

## PROOF OF COMMITMENT: MARINA LAUNCHES THREE MARITIME REPORTS

*Administrator Vice Admiral Rober A Empedrad, together with MARINA officials and personnel, who are all the awardees, during the launching of the three maritime reports.*

A proof of commitment to the Filipino nation, that's how Maritime Industry Authority Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) described the three (3) maritime reports the agency presented to the public yesterday, 31 March 2022.

"These three (3) publications are the pieces of future of our maritime industry. These are our commitment to the Filipino nation. 'Yan ang proof ng ating commitment. We should be committed to execute and implement the plans, programs and timelines that we put in these three (3) documents."

The MARINA made public its 10-year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), Strategic Voyage Plan 2022-2028, and the Philippine response to the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) report.

"Today is a very significant day for the Maritime Industry Authority. What we are doing is to highlight the excellent service that we want to give for the maritime nation," Empedrad expressed. Through the establishment of MIDP, the MARINA envisions to accelerate and expand domestic shipping services that renders the country's economic environment more conducive for flourishing of businesses, influx of investments and facilitation of trade within the country; build modern and seaworthy ships through a globally competitive ship building, ship repair and ship breaking industry and; promote and develop the Philippines as human resource capital for ship management and other maritime services.

Meanwhile, the agency's very own Voyage Plan outlines the six-year organizational development strategy that focuses on accelerating the integrated and rational development of the maritime industry in the Philippines, and its dream of aggressively instituting good governance in its existing

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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 [pps@marina.gov.ph](mailto:pps@marina.gov.ph).

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

## PROOF OF COMMITMENT: MARINA LAUNCHES THREE MARITIME REPORTS

infrastructure and systems.

The Voyage Plan will be subjected to external auditors.

"I will always welcome third party audits because the outside auditors can see what we cannot see. Kaya nga 'yung Voyage Plan will be subjected for audit by the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA)."

As for the country's response to the EMSA report, the MARINA shared its 200-page document titled, 2022 Philippine Response — our strategic actions in addressing the EMSA Audit.

"I believe, with all my heart, that the contents of the report substantially addressed the issues of EMSA. And it is not only addressing the issues EMSA but it is also raising the level of our compliance to the STCW," the MARINA Chief emphasized.

It should be recalled that the MARINA was able to beat the 10 March 2022 deadline set by the European Commission (EC) for the submission of the PH corrective actions on maritime issues.



Administrator Vice Admiral Rober A. Empedrad receives his plaque of recognition to the Marino Filipino TV, led by Ms. Carmela Huelar and Dr. Glenn Mark Basquez, PhD.

## MARINA COMMENDS OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLICATION OF THREE MARITIME REPORTS

Further, the event also paved way into commending several MARINA officials, offices, and employees for its exceptional work, and dedication leading to the successful completion of the three maritime reports.

Offices that received their Plaques of Appreciation were Planning and Policy Service (PPS) for its completion of MARINA Strategic Voyage Plan 2028, and the MIDP Abridged Report; and Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Office for its invaluable support for the publication of PH Response — our strategic actions in addressing the EMSA Audit.

The Marino Filipino TV also gave commendation to the



MARINA officials for their hard work, commitment, and personal sacrifice in serving the needs of the Filipino seafarers around the world.

"As part of the Maritime Media Group and maritime

industry community, your important work throughout the period of uncertainty brought about by COVID-19 pandemic has been recognized, and very much appreciated," stated by the Marino Filipino TV.



Administrator Vice Admiral Rober A Empedrad, together with the MARINA officials and several maritime stakeholders, poses for a photo opportunity during the launching of the three maritime reports.

## MARINA DEACTIVATES TWG ON VACCINATION PROGRAM; LAUDS EFFORTS ON SUCCESSFUL VAX PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO SEAFARERS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) lauded efforts of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the vaccination of Filipino seafarers during its deactivation ceremony on 12 April 2022, at the MARINA Central Office.

In the ceremony entitled "Ang Pagpupugay at Pasasalamat: Recognition Rites and Deactivation Ceremony of the Technical Working Group on the Vaccination Program," the MARINA, led by Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad, expressed the Agency's gratefulness for the TWG in the success of endeavour for the Filipino seafarers, their families and every personnel in the maritime industry.

