



MARINA

Newsletter

VOL. V No. 04 | Official Publication of the Maritime Industry Authority | Republic of the Philippines

APRIL 2023

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MARINA WELCOMES EC DECISION ON CONTINUED RECOGNITION OF PH STCW CERTIFICATES

The Maritime Industry Authority welcomed the decision of the European Commission to continue the recognition of Philippine-issued STCW Certificates, thus ensuring the employment of almost 50,000 Filipino marine officers onboard European-flagged vessels. After careful evaluation of the country's corrective actions to address the findings raised by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in its 2020 inspection, the EC concluded that the measures taken demonstrate concrete progress and improvement as regards compliance with the requirements of the STCW Convention.

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MARINA FORGES TIES WITH FRANCE; EXPLORES GREEN SHIPPING AT SEA ASIA 2023

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), upon the invitation and facilitation of the French Embassies in Manila and Singapore, represented the Philippines at Sea Asia 2023 in Singapore, showcasing its efforts to forge ties with France, and French organizations to promote the development of the Philippine maritime industry. The event provided MARINA with the opportunity to explore the latest technological advancements and innovations in the energy transition,

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MARINA Deputy Administrator Sonia Malaluan leads the Philippines' participation in Green Shipping at SEA Asia 2023 in Singapore.

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MARINA Deputy Administrator Nannette Dinopol (center) along with directors and staff of MARINA pose a photo with DICT Secretary Atty. Ivan John Uy, to commemorate the agencies e-governance partnership.

MARINA INKS E-GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP WITH DICT; EYES TO MODERNIZE, STREAMLINE SERVICES

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) joined the banner of the Department of Information and Communications Technology's (DICT) thrust towards e-governance by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) along with 12 other government agencies, on 25 April 2023.

"This MoU serves as a significant milestone in our quest to modernize and streamline our processes in MARINA. We must adapt to the changing times, and find ways to harness technology to enhance our services, and better serve the maritime industry," said Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol during the event.

Through the said partnership, MARINA seeks to "reduce bureaucratic processes, improve efficiency, and enhance transparency in MARINA."

Under the agreement, the MARINA shall collaborate with the DICT in achieving the interconnection and interoperability of its systems and

applications. The initiative also supports the Maritime Industry Development Plan's (MIDP) Implementation of a Sustainable Maritime Innovation, Transformation, Digitalization, and Knowledge Center.

"The MoU also allows the Agency to automate and digitalize its processes, eliminate paperworks, and provide real-time access to relevant information," the Deputy Administrator furthered.

The MoU declares the collaborative purpose of the parties and their interest in supporting the digitalization of the government. By signing the agreement, the parties aim to seal their utmost support for the computerization and automation of public services, promoting transparency, efficiency, and accessibility for citizens.

The partnership between MARINA and DICT is expected to contribute to the Philippines' digital transformation efforts and enhance its competitiveness in the maritime industry.



EDITORIAL POLICY >

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.

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

MARINA KICKS OFF REGIONAL OFFICES ORIENTATION TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Planning and Policy Service (PPS), has formally launched its orientation drive for its regional offices to discuss industry programs and strategic directions, piloting with Regional Office 5 in Legazpi City and Regional Office 11 in Davao City today, 14 April 2023.

The initiative, dubbed as the “MIDP-PGS-SPMS Cascading Orientation,” is aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of MARINA’s plans and programs among regional offices, enabling them to effectively convey the same to their employees and to maritime stakeholders under their areas of jurisdiction.

To note, the MIDP is a comprehensive industry



plan being implemented by various agencies and institutions and is transformed into a strategy map through the Performance Governance System (PGS). This is further cascaded into annual plans and budgets of the agency, and individual offices’ commitments under the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS).

The orientation also provided the regional offices with a working knowledge of the MIDP, PGS, and SPMS, and contribute to MARINA’s overall preparedness in PGS proficiency revalida. The training will also help the Planning and Policy Service (PPS) to recommend an evidence-based weight distribution for strategic, core, and support outputs as part of the continued improvement of MARINA SPMS.

