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MARINA



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# Newsletter

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MARINA Highlights World Maritime Day Through MARPOL...

LIT IN BLUE: MARINA joins the annual celebration of the World Maritime Day by illuminating its Central Office in Manila in blue.

## CHARTING SAFE WATERS: MARINA'S ACTIVE ROLE IN MAIFA 2023 AND ITS COMMITMENT TO MARITIME SAFETY

The Philippines, led by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) actively participated in the recently concluded Marine Accident Investigation Forum in Asia (MAIFA) held last 19-24 September 2023 in Shanghai, China. Composed of 14 Member States in Asia, the forum aimed to enhance the safety of ships by exchanging best practices and experiences in conducting marine safety investigations.

As an archipelagic country, transportation by sea is significantly paramount in the development of the Philippines' national economy. While shipping is

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The Philippines, represented by MARINA participates in the Marine Accident Investigation Forum in Asia (MAIFA) which aims to enhance safety of navigating ships.



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## CHARTING SAFE WATERS...

considered the most economical way of transporting cargoes in volume, the risk of accidents remains a challenge to the safety of life at sea and to the protection of the marine environment, highlighting the vital need to conduct safety investigations to minimize, if not to eliminate, similar recurrence of accidents in the future.

During the international forum, the MARINA was represented by Director Ronaldo P. Bandalaria and Division Chief Benedicto G. Manlapaz of the Enforcement Service. As the flag Administration, the MARINA shared the current trend and status of marine accidents in the Philippines. Likewise, the final report of the marine safety investigation involving the collision accident of two (2) foreign-flagged ships in Manila Bay was presented and discussed.



The participation of the Philippines in the international forum significantly conveyed the Agency's commitment to the attainment of the plans and programs of the 10-year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP).

## PHL STRENGTHENS IMO COUNCIL BID THROUGH DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION



*The MARINA collaborates with the DFA to co-host a Diplomatic Reception to strengthen the Philippines' bid to the IMO Council Category C, Biennium 2024-2025.*

MANILA -- Aiming to continue its unwavering commitment towards maritime excellence and sustainability, the Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), in cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), hosted a Diplomatic Reception held on 26 September 2023 to intensify its bid in the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council under Category C for 2024-2025 biennium.

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

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

## PHL STRENGTHENS IMO COUNCIL BID...

The country's membership to the IMO Council under Category C provides continued opportunity to strongly participate and contribute in policy and decision-making processes affecting our maritime interests, particularly in the advancement of the welfare of the Filipino seafarers, safer ships, sustainable marine environment, and future-ready maritime industry. It likewise serves as a platform to promote our Filipino seafarers, Philippine ship registry, shipbuilding, and ship repair, and other industries related to maritime in the international fora.

During the Diplomatic Reception, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Enrique A. Manalo mentioned in his message that through the country's active engagement and membership in the IMO, the Philippines remains at the forefront of improving the welfare of seafarers and promoting international cooperation for marine environment protection, vibrant, and responsible shipping industry.

"If re-elected to the IMO Council, the Philippines will continue to actively promote the interests of seafarers – upon whom the global maritime industry and commerce depend," Secretary Manalo said.

On the other hand, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Undersecretary for Maritime, Usec. Elmer Francisco U. Sarmiento delivered the message of the Secretary of Transportation, Secretary Jaime J. Bautista, wherein he expressed the country's intention to remain a member of the IMO Council under Category C to be able to sustain various technical cooperation projects in the area of capacity building to be able to implement state administration responsibilities as required under relevant international conventions, instruments, and protocols.

"We hope we have demonstrated our commitment to advancing the maritime industry to the next level as we pledge to remain a proactive member of the IMO at ensuring the safety of life and property at sea, sustainable shipping, and environmentally sound marine industry," Undersecretary Sarmiento highlighted.

Further, the Maritime Attaché in London, Atty. Jean Ver P. Pia, Ph.D., underscored that being a Member State to the IMO, the Philippines has

exemplified its commitment to ensuring sustainable shipping and maritime transport through the active promotion of its maritime interest.

"As a major seafarer-providing country, we are steadfast in this commitment of ensuring the safety of our 1.1 million competent and skilled Filipino maritime professionals who entrust us, to steer the helm towards a progressive, safe, sustainable, environmentally sound, and future-ready green maritime industry," Atty. Pia added.