"I want to express my gratitude to the Technical Working Group. Sila talaga 'yung backbone nito. Sila

talaga 'yung nagtrabaho. No words can be found to express our gratitude to you," Administrator Empedrad said.

It may be recalled that in coordination with the partner agencies and maritime stakeholders and associations, the TWG on Vaccination, spearheaded by STCWO Deputy Executive Director Capt Jeffrey P. Solon, was eventually established in order to push the inoculation of the key workers and their families, and other frontline maritime workers.

Administrator Empedrad likewise conveyed his appreciation for Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade and other agencies in the maritime sector for the support. "I would also like to express my gratitude to DOTr Secretary Tugade for his support, and for pushing

## MARINA DEACTIVATES TWG ON VACCINATION PROGRAM; LAUDS EFFORTS ON SUCCESSFUL VAX PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO SEAFARERS

for the vaccination of our seafarers, and even told me to involve the Philippine Coast Guard, and the Philippine Ports Authority in the vaccination program that we have started in 2021," he stated.

As part of the awarding ceremony, plaques of appreciation were given to Congresswoman Camille A. Villar, Senator Cynthia A. Villar, Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ), Las Piñas General Hospital and Satellite Trauma Center, Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) and its affiliated offices in Iloilo and Davao, including the AMOSUP Seamen's Hospital Cebu – Vaccination Team, ALMA Maritime Group Corporation, Philippine-Japan Manning Consultative Council, Inc. (PJMCC), Filipino Association for Mariner's Employment, Inc. (FAME), team of Ms. Divina Zuniga, Philippine Association of Manning Agencies and Ship Managers (PAMAS), Filipino Shipowners Association (FSA) and International Maritime Association of the Philippines (INTERMAP) for their remarkable leadership, commitment, and unwavering support leading to the success of the Vaccination Program for OFWs (Sea-based and Land-based), Families and Ancillary Service Personnel.

Certificates of Commendation were also awarded to several maritime stakeholders and partner agencies, as well as those MARINA personnel who were involved in the vaccination efforts, for their invaluable work, commitment, and paramount dedication leading to the success of the vaccination program.

Administrator Empedrad also conveyed his



Administrator Vice Admiral Rober A Empedrad, Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol, OIC Deputy Administrator for Planning Ms. Sonia Malaluan, STCWO Deputy Executive Director Capt. Jeffrey P. Solon, and Technical Working Group (TWG) for the vaccination of Filipino seafarers during the deactivation ceremony.

admiration to all the Filipino seafarers who have remained resilient and have continued to keep the global economy running afloat despite the uncertainties and challenges concerning port access, lockdowns, crew changeovers, and repatriation. "They [seafarers] continue at sea to make sure na makakarating ang mga pangangailangan natin. Without them, probably, we have more casualty than we have ever imagined during the pandemic."

Achieving the project's primary goal of addressing the inoculation of Filipino seafarers, the Vaccination TWG was formally deactivated through the signing of the Declaration of Project Completion by its Chair and the Administration.

Lastly, with the TWG's deactivation, Administrator Empedrad assured the seafaring community that the MARINA is geared up to revive the Team when the situation calls for it.



Administrator Vice Admiral Rober A Empedrad, together with the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the vaccination of the Filipino seafarers, poses for a photo opportunity during the deactivation ceremony.



# MARINA COMMENDS OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTED IN PRIME-HRM LEVEL 2 BRONZE AWARD; ACCEPTS CSC CHALLENGE OF MATURITY LEVEL 3

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) is ready to take the challenge posed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in leveling up its Human Resource Management maturity to Level 3.

"We are here to accept the challenge of the CSC for maturity level 3," MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) expressed yesterday, 21 April 2022.

The pronouncement was made during a Ceremonial Awarding dedicated to the officials, and personnel who contributed to the agency's achievement of CSC PRIME-HRM Level 2 Bronze Award.

During the ceremony, Administrator Empedrad reminded MARINA employees to continue its selfless service to the Filipino people.

"Ipagpatuloy niyo lang ang ginagawa niyo. Mahalin natin ang MARINA. We serve the people with pride, with selfless service," the MARINA Chief said.

The said CSC recognition is an affirmation that the agency met the PRIME-HRM Level 2-Maturity Indicators of all the four (4) core HRM systems and have observed the Civil Service Law, and rules on the issuance of appointments and other HR programs, while maintaining its Human Resource records management.