The orientation signified MARINA’s commitment to ensuring the effective implementation of industry programs and strategic directions, thereby improving the Philippine maritime industry’s competitiveness and sustainability.



Personnel from MARINA Regional Offices 5 (Bicol), and 11 (Davao) are all smiles during the cascading orientation conducted by MARINA Planning and Policy Service.

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MARINA WELCOMES EC DECISION ON CONTINUED RECOGNITION OF PH STCW CERTIFICATES

In a statement, MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia said that the “EC’s decision is a nod to the serious efforts taken by the country since the first EMSA inspection back in 2006. I thank President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and DOTR Secretary Jaime Bautista for their leadership and support in all the actions of MARINA to continually improve its system and to uphold the interest of our seafarers.

During the sidelines of the HTW9 Meeting in London last February 2023, Administrator Fabia met with representatives from the EC and relayed the strong support and commitment of President Marcos to fully comply with the requirements of the STCW Convention. He likewise stressed that the country will sustain the implementation of all corrective actions through continued coordination among MARINA, CHED, DOH, PCG, and other government agencies.

Administrator Fabia also expressed appreciation to the European Union and all countries that continue to employ Filipino seafarers. He said that their trust and confidence in Filipino seafarers is something that the country values and as such, all efforts will be made to ensure that we continue to provide them with a globally competitive and highly-skilled maritime workforce.

The EMSA, on behalf of the EC, carried out a total of 8 inspections of the maritime education, training, and certification system of the Philippines from 2006 to 2020. As provided for by the STCW Convention, the EC may conduct an evaluation of the STCW compliance of non-EU member countries prior to recognizing the certificate of their seafarers and allowing them to work onboard EU-flagged vessels.



MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani Fabia (Center-left) and SONAME hold the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims to promote the country's sustainable maritime industry

MARINA PARTNERS WITH SONAME TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE MARITIME INDUSTRY

The first-ever Cebu Maritime Expo (CME) 2023 ended on a high note last 15 April 2023 as the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SONAME) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), providing framework for

partnership arrangement between both parties in technical assistance and training which will promote, develop, and foster sustainable and progressive maritime industry.

The signing of the MOU solidifies the commitment of both the MARINA and SONAME in working together towards a common goal of promoting the growth and development of the

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efficient operations of ships, and zero carbon marine fuels currently in the market.

At the event, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Sonia B. Malaluan took part in a roundtable discussion on decarbonization hosted by the French Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, the Embassy of France, and Cluster Maritime Francais. The Roundtable Discussion focused on decarbonization, in particular the latest technological advancements and innovations in the energy transition, efficient operations of ships and zero carbon marine fuels currently in the market.

The said MARINA official also met with the Director General of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM) to discuss possible collaboration on areas of maritime education and training for seafarers. ENSM is the National Maritime University of France.

Further, the event provided an opportunity for MARINA to meet and invite French companies and organizations to participate in the upcoming PHILMARINE 2023 to be held in Manila on 20-22 June 2023.

The highlight of the mission was MARINA's meeting with the French Head of Delegation, Ms. Anne Legregeois, and other officials from the Directorate General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture and the French International Register (RIF) Head, Mr. Stephane Garziano. RIF commended the Philippines for providing competent seafarers, with special mention on MARINA's verification system and MISMO (MARINA's Integrated Seafarers Management Online), hailing the said network as 'the best seafarer system they have used so far.'

MARINA's participation in Sea Asia 2023 highlights the agency's proactive efforts to promote sustainable development in the Philippine maritime industry and to collaborate with other countries and organizations to address areas of improvement identified by the European Commission (EC) on the country's compliance with the STCW Convention, as amended, as well as seafarers' trainings needed to ensure that seafarers are not left behind as the maritime industry transitions to green shipping.