The Diplomatic Reception was attended by the members of the diplomatic corps and honorary consuls from other IMO Member States and representatives from the DOTr, DFA, MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).





# 3RD MEPF HIGHLIGHTS REDUCTION OF MARINE PLASTIC LITTER, GHG EMISSIONS



MARINA senior officials, and DOTr Assistant Secretary for Maritime Affairs are all smiles during BEACON 2023.

For three consecutive years, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) hosted the Marine Environment Protection Forum (MEPF) in Pasay City last 06 September 2023. The said Conference is one of the major features of the first-ever Blue Economy Annual Trade and Conference (BEACON 2023) which runs from 6-8 September 2023 held at the same Convention Center.

The 3rd MEPF is an interactive conference which focuses on two topics related to marine environment protection, particularly marine plastic litter reduction and greenhouse gas emissions, especially the decarbonization of ships.

In her opening remarks, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Villamor-Dinopol shared about the joint projects of MARINA and the World Wide Fund for Nature - Philippines on marine plastic litter reduction, including the back-to-back fora on Port and Ship Waste Management in Pasay City last June 2023 and the Launching of the Four-Minute Video on Marine Plastic Litter onboard two ships in Port of Batangas last July 2023 in accordance to MARINA Advisory No. 2023 - 11 or the "Guidelines on the Implementation for the Airing of the Four-Minute Video on Marine Plastic Litter for Passenger Vessels."

She emphasized that the 3rd MEPF expands its discussion this year as the Philippines expressed its support to the 2023 IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG emissions from Ships, with enhanced targets to tackle harmful emissions. The 2023 IMO strategy was officially adopted during the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) 80 Session. One of the levels of ambition set to attain the said IMO strategy is to peak GHG emissions from international shipping as soon as possible, and to reach net-zero GHG emissions by or around the year 2050, taking into account different national circumstances.

The 3rd MEPF also features the updates on Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028

particularly on "Overriding Program on Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Maritime Industry" that was presented by Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS) and MEPDS Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez. Meanwhile, Philippine Marine Environment Protection Association, Inc. President Ms. Rochelle Reyes presented their current plans and programs.

Among the resource speakers on the Philippine Efforts in the Marine Plastic Litter Reduction are WWF-Philippines Policy Manager Ms. Liezel del Rosario; DENR Planning, Policy and Program Development Division Chief Ms. Consolacion Crisostomo; PPA Port Operations and Services Dep't Safety Specialist Mr. Aechylus Grekxy Acob and PCG Marine Environmental Protection Offshore Patrol Commander Capt. Patrick Babag.

The resource speakers on the Future of Greener Shipping - Maritime Decarbonization are MARINA-SRS Senior SOS Engr. Jeremiah Perez; DOE Energy Utilization Management Bureau Director Patrick Aquino; Climate Change Commission Implementation Oversight Division Development Management Officer Mr. Paul Ezekiel Losaria; DOST-PCIEERD Deputy Executive Director Engr. Niñaliza Escorial and Jotun Paints Regional Category Manager Mr. Ryan Lee.

In her closing remarks, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Ms. Sonia Malaluan encouraged other government agencies and the private sector to support the plans of MARINA in developing and implementing projects and initiatives transitioning to green maritime Philippines.



Resource Speakers and participants engage in a open discussion on Marine Plastic Litter and Greenhouse Gas Emissions at BEACON 2023





# MARINA HIGHLIGHTS WORLD MARITIME DAY THROUGH MARPOL CONFERENCE STCW FORUM

MANILA – In celebration of this year's World Maritime Day, coinciding with the National Maritime Week, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) hosted two significant events on 28 September 2023 – the MARPOL Conference and the STCW Forum, both serving as platforms for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and a shared commitment for the maritime community.

## MARPOL Conference: Uniting Against Marine Pollution

The MARPOL Conference, a crucial component of the World Maritime Day celebrations, highlighted the imperative need to prevent pollution of the marine environment. MARINA's Domestic Shipping Service (DSS) and Franchising Service (FS) Director Atty. Maria Rowena Hubilla delivered the opening remarks. She emphasized that the maritime industry must unite to confront the pressing issue of marine pollution.

"This conference provides us with a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, best practices, and innovative solutions that will contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable maritime environment," Atty. Hubilla said.