The four (4) core HRM systems are: Recruitment, Selection and Placement; Performance Management; Learning and Development; and Rewards and Recognition.

Meanwhile, Deputy Administrator for Planning-OIC Director Sonia B. Malaluan emphasized that the recognition will serve as motivation to the agency as it continuous to give an exemplary service to the people.

For CSC Director IV Atty. Judith Dongallo-Chicano, "the celebration should not stop here. Because you

have Level 3, and Level 4. Nasa Level 2 na kayo, it should not stop you from moving towards level 3 accreditation."

The CSC official also lauded the current administration of MARINA for pushing the agency in attaining the award.

"It was during the time of Administrator Empedrad that MARINA was able to hurdle, and complete, and eventually be awarded the Bronze Award," Atty. Chicano furthered.

Meanwhile, CSC Director III Maricar Aquino also assured to help MARINA as it aims to level up, and get the Silver Award.

The MARINA, through the Human Resource Management and Development Division of the Management, Financial, and Administrative Service (HRMDD-MFAS), received its Level 2 Bronze Award from the CSC last 26 January 2022.



Administrator Vice Admiral Rober A Empedrad and MARINA officials and personnel, who contributed, in one frame, as they celebrate agency's achievement of CSC PRIME-HRM Level 2 Bronze Award.

## MARINA RECEIVES PALACE COMMENDATION; RECORDS 100% RESOLUTION RATE TO CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS, CONCERNS

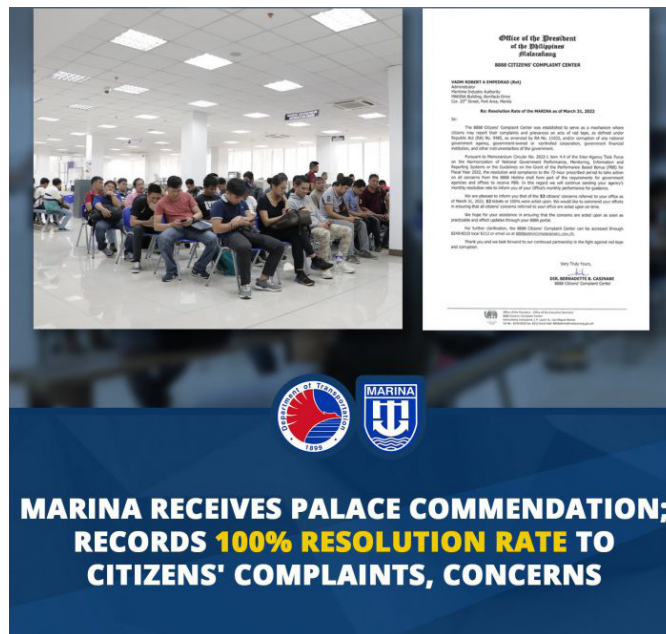
The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has received a commendation from the Office of the President's 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center for its 100% resolution rate on the public's complaints, and concerns as of 31 March 2022.

The appreciation is an affirmation of MARINA's efforts in ensuring that all concerns referred to the agency were acted upon on time.

"We are pleased to inform you that of the 52 citizens' concerns referred to your office as of March 31, 2022, 52 tickets of 100% were acted upon. We would like to commend your efforts in ensuring that all citizens' concerns referred to your office are acted upon on time," Palace's 8888 stated in its letter on 22 April 2022.

The MARINA expressed gratitude to the Palace for its commendation, and guaranteed that the agency will continue to serve the public, as it strives to address the complaints, and concerns from its stakeholders in a short period of time.

The 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center was



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established to be an avenue for citizens to report their concerns, and complaints to government agencies, government-owned, or controlled corporations, government financial institutions, and other instrumentalities of the government, on acts of red tape, as defined under Republic Act No. 9485, as amended by RA 11032.

## MARINA GRANTS ONE-YEAR VALIDITY EXTENSION TO EXPIRING, EXPIRED ACCREDITATION CERTS

Validity of expiring and expired accreditation certificates of domestic shipping operators and maritime enterprises was granted a one-year extension, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) announced on 07 April 2022.

The directive, which was published on 07 April 2022, takes effect on the date of issuance, 01 April 2022, pending the crafting of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 11659

or An Act Amending Commonwealth Act No. 146, Otherwise Known as the Public Service Act, as Amended, and the subsequent amendment/repeal of related MARINA Circulars, whichever comes first.

