



THE

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MARINA, DOMESTIC SHIPPING OPERATORS NATIONWIDE INK AGREEMENT ON FARE DISCOUNT FOR SEAFARERS ON-BOARD DOMESTIC PASSENGER SHIPS

MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret), together with shipowners and operators, poses for photo opportunity during the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Fare Discount for Seafarers On-Board Domestic Passenger Ships last 07 September 2021.

To recognize Filipino seafarers' invaluable contributions nationally and globally, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and several domestic shipping operators have signed a Memorandum of Agreement on Fare Discount for Seafarers On-Board Domestic Passenger Ships on 07 September 2021.

In a mixed face-to-face and virtual signing event, the Agency, including its Regional Offices (MROs), and 45 shipping operators nationwide have joined hands to support the hard-working men and women who help keep world economies stable despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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NEW NORMAL PROTOCOLS: LET US KEEP EVERYONE SAFE AND HEALTHY



**WEAR FACE MASK
AND FACE SHIELD**



**PRACTICE SOCIAL
DISTANCING**



**ALWAYS WASH
YOUR HANDS**

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

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

MARINA, DOMESTIC SHIPPING OPERATORS NATIONWIDE INK ...

In her welcoming remarks, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol stated that the fare discount for seafarers, once a vision, is now a reality with the help and support from shipping operators.

"Of course, all good concepts and efforts of MARINA can never be realized without the concurrence and full support of our shipping operators, who despite being heavily affected by the pandemic, still managed willingly to participate in this noble project to recognize our Filipino seafarers," Engr. Dinopol said.



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) and MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol during the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Fare Discount for Seafarers On-Board Domestic Passenger Ships.

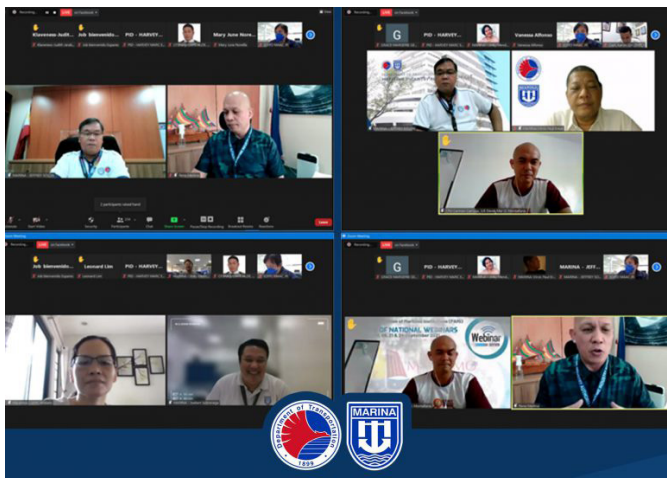
Finally, MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) stated that the Agency, through each team and personnel, is continuously doing all the efforts – working and exploring possibilities in order to give back and honor our beloved seafarers.

"Last year, we declared our seafarers as key workers. We consider them our modern day heroes. And what better way to show to them our honor is also to come up with programs to alleviate their sufferings when they are deployed in various ships all over the country and all over the world," Administrator Empedrad said.

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MARINA CONDUCTS WEBINAR ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS; PROVIDES UPDATES ON ITS INITIATIVES



MARINA Officials, led by STCW Office Executive Director Vice Admiral Rene Medina and Deputy Executive Director Capt Jeffrey Solon, present updates on the Agency's initiatives during the webinar.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) conducted a Webinar on Ease of Doing Business, providing updates regarding seafarer-related initiatives on 10 September 2021, via the Zoom online platform.

The said webinar is in response to the call of the Philippine government to all government agencies to adopt simplified procedures in delivering services to the public that will reduce red tape and expedite transactions, thus adhering to the provisions of Republic Act No. 11032, "An Act Promoting Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services, amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 9485 Otherwise Known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and for Other Purposes."

In his welcoming remarks, the Deputy Executive Director of the STCW Office, Capt. Jeffrey P. Solon cordially welcomed all the attendees which included seafarers, Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs), Maritime Organizations, as well as MARINA officials and employees both from Central Office and Regional Offices.

