds of the fare or ticket price should also be granted without any further deductions or additional charges, if the passenger chooses to do so even with the option of revalidating their tickets for future use.

Passengers may cite their right to refund regardless of the nature or cause of the cancellation or delay. Ship operators may only deny refunds or revalidation of tickets if the cancellation or delay of their trip can be attributed to the fault of the passenger.

Ship operators who fail to comply with the provisions stated above will be held liable in accordance with the provisions of MC 2018-07 and the MARINA Revised Rules of Practice and Procedures. This applies especially to cancellations or delays without prior information provided to the passenger, which are caused by the travel restrictions imposed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The MARINA Newsletter is published monthly by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA). 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 miss@marina.gov.ph.

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

EMPEDRAD BEEFS UP MARINA ORG WORKFORCE



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad leads the mass oath-taking of new appointees.



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad, together with the new appointees, engages in a discussion both face-to-face and virtually during the mass oath-taking of new appointees.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad beefed up the MARINA's organizational work force by appointing 25 new MARINA officers and personnel.

Via video conference, VADM Empedrad administered the mass oath-taking of the new appointees on Tuesday, 27 October 2020, which was facilitated by the Human Resources Development Division (HRMDD) of the Management, Financial and Administrative Service (MFAS) under the leadership of Director Nenita Atienza.

The assumption into office of these employees will allow the MARINA to deliver its frontline services faster, more conveniently, and more efficiently to maritime stakeholders.

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EMPEDRAD BEEFS UP MARINA ORG...

The 25 plantilla positions were composed of: two (2) Attorney IV, one (1) Supervising Maritime Industry Development Specialist, nine (9) Maritime Industry Development Specialist II, one (1) Shipbuilding Specialist II, one (1) Administrative Officer III, two (2) Maritime Industry Development Specialist I, one (1) Registration Officer, one (1) Administrative Officer I, one (1) Administrative Assistant II, three (3) Administrative Assistant I, one (1) Administrative Aide VI, and two (2) Administrative Aide IV.

"I am overjoyed to see such young blood, with all the energy and vigor. Joining our team, I hope you will not find our home confining for talents and skills. The maritime industry is wide enough for you to grow and enhance your potential," the Administrator said during his opening remarks. "I trust that the knowledge you have built through the years will be enough to sustain and amplify our vision, mission, and goals for the MARINA and the maritime industry."

The continuous filling-up of vacant plantilla positions is one of the VADM Empedrad's 10-point agenda particularly on the strengthening of the MARINA organization to promote efficiency as a sustainable approach to serving maritime stakeholders with fast and reliable services.

The MARINA is likewise collaborating with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) for a new organizational structure of the Agency to respond to the present and anticipated challenges of the local and the global maritime industry.

Similarly, the MARINA is lobbying support from the Congress, particularly the MARINO Partylist, for the creation of MARINA Regional Offices in Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Central Luzon (Region 3) and MIMAROPA Region.

MARINA believes that the establishment of more MARINA Regional Offices will not only bring its services to its stakeholders but to allow Filipino seafarers process and file their applications in MARINA offices near them.



Hybrid mass oath-taking of the new appointees on Tuesday, 27 October 2020, which was facilitated by the Human Resources Development Division (HRMDD) of the Management, Financial and Administrative Service (MFAS) under the leadership of Director Nenita Atienza.

MARINA STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH WIMAPHIL THROUGH MOU, OFFICE SPACE

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Women In Maritime Asia (WIMAAAsia) forged an alliance by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Monday, 09 November 2020 at the MARINA Central Office, to put women's role and position of significance in the development of the maritime industry in the country.

The agreement is part of the Agency's continued commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It specifically supports the fifth SDG which is to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad and concurrent WIMAAAsia and WIMAPHil President Ms. Merle Jimenez-San Pedro signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work hand-in-hand and for the Authority to provide an office space for WIMAPHil located at the 7th floor of the MARINA Central Office.

The MOU also further solidifies the partnership between MARINA and the WIMAPHIL in forwarding women's empowerment and gender equality in the maritime industry.