The said extension covers accreditation certificates issued pursuant to MARINA Circular (MC) Nos. 186, DS-2020-02, and 2006-003. MC No. 186, series of 2003, contains rules on the accreditation of



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maritime enterprises, which was revised through the implementation of MC No. DS-2020-02. Meanwhile, MC No. 2006-003 states the revised guidelines on the accreditation of domestic

shipping enterprises or entities.

The MARINA noted that said Advisory was issued following the signing into law of RA 11659 last 21 March 2022 effectively amending relevant provisions of domestic shipping – related Circulars.

The Advisory will remain valid until sooner revoked or modified.

Meanwhile, the MARINA assures its stakeholders that it will continue to implement the necessary issuances for Filipino seafarers to gain continuous employment opportunity on board ships in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on training completion, revalidation of certificates, and conduct of crew changes.

## PHL SHARES MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BEST PRACTICES DURING THE 2ND GPTF MEETING IN LONDON

The Philippine delegation, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), shared its best practices in protecting and conserving the marine environment during the 2nd Global Project Task Force (GPTF) Meeting of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project held on 11 to 13 April 2022 at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Headquarters in London, United Kingdom.

The Philippines, as one of the twelve (12) Lead Partnering Countries, was represented in person by Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia, PHD, Maritime Attaché in London, Engr. Ramon C. Hernandez, Director of the MARINA-Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS), and Ms. Dana Angela D. Fajardo, Senior Maritime Industry Development Specialist of the Overseas Shipping Service (OSS). On the other hand, Ms. Precila C. Jara, Officer-In-Charge, Director of the MARINA-OSS and Ms. Judy L. Honrado, Officer-In-Charge, Division Chief of the OSS-International Shipping Development Division (OSS-ISDD)

attended virtually from Manila.

On the part of the Philippines, Engr. Hernandez presented the overall updates of the Philippine's progress as a Lead Partnering Country (LPC) of the Project and the country's initiatives on biofouling management. In his report, he shared that in order to ensure full and effective implementation of relevant marine environment standards in the Philippines, the MARINA crafted the National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) entitled "Green Maritime Philippines: Protect and Conserve".

"The plan will serve as the roadmap in the country's implementation of the marine environment protection Conventions where biodiversity including biofouling is a part of," Engr. Hernandez highlighted.

Likewise, Engr. Hernandez conveyed that the Philippines aims to mobilize a whole of nation approach cooperation in protecting, conserving

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and managing the marine environment and natural resources for the present and future generation. He also shared the institutionalization of the ICCFRAIMC through Executive Order No. 159 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte on 28 December 2021.

"The ICCFRAIMC is a national task force which aims to provide policy directions, technical guidance and to ensure a systematic and integrated approach to the ratification and implementation of priority IMO Instruments among concerned government agencies," Engr. Hernandez said.



The Philippine delegation, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), during the 2nd Global Project Task Force (GPTF) Meeting of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project.

## PHL MARITIME ADMINISTRATION HOLDS VIRTUAL WRITESHOP ON PAI FOR IMSAS 2023

In order to ensure the seamless conduct of the mandatory audit in October 2023 under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) despite the global pandemic, the Philippine maritime administration, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), held the Virtual Writeshop on the Additional Pre-audit Information (PAI) Requirement of the IMSAS on 07-08 April 2022 via video conference.

The MARINA-OSS Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Precila C. Jara, facilitated the said Writeshop wherein she explained the purpose of the undertaking and PAI.

"This Writeshop aims to review and accomplish the pre-audit information in compliance with the additional documentary requirement by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The said additional document is related to the four (4) areas of the Pre-audit Questionnaire (PAQ) and is intended to facilitate the Member State and the audit team in their preparation for an IMSAS audit," Ms. Jara said.

Considered as a Member State's "first line of defense" for the IMSAS, the PAQ is one of the requirements for the said mandatory audit and will

form part of the audit team's strategic planning before subjecting it to external scrutiny. On the other hand, the structure of the PAI is harmonized with the sections of the PAQ and paragraph numbers of the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code).

During the Writeshop, the attendees from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Cebu Port Authority (CPA), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) shared insights in providing the necessary details in the PAI.