"This webinar on Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 is indeed very timely because in this time of uncertainties in human health and global economic turmoil, it is just right that the administration must also actively take part, along with other government agencies, in the

government's initiatives to simplify the delivery of services for all concerned individuals and agencies," Capt. Solon stated.

Capt Solon also added that he is proud to say that the MARINA has been effectively practicing the Republic Act 11032, and that it will continue to do so to ensure that the needed provisions of the people will be provided.

Mr. Joebert S. Sobrevega of the MDS highlighted the improvements in the processing of Seafarer's Record Book (SRB) and Seafarer's Identification Document (SID), including the MARINA (Anti-Red Tape Act) ARTA Compliance in the fifteen (15) total issued SRB and SID Advisories. Mr. Virvic Paul C. Erese, the Division Chief of the Certification Division of the STCW Office, presented the updates regarding the processing of the certificates amid the difficulties brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, in his closing remarks, STCW Office Executive Director Vice Admiral Rene V Medina AFP (Ret) recognized the seafarers, as key workers in this time of pandemic, as "our national treasure". He pointed out the need for guidance of these seafarers when it comes to STCW policies, and thus encouraged every one of them to not just read, but internalize the Agency's policies.

The presentations were then followed by an open forum, where the audience proactively delivered their questions and brought out their concerns to the presenters and the MARINA officials.

"I hope you will always remember that MARINA's continued service to the public is our way to make things better. Rest assured that MARINA will continue to endeavor to give better, effective, and efficient service to all of our clientele," Vice Admiral Medina emphasized.

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MARINA, IAMU PAES-P CONDUCT WORKSHOP ON ONLINE LEARNING METHODS FOR MHEIS



Participants from accredited Maritime Higher Education Institutions (MHEIs) across the country pose in a photo opportunity via Zoom platform during the online workshop.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), together with the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), organized an online workshop entitled, "Online Learning Methods at Maritime Higher Educational Institutions," which is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MARINA and IAMU signed on 2018.

In consideration of the challenges brought about by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the two-session workshop for maritime instructors would be held online. The first session commenced last 31 August until 03 September 2021 while, the second session took place from 18 October to 22 October 2021.

The twenty-four (24) participants sourced from accredited Maritime Higher Education Institutions (MHEIs) across the country, were selected through the recommendations made by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Prior to joining the workshops, the chosen maritime instructors were screened based on their qualifications, teaching content focus, and location. They were also provided with online theoretical sources, which were free of charge. These participants will eventually be training other maritime instructors across the Philippines.

The series of workshops was primarily initiated by maritime professors from the IAMU, with an overarching objective to provide participants with the necessary knowledge, understanding, and guidance to develop suitable online courses in maritime education. Specifically, the workshops were designed to identify learning methods appropriate for subjects/courses commonly delivered as a part of the STCW-based maritime education curriculum.

Furthermore, several learning methods were employed by the workshop facilitators which included PowerPoint presentations, case studies using the Moodle and Canvas Learning Management Systems (LMS), homework assignments, and assessments. Each of these methods was then followed up with a fifteen-minute Q&A discussion.

As part of the training design of the first session workshop, the participants were introduced to the learning methods in maritime higher education, and marine transportation and engineering using the LMS (Moodle and Canvas). Consultations and assigned tasks were given on the proceeding days and a summative assessment concluded the first half of the online workshop.



MARINA CONCLUDES MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION FORUM

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) concluded its Marine Environment Protection Forum on 09 September 2021 through a video-conferencing platform. The Marine Environment Protection Forum is part of the celebration of the 2021 National Maritime Week and of the Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA MO).

Bannering the theme, "Green Maritime Philippines: Protect and Conserve," the Forum sought to identify common environmental challenges facing the domestic shipping sector. From this initiative, the pool of experts and specialists from the concerned government agencies and the private sector would establish a unified goal and set of measures to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 – Climate Action and SDG 14 – Life Below Water.