Administrator Empedrad underscored the importance of women in the industry and how the world has already given emphasis on women's empowerment and gender equality for it is high time that the Philippines follows suit. He welcomes WIMAPHil's ideas and contributions on how to uplift women's status in the male-dominated industry as he believes that with an abundance of counsel, we shall succeed together.

Ms. San Pedro expressed appreciation to MARINA and Administrator Empedrad for his foresight and action. She called the event, a dream fulfilled. San Pedro believes that this partnership will help in the achievement of UN's Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Gender Equality), 13 (Climate Change), Maritime Industry Authority and 14 (Marine Resources).



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad and concurrent WIMAAAsia and WIMAPHil President Ms. Merle Jimenez-San Pedro sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work hand-in-hand, and for the Authority to provide an office space for WIMAPHil located at the 7th floor of the MARINA Central Office.

The ceremonial guests include WIMAPHil Board members, namely: Ms. Merle San Pedro, Ms. Mary Ann Pastrana, Ms. Asuncion Flores, and Cdr. Leila Tatel. WIMA Asia officers from Southeast Asia, like the Philippines' Atty. Josephine "Ching" Uranza, who is also the IMO Regional Coordinator for East Asia, and Myanmar's Ms. May Soe Aung Tin gave their virtual messages, while the rest joined online.

The ribbon-cutting and inauguration of the new WIMAPHil office at the 7th floor of the MARINA Central Office followed right after the MOU signing ceremony.

The Women in Maritime Philippines Association (WIMAPHIL) was formed as part of the initiatives forwarded by the MARINA and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to encourage and support women in the maritime industry. The WIMAPHIL formulates programs that coincide with the UN's Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), and launches activities that raise awareness about the issues that women face today, especially in the maritime sector.



MARINA officials, led by MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad, together with WIMAAAsia and WIMAPHil President Ms. Merle Jimenez-San Pedro, pose for a photo opportunity.

MARINA, SONAME STRENGTHEN CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP IN SHIPBUILDING; MARINA ADMINISTRATOR CONFERRED HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SONAME) have agreed recently to strengthen their partnership by providing capacity measures to MARINA technical personnel, particularly in the area of shipbuilding, boat building, ship recycling as well as in ship audits.

At present, the MARINA has in its roster 45 registered naval architects nationwide. They have played important role in the formulation of technical standards for ship building, ship repair and ship recycling which are now being adopted by the agency.

To ensure safety of navigation in domestic shipping, the MARINA relies heavily on the technical expertise of its naval architects in coming up with boat and shipbuilding designs appropriate to the unique behaviors of Philippine waters.

As an important partner, the SONAME, which sits a regular member of the MARINA Board, has been collaborating with MARINA in providing capacity building activities for its naval architects as well as other engineers involved in the regulation of the country's ship building, ship repair, ship recycling industry.

MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad also acknowledges the important role that the SONAME has been playing in the country's effort to modernize its domestic shipping fleet. On the occasion of its General Assembly in 2020, the SONAME conferred upon the MARINA Administrator Honorary Membership to the Society.

"Modernization of the country's domestic shipping starts from ensuring that local shipyards meet the demands for ship construction at affordable cost to



MARINA officials, led by MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad, together with SONAME President Engr. Sam Lim, pose for a photo opportunity.

investors and provide an option for domestic ship owners to avoid purchasing second-hand imported ships to enter the local market", said Administrator Empedrad.

As part of the implementation arrangement of the 10 Year Maritime Industry Development Program, the MARINA is currently on talks with the team of MARINO Partylist Sando L Gonzalez for a legislative measure intended to revive incentives for domestic shipping and shipbuilding and ship repair under Republic Act No. 9295, otherwise known as the "Domestic Shipping Modernization Act of 2004 that expired in 2014.



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad and SONAME President Engr. Sam Lim discuss how to strengthen the capacity measures for MARINA technical personnel.

MARINA FURTHER EXTENDS REVALIDATION PERIOD FOR EXPIRING STCW CERTIFICATES FROM 13 MARCH TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its MARINA Advisory No. 2020-83, has recently further extended the revalidation period for STCW Certificates expiring from 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 – broader than its previous extension which only covered those COPs and COCs expiring from 13 March 2020 to 31 October 2020.