## STCW Forum: Upholding the Highest Standards of Safety and Competence in the Maritime Industry

The STCW Forum, on the other hand, concentrated on two pivotal updates within the maritime industry. The EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) Audit and Independent Evaluation were thoroughly discussed by the MARINA STCW Office's Public Information Division. These discussions were instrumental in enhancing the industry's commitment to sustaining compliance with international safety standards.

Additionally, the forum tackled the updates on the application of STCW Certificates, providing clarity and guidance on the certification process. By upholding the highest standards of competence, the industry aims to ensure the safety of seafarers and optimize their contribution to the prevention of marine pollution.

This year's celebration of National Maritime Week culminated with the presentation of the Exceptional Bravery At Sea awards, recognizing individuals whose acts of courage and valor at sea exemplify the maritime industry's dedication to safety and human welfare.

Certificate of Commendation was given to the officers and crew of MV Iberian Bulker. This commendable team effort was attributed to the following individuals: Noel Aquino, Eubert Jay Racadag, Baltazar Pangilinan, Kevin Sumutya, Leonardo Jr Perez, Ramses Cabanas, William Aring, Eric John Barretto, Kim Harvey Bustalino, Llyod Malicdem, Nino Planco, Harvey John Velasco, Jovito De Mesa, and Del Ian Anunciado.

Further honoring the spirit of bravery and courage at sea, the Award for Exceptional Bravery At Sea was presented to the officers and crew of MV Hanze Goteborg, consisting of Paul Vincent Obaob, Samuel Jr Cartagena, Roy Pizon, Raul Ayap, Jericho Thomas Navales, Allan Ugat, John Michael Mollejon, Emmanuel Mero, Ashley Lacdaying, Erwin Alburo, Juami Quiam Calabio, Ernesto Jr. Elumbaring, Apolinarion Jr. Sarmiento, and Allan Lopes.

In his closing remarks, Capt. Vicente C. Navarro, Deputy Executive Director of the STCW Office, expressed his gratitude for the invaluable insights, discussions, and connections shared throughout the occasion. The collaborative spirit exhibited during these events underscored the maritime industry's unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship, safety, and competence.



MARINA-STCW Office and industry stakeholders celebrate World Maritime Day and the National Maritime Week through a MARPOL Conference and an STCW Forum.



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## MARINA HIGHLIGHTS WORLD MARITIME DAY...

"It is essential to remember that the strength of our maritime community lies in our ability to come together, to learn from one another, and to adapt to the ever-changing maritime environment. We are united by our shared passion for the sea, our commitment to safety, and our dedication to preserving the integrity of our industry," Capt. Navarro emphasized.

As World Maritime Day coincided with the National Maritime Week, the MARINA's efforts to promote sustainability and safety in the maritime sector serve as a testament to the country's dedication to becoming a global leader in sustainable and proficient maritime practices.



## MARINA ENGAGES IN BLUE ECONOMY DIALOGUE IN BICOL REGION

Legazpi City — The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), a strategic partner of the Mariners' Polytechnic Colleges Foundation in the Bicol Region, actively participated in a significant Multi-Stakeholder Consultation-Workshop on Mainstreaming Blue Economy. This collaborative event unfolded at the Proxy Hotel in Legazpi City on 28 September 2023.

Throughout the day, the consultation workshop delved into a diverse range of pressing topics, fostering insightful discussions and shared perspectives:

The day commenced with a focus on "Blue Economy: Towards a Prosperous Archipelagic Maritime Nation," setting the tone for the discussions that followed. Participants explored the profound implications of the Maritime Industry Development Plan 2028 (MIDP 2028) on regional development agendas, emphasizing the need for a unified approach to regional growth. The MIDP 2028 was presented by MARINA Planning and Policy Service Director Luisito Delos Santos.

Environmental stewardship emerged as a key theme, with an emphasis on "Marine Environmental Protection in the Blue Economy." The importance of preserving and safeguarding coastal habitats and their blue carbon stocks was a highlight.

Attention then turned to empowering coastal communities through "Sustainable Enterprise Development for Resilient Coastal Communities." Participants engaged in dynamic discussions on sustainable practices that enhance the resilience and prosperity of coastal areas.