MARINA PARTNERS WITH SONAME...

maritime industry in the county. The partnership will facilitate the sharing of technical knowledge and expertise between the two organizations, leading to the improvement of the quality of services and programs for the maritime sector.

Under the MOU, the MARINA and SONAME will collaborate in providing technical assistance and training programs, focusing on initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, safety and security in the maritime industry, as well as the adoption of advanced technologies and best practices.

Highlighting Significance of Cebu in Philippine Maritime Industry

"The selection of this vibrant City of Cebu as the home of this maritime expo and its succeeding editions in the coming years is a fitting recognition of the importance of the island of Cebu and its neighboring islands for its contribution to the national development efforts of the country, in view of their rich maritime resources and maritime capabilities in terms of shipping services, maritime education and training, shipbuilding and ship repair among others."

So said MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia as he addressed the participants during the first day of the CME 2023, emphasizing that Cebu is home to the country's major domestic shipowners or operators; location of major shipyards in the country; the residence to



thousands of competent seafarers who are currently commanding various merchant ships trading international waters; and the convergence for the transshipments of goods and services in the Visayas and Mindanao Regions.

Developing Unified Class Rules and Standard Fee Scale for Domestic Shipping



The MARINA shared during the CME 2023 its plans to develop unified class rules and standard fee scale for domestic shipping.

The forum, which was attended by industry professionals, government officials, and members of SONAME, provided a platform for discussing critical issues and challenges facing the maritime sector. One of the key topics discussed was the need for standardization and harmonization of class rules and fee scales for domestic shipping.

Administrator's SONAME Honorary Membership

Aside from forging partnership through MOU between MARINA and SONAME, Administrator Fabia



also accepted the honorary membership of the SONAME on the last day of the Cebu Maritime Expo 2023.

The MARINA expressed its anticipation on an increased involvement of the SONAME in Agency's plans and programs, particularly in the implementation of our 10-year maritime industry development plan (MIDP).

The MARINA remains committed to its mandate of promoting the development of the Philippine maritime industry, and the recently concluded Cebu Maritime Expo is a testament to this commitment.

MARINA LEADS FOUNDATION COURSE ON MARITIME CASUALTY INVESTIGATION FOR IMO MEMBER STATES; AIMS TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME SAFETY MEASURES



To strengthen maritime safety in the Philippines, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) in coordination with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) led the Foundation Course on Marine Casualty Investigation for IMO Member States, a five-day training program from 17-21 April 2023, with the participation of 20 MARINA personnel and five Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel.

The main objective of the Marine Casualty Investigation Course 3.11 training is to capacitate the Marine Casualty/Safety Investigator of the MARINA and PCG to adhere to the guidelines of the standard in the conduct of Marine Safety Investigation, based on the IMO Casualty Investigation Code and MC no. MS-2022-01 entitled "Rules & Regulations on the Conduct of Marine Casualty/ Incident.

The training will also focus on harmonizing the procedures, guidelines, and assessment in the conduct of Marine Safety Investigation between MARINA and PCG, as well as sharing techniques, understanding the purpose and process of the MARINA safety investigation, and assisting the Philippines in building its internal capacity for trainers who can undertake future capacity building activities for casualty investigators of the Administration.

In a statement, MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia emphasized that this foundation training would be a great opportunity to enhance the understanding and appreciation of maritime investigation. Investigation must be skills-based and competence-based, mindful of the latest techniques and standards.

For his part, IMO Head of Asia and Pacific Section Technical Cooperation Division, Mr. Bekir Sitki Ustaoglu highlighted that every country, regardless of its capacity, should have the competency to carry out or to contribute to an investigation in a self-sustainable manner.

Further, the training course is expected to provide existing casualty investigators of the recipient countries with updates on the latest developments relating to the Casualty Investigation Code and to assist selected national maritime Administrations in uniformly carrying out investigations into marine casualties and incidents in accordance with the IMO Code of the International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into marine casualty or marine incident (Casualty Investigation Code), Resolution MSC.255(84), as amended by Resolution MSC.390(94).