MA 2020-83 provides that all applications for the revalidation of certificates that have expired or are expiring within the said new period will still be processed as revalidation.

Additionally, revalidated Certificates of Proficiency (COPs) and Certificates of Competency (COCs) will be given a five (5) years validity of their issuance, subject to full compliance of the necessary documents.

This issuance is in response to the appeals of maritime stakeholders to facilitate the employment of Filipino seafarers on-board merchant ships.

Applications for the revalidation of STCW certificates without the required refresher training completion certificates and/or practical assessment of competence will still be processed. However, the corresponding COC or COP will only be valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance.

To expedite the processing of applications covered by the Advisory, seafarers may upload their documentary requirements on the MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) system. Furthermore, these applications shall be filed for expedited processing only through the accredited Liaison Officer of the concerned licensed manning agency/shipping company.

The extension of the validity of STCW Certificates of one (1) year, particularly those that have expired or are expiring between the period of 13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020, which was issued in the MARINA Advisory 2020-73, still stands.

GOOD NEWS!

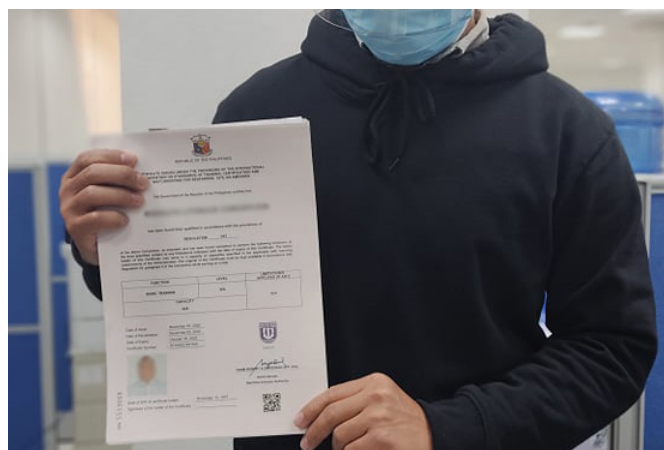
MARINA, through its Advisory 2020-83, has recently **FURTHER EXTENDED** the revalidation period for expiring STCW Certificates from **13 March 2020 to 31 December 2020** – broader than its previous extension which only covered those COPs and COCs expiring from 13 March 2020 to 31 October 2020.

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Aside from this, other provisions in previously issued advisories that are contrary to those provided in MA 2020-83 are now revoked.

MARINA continues to monitor the situation for its timely intervention to implement necessary extensions of the validity of statutory certificates to Filipino seafarers as well as other issuances to ensure the protection of Filipino seafarers who currently serving on-board ships and to facilitate the completion of their documents needed for their employment amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MARINA encourages, however, seafarers who are ashore to renew their certificates to their 5-year validity as it sees an influx of applications beginning the second quarter of 2021. Around 330,049 seafarers have benefited from these series of extensions and approximately 799,291 STCW certificates are expiring next year.



A Filipino seafarer holds his certificate after undergoing processes at the MARINA Central Office in Port Area, Manila.

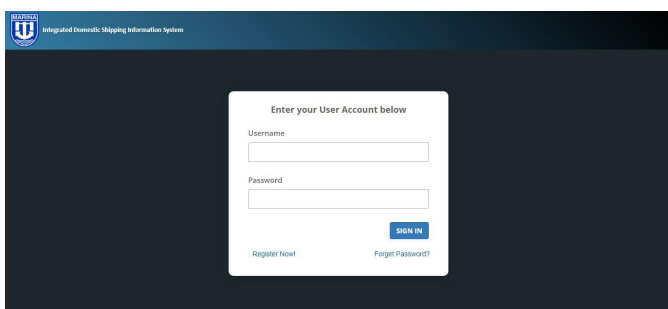
MARINA GEARS UP FOR AUTOMATION OF APPLICATIONS THROUGH IDSIS ORIENTATION

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Management Information and Systems Service (MISS), conducted an orientation for the personnel in MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO IV) in Batangas City regarding the Integrated Domestic Shipping Information System (IDSIS) today, 20 November 2020.