Comprehensive Government Actions Presented

Prior to the holding of the Marine Environment Protection Forum, the MARINA conducted the Marine Environment Protection Pre-Forum on 27 August 2021—converging shipping companies, shipbuilding and ship repair entities, maritime training institutions, non-government organizations, and various government partners.

Ms. Precila C. Jara, OIC-Director of the MARINA – Overseas Shipping Service (OSS), presented the MARINA's active involvement in international projects and relevant engagements relating to the implementation of maritime instruments in the Philippine setting. She also highlighted the role of the MARINA in the GloFouling Partnerships Project as the National Lead Agency.

Meanwhile, two more distinguished guests graced the Forum proper, namely former OIC-Administrator of the MARINA and now the Assistant Secretary for Maritime of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) VADM Narciso A Vingson Jr, and DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda.



MARINA CONCLUDES MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ...

MARINA consistently adheres to maritime instruments



In his welcome remarks, MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A. Empedrad proudly shared with the participants MARINA's efforts to craft rules and regulations consistent with environment-oriented laws and standards for the maritime industry such as the following Memorandum Circulars (MCs): MC No. SR-2020-01 on Ship Recycling, MC No. SR-2020-04 on Anti-Fouling Systems, MC No. SR-2020-05 on Ballast Water Management, and MC No. SR-2020-06 on MARPOL Annex VI, the use of compliant fuel oil for ships.

These recently published policies are already in effect, and are in accordance with relevant IMO conventions.

MARINA Bares Strategy For Green Maritime Philippines

As it concluded the Forum, the MARINA bared the 'The Ten-Point Strategic Action Plan for Green Maritime Philippines: Protect and Conserve.' The inter-agency strategy, which was finalized during the Pre-forum, sets a whole-of-sector and whole-of-country approach to achieve its vision of 'a sustainable marine ecosystem, resilient and environmentally sustainable waters around, between, and connecting the islands of the archipelago by providing long term viable and feasible solutions by 2050.'

To ensure that each measure outlined in the Action Plan is being fulfilled, an inter-agency committee will be constituted to review it and incorporate new actions as necessary. Lead agencies identified include the

MARINA, DOTr, DENR, CCC, DOST, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of Trade and Industry.



DOTr Secretary Arthur P. Tugade, in a pre-recorded message, assured the government and yjr private sector that the attached agencies under his wing are prioritizing environmental issues in their projects and programs.

"We are united to protect the green maritime sector as well as to enforce a marine environment strategy while guaranteeing an effective commercial and social connection throughout the archipelago," Secretary Tugade said.

He also invitef the industry stakeholders to strengthen their participation and cooperation to achieve a 'healthy marine environment' for the nation.



Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Poland Mr. Jaroslaw Roman Szczepankiewicz, together with Political and Economic Section Counsellor-Minister Ms. Anna Krzak-Danel, paid a courtesy call on MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A. Empedrad (AFP) Ret on 02 September 2021.

MARINA ANNOUNCES EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AT SEA AWARDEES FOR 2021



Second Officer Lacruser P. Relativo of MV ANGELES, who saved the life of Mr. Stuart Bee, who was adrift at sea for two (2) days with his boat almost capsized, and Capt. Melvin J. Villanueva of MV FLEUR N, nominated by the KJCM Maritime Corporation, was recognized for his professionalism and leadership while commanding the search and rescue operations for the 86 refugees found drifting in the Mediterranean Sea.

In line with the launching of the online search last 25 June 2021, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has chosen the esteemed seafarers who will be given recognition as the Exceptional Bravery at Sea Awardees.

The Agency launched the online search for the Ten (10) Exceptional Bravery at Sea Awardees was established to acknowledge the effort of seafarers who, at the risk of losing their own life, displayed outstanding courage by attempting to save the lives of others or prevent further damage to the marine environment.

The MARINA received two (2) nominations, which the members of the Assessment Panel thoroughly scrutinized.

Subsequently, the Panel of Judges, consisting of top MARINA officials, provided the final verdict and awarded the two seafarers with the highest recognition.

Capt. Melvin J. Villanueva of MV FLEUR N, nominated by the KJCM Maritime Corporation, was recognized for his professionalism and leadership while

commanding the search and rescue operations for the 86 refugees found drifting in the Mediterranean Sea.