The Foundation Course on Marine Casualty Investigation for IMO Member States is a significant step towards harmonizing procedures, guidelines, and assessment in the conduct of marine safety investigations. This event reflects the commitment of the Philippine government, MARINA, and PCG to promoting the highest standards of safety and security in the maritime industry.



MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani Fabia (Center-right) and IMO Head of Asia and the Pacific Section Technical Cooperation Division Bekir Ustaoglu (center) takes a group photo with participants of marine casualty investigation



MARINA Administrator Hernani N. Fabia with Sen. Raffy Tulfo at the launch of the new Ferry Lite Seven in Cebu

MARINA LAUDS LITE SHIPPING CORPORATION'S NEW RORO FERRY TO BOOST MARITIME TOURISM

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) lauded Lite Shipping Corporation for launching its new Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) ferry that is set to boost maritime tourism and provide more access to shipping services between the Provinces of Cebu and Bohol as well as nearby areas. The MV Lite Ferry Seven was unveiled during an event in the City of Tagbilaran on 22 April 2023.

With a length of 72 meters and registered 2,450 gross tons, the new RoRo ferry has a capacity of 300 passengers, 18 ten-wheeler trucks, and 10 cars. The vessel, built in China and completed in 2022, features standard and tourist accommodations classed by RINA of Italy.

During the event, MARINA Administrator

Hernani N. Fabia highlighted the significance of the launch in Tagbilaran City, noting that it marks a major milestone in the city's continued growth as a tourist destination in Bohol.

"The MARINA, through the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), is determined to build a strong foundation and create more catalysts for the development of maritime tourism in the Philippines," Admin Fabia said in his speech.

With Lite Shipping Corporation's fleet expansion, MARINA granted pioneering status to MV Lite Ferry Seven in the Oslob, Cebu to Dapitan City and Dipolog City routes.

The new RoRo ferry is part of Lite Shipping Corporation's re-fleeting program over the past decade, which includes almost half of the fleet acquired brand new and one-fourth of the fleet below 20 years of age upon acquisition.

Lite Ferries operates in thirty-two destinations, bridging the provinces of Sorsogon, Samar, Northern Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Siquijor, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, and Zamboanga del Norte as part of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway.

MARINA's continued support for the development of maritime tourism in the Philippines is expected to bolster Lite Shipping Corporation's efforts in connecting the island of Bohol to the rest of the country.

MARINA WELCOMES WMU STUDENTS DURING FIELD STUDY

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) welcomed students from the World Maritime University (WMU) to its central office on 24 April 2023, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations. The activity is part of the Field Study by WMU students enrolled in the Master of Science in Maritime Affairs program specializing in Maritime Education and Training.

The Field Study aims to link the students' theoretical knowledge to practical experience so that they can guide valuable insights into professional practices, as well as valuable insights into organizational practices and networking opportunities.



The MARINA and the WMU have joined forces to integrate the development, promotion, and regulation of the Philippine maritime industry by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on academic cooperation and technical assistance in the field of maritime education, maritime affairs, and associated fields on September 2021.



World Maritime University President Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry visits the MARINA, and see the face of the university graduates.

WMU PRESIDENT PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO MARINA

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) welcomed World Maritime University (WMU) President Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry as she paid a courtesy visit to the Agency on 26 April 2023.

During Dr. Doumbia-Henry's visit, she was briefed on the latest developments in the Philippine maritime industry, including the ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's maritime education and training. The MARINA Planning and Policy Service (PPS) also presented the Updated Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP).

The courtesy visit of Dr. Doumbia-Henry to MARINA is a testament to the strong relationship between the two institutions. The WMU is an independent academic institution founded by

International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has been a key partner of MARINA in promoting maritime education and training in the Philippines.