The IDSIS, a web-based application system, was created to progress the implementation of the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) - Program No. 8, which is Establishment of Maritime Innovation and Knowledge Center. The system will automate the filing and processing of the different applications filed with MARINA relating to domestic shipping, shipbuilding and ship repair, maritime safety; and franchising.

The IDSIS will also improve the services of MARINA, specifically those concerning data capturing, application processing, and the production and issuance of the different certificates/ licenses/ approvals. The new system will also provide an end-to-end solution which includes the online filing of applications, online submission of documentary requirements, online payments through third party, capturing details of the applications, online submissions of inspection data, automatic generation of certificates / licenses / approvals, and the generation of management reports.

The MARINA will also conduct the IDSIS orientation in other MARINA Regional Offices for the smooth and accurate implementation of the said integrated system.



Login page of the MARINA Integrated Domestic Shipping Information System wherein it will provide an end-to-end solution which includes the online filing of applications, online submission of documentary requirements, online payments through third party, capturing details of the applications, online submissions of inspection data, automatic generation of certificates / licenses / approvals, and the generation of management reports.

Technical staff from the MARINA Central Office - Management Information and Systems Service (MISS) conduct an orientation for the personnel in MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO IV) in Batangas City regarding the Integrated Domestic Shipping Information System (IDSIS).

MARINA WELCOMES PH INCLUSION IN ILO'S LIST OF MEMBERS WITH "CLEAR, COMPLETE, WELL-DOCUMENTED" PROCESSING ISSUANCE OF SIDS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) welcomed the Philippine inclusion in the list of Member States of the International Labor Organization (ILO) that have "clear, complete and well-documented" processing for the issuance of Seafarer Identification Document (SID) pursuant to Convention No. 185 otherwise known as the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended.

The Philippines now becomes one of the first few countries to be included in the ILO's list of Member States that have fully met the minimum requirements concerning processes and procedures for the issuance of Seafarers' Identity Documents (SIDs).

As the government agency responsible to give full and complete effect on the Convention, the MARINA views this positive development as a significant step towards providing better security for Filipino seafarers while transiting either to onsign or offsign their ships or while they are on shore leave in various ports of the world.

MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert Empedrad said that the Agency remains committed in ensuring that Filipino seafarers are afforded the required security of their persons whenever they leave the Philippines to work on-board various ocean-going ships.

Application and payment for the issuance of SIDs are processed online and this facility is available in all MARINA offices nationwide. Since this is a security document, applicants need to personally appear to the MARINA for photo and biometrics capture.

"Noting the positive conclusions of the independent evaluation report submitted by the Philippines in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 4, of Convention No. 185 of the Offices' assessment and the report from the Review Group established under arrangements adopted in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, the Governing Body approved the inclusion of the Philippines as the first ratifying Member to be listed as fully meeting the minimum requirements referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as amended in 2016," said in a draft

decision.

According to Catherine Rodolphe-Mérot (France), Chairperson of the Review Group, after the Philippines underwent the process, the elements submitted to them by the country were "clear, complete, and well-documented."

The process started through a formal request, with required comprehensive documentation of the country to be included on the list. To enter the list, the ratifying Members must provide the ILO with a statement in an electronic form outlining the national processes and procedures for issuing SIDs.

Aside from this, members must also submit a copy of the report on their first independent evaluation carried out under paragraph 4 of Article 5 of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised) 2003 and a specimen of the SID issued by them.

Once submitted, the case is forwarded to the Review Group composed of four (4) members appointed by the ILO. These members will be composed of two individuals from ratifying countries, one will be nominated from the international organization of shipowners, and one from the international organization of seafarers.

The SID is a maritime security document developed by the ILO as a response to the increased need for security at seaports as a consequence to series of terrorist attacks that ensued following the 9/11 incident on the United States of America and elsewhere in the world.

Together with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS), the SID is meant to address and resolve the continuing threat to the security of ships, passengers, and crew. The SID also serves as identifiable verification for seafarers while on shore leave and while they are transiting from one port to another for purposes of embarkation, disembarkation, and medical repatriation.