When asked about the rescue operations he led, he said, "Good decisions and wisdom come from God – a perfect timing to save lives without reservation. After all, it is a team effort." Capt. Villanueva also highlighted the contributions of his fellow officers and crew members, stating that the success of the search and rescue effort would not have been possible without his colleagues.

Also receiving the highest recognition was Second Officer Lacruser P. Relativo of MV ANGELES, who saved the life of Mr. Stuart Bee, who was adrift at sea for two (2) days with his boat almost capsized.

Elaborating about the act of bravery he accomplished, Second Officer Relativo emphasizes that Mr. Bee's story is no different from the countless individuals who are seeking refuge today, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage on in the country. "We must lend help in any way that we can, whenever the opportunity to help is present," he said.

MARINA ANNOUNCES EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AT SEA AWARDEES ...

Aside from being awarded a certificate of recognition and medal, the awardees will also be given lifelong priority when processing STCW-related applications at the MARINA Central Office, MARINA Regional Offices (MROs), and satellite offices across the country.

The officers and crew of MV FLEUR N will also be given priority lane when applying for any of the STCW-related certificates in all the MARINA Offices as a token of appreciation for their exemplary teamwork, dedication, and professionalism.

MARINA HOSTS MARITIME INDUSTRY SYMPOSIUM DURING NATIONAL MARITIME WEEK 2021

In support of this year's celebration of the 22nd National Maritime Week, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) organized a two-day series of maritime industry symposium on 22-23 September 2021, with discussions revolving around the overarching theme: "The Philippine Maritime Industry Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic: Today and Tomorrow."

The two-day symposium fostered productive discussions between government officials and maritime stakeholders, with each discussion being designated with reactors from various government

agencies and the private sector.

Participants also witnessed an inspirational message from Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur Tugade, where he stressed the important role of Filipino seafarers in the nation's economic development. "Sa lahat ng mga naririto ngayon, you all play important roles as vital enablers for the smooth functioning of maritime supply chains, as we navigate together towards a new normal," he said.

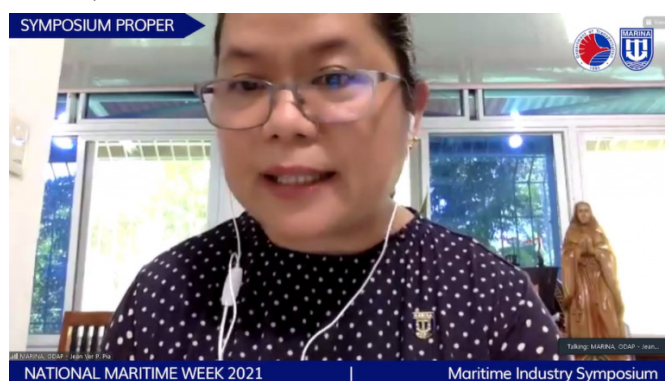
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Assistant Secretary Ms. Mary Jean T. Pacheco delved into the current state of the "Initiatives to Improve Logistics, Transport, and Supply Chain in the Country." Meanwhile, the second topic on "The Role of Domestic Shipping in the Promotion of Maritime Tourism Products During and After the Pandemic" was discussed by the Department of Tourism (DOT) Head of Cruise Team, Office of Product and Market Development Ms. Gina Marie Liberty Esmaña. To cap all three discussions, Shipyards Association of the Philippines Chairperson Mr. Meneleo Carlos III elaborated on the "Proposed Recovery Initiatives for the Philippines Ship Building and Ship Repair Industry."

A set of reactors were also assigned per topic, to encourage an exchange of views between the stakeholders who were present during the symposium.

Three topics were lined up for the first day of the symposium, revolving around matters concerning the maritime tourism, the Philippine supply chain, and the shipbuilding and ship repair sector in the country.



MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol presented a short opening statement to mark the official start of the symposium. In her address, she explained that the symposium serves as a platform for maritime stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the industry.



Officially culminating the symposium, Atty. Pia expresses her gratitude for the active participation of the associations, companies, and government agencies which made the event a success.