As of today, there are 36 active WMU alumni in MARINA serving as Directors and in different leadership roles and capacities from a total of more than 500 members of the WMU-Philippines Alumni Association.

Further, the visit is also an integral part of the WMU's partnership with MARINA through a Memorandum of Understanding, which aims to promote academic cooperation, knowledge-sharing and technical assistance in the field of maritime affairs, education, research, and training.





MARINA IMPLEMENTS OPLAN BIYAHENG AYOS: SEMANA SANTA 2023 TO ENSURE SAFE AND SECURE NAVIGATION

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has implemented a heightened alert status which started on 02 April to 10 April 2023, in line with the implementation of “Oplan Biyaheng Ayos: Semana Santa 2023”. This initiative aims to ensure the safety of all passengers traveling during the long weekend ahead.

MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia has urged all regional offices and its Enforcement Service (ES) to intensify the conduct of compliance monitoring of all passenger vessels plying in domestic waters -- which forms part in the agency’s commitment to ensuring safe and secure navigation.

In anticipation with the influx of passengers in the coming days, the MARINA Regional Office IV

(MRO4) which covers the port of Batangas, one of the main gateways to and from destinations, has issued a Relaxation Order starting 27 March 2023. Coordination with other government agencies has also been made to strengthen support towards mutual concerns.

Further, to guide passengers, MARINA Circular No. 2018-07 will be in effect during Semana Santa 2023. This circular ensures that passengers can claim payments/refunds of fares in cases of delayed, cancelled, and unfinished/uncompleted voyages.

As the MARINA remains committed to ensuring safe and secure navigation, the agency calls on all shipowners/operators, crews, and passengers to join hands in this endeavor and make Semana Santa 2023 safe, and incident-free.





Photo Courtesy: Philippine Coast Guard

MARINA FINDS PROBABLE CAUSE AGAINST SUNKEN SHIP OWNER; TO FILE ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has found probable cause to file administrative charges against RDC Reield Marine Services Inc., the owner of the sunken ship, MT Princess Empress.

The resolution was issued on March 30, 2023, and the regulator is now preparing to file administrative charges against RDC for operating without authority or operating without a valid Certificate of Public Conveyance (CPC).

During the preliminary hearing on March 17, 2023, MARINA found that the “respondent still chose to operate the subject ship, and this they had done not only once but nine (9) times,” the resolution stressed.

Operating a ship in domestic trade without a valid CPC is a prohibited act under Section 16, Chapter VI of RA 9295, and Section 16, Rule VI of the 2014 Amendments to the Revised Rules and Regulations implementing RA 9295. This prohibition is likewise reflected in Section 7, Rule III of the 2014 Amendments which requires that the CPC shall be amended in case a ship is to be added or removed from the shipowners/operators’ CPC.

MARINA remains committed to ensuring that all maritime companies operate within the law, and this latest action against RDC Reield Marine Services Inc. is a demonstration of the agency’s resolve to enforce regulations to promote the safety of the maritime industry.

MARINA HOLDS USAPANG STCW FORUM IN CEBU



The MARINAs Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Office conducted the USAPANG STCW Forum at the Auditorium of the University of Cebu – Lapu Lapu & Mandaue Campus (UCLM) on 31 March 2023.

The event aims to keep the public and maritime stakeholders informed of the latest updates and developments on the MARINA activities and programs.

The forum was led by Mr. Herbert V. Nalupa, OIC, STCW Public Information Division, along with

Ms. Madiline Joanna F. Galve, Division Chief, STCW Certification Division, Atty. Fernan H. Cabral, Chief Legal Division, STCW, Mr. Dalmacio L. Gonzales, Division Chief, ICTMD, and other key personnel.

The discussion focused on the latest STCW MARINA Circulars, MARINA Advisories, and other related topics concerning On-board Trainings (OBT) and Joint-CHED-MARINA Memorandum Circular/Advisory. Queries related to MISMO and maritime industry updates were also answered, particularly on the implementation of the STCW Convention.





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