Alternative livelihood opportunities were explored in the session on "Sea Cucumber Culture," which shed light on how this initiative can provide new economic avenues for coastal communities.

The day's discourse reached its pinnacle with

a focus on "Coastal Ecotourism Development." The potential for ecotourism to not only stimulate economic growth but also promote environmental conservation was underscored.

In closing, Atty. Maximo I. Bañares, Jr., Director II of MARINA Regional Office No. V imparted a crucial message: "The Blue Bikol champions should turn the table and start with the grassroots to the top in order to achieve success." This call to action emphasized the importance of grassroots efforts in driving forward the Blue Economy initiative.





# PHL CELEBRATES 28TH NATIONAL SEAFARERS' DAY; KICKS OFF 24TH NATIONAL MARITIME WEEK WITH A FOCUS ON OCEAN CONSERVATION AND SEAFARER CONTRIBUTIONS

The National Seafarers' Day Committee, in collaboration with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and Stella-Maris Philippines, celebrated the 28th National Seafarers' Day on 24 September 2023, at Pier 13, Port Area, Manila, which also marked the beginning of the 24th National Maritime Week.

This year's theme, "Marinong Filipino: Patuloy sa Pangangalaga ng Karagatan!" underscores the Philippines' commitment to preserving the maritime environment and the invaluable contributions of Filipino seafarers to the world.

The event commenced with a Holy Mass led by Most Rev. Ruperto Cruz Santos D.D., Bishop of Antipolo, Bishop Promoter of Stella Maris Manila, setting the tone for a week-long celebration that pays homage to the nation's seafarers and their vital role in safeguarding the oceans. The religious ceremony invoked blessings upon the seafarers who ventured into the seas in the name of their profession.



MARINA, PCG, and Stella-Maris Philippines unite to celebrate National Seafarers' Day.



MARINA, PCG, and Stella-Maris Philippines Officials join hands to kick off the National Maritime Week by honoring the Filipino Seafarers, and Maritime Environment Preservation.



The PCG also launched the Cadets Onboard Training Monitoring System, a technological advancement in maritime training that will enhance the monitoring and training of aspiring seafarers during their onboard experiences.

MARINA STCW Office Deputy Executive Director, Capt. Vicente C. Navarro, representing Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia, delivered remarks that underscored the paramount role of seafarers in the maritime industry. He praised their unwavering dedication and contributions, emphasizing that the celebration serves as a reminder of their significance to the nation and the global maritime community.

The MARINA also symbolically handed over the torch to the PCG, signifying the latter's assumption of the lead agency role for the 2024 National Maritime Week Celebration.

To conclude the event, the National Seafarers' Day Committee, led by its Chairperson and Director/Chaplain of Stella Maris Manila, Fr. Paulo H Prigol, held an Ecumenical Memorial at Sea, honoring the memory of seafarers who have tragically lost their lives at sea.



# BEACON 2023 KICKS OFF MANA MO CELEBRATION

PASAY CITY -- The meaningful celebration for this year's Maritime Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo) has officially started with a pristine trade exhibition.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) through its Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS) and the new internally created Marine Environment Protection Development Service (MEPDS) in coordination with the Maritime League and Department of Transportation (DOTr) hosted the first-ever Blue Economy Annual Trade and Conference (BEACON 2023) from 06 - 08 September 2023.

With the theme "Philippine Blue Economy: Insights and Foresights," BEACON 2023 sought to advance the interests of the country's maritime sector through information sharing, marine technology exhibits, and active participation of concerned government agencies and maritime stakeholders.

During the opening ceremony, Maritime League Inc. President Vice Admiral Eduardo MA R Santos highlighted the importance of the blue economy to the general public including those who are doing business or working in the maritime industry. He emphasized that the blue economy will also benefit the development of the country's tourism, shipbuilding, marine transport, and fishing sectors among others.

For his part, MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani Fabia said that BEACON 2023 will not only showcase the current trends and latest developments in the Philippine maritime sector but also in the Oil and Gas and Defense industry. He considered BEACON 2023 as a momentous event that will change the landscape of promoting the said industries in the country to the international community.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary for Maritime Mr. Elmer Francisco Sarmiento enumerated the challenges that the maritime sector is currently facing. He emphasized that the government must harness the potential of the Blue Economy in response to challenges such as overfishing, environmental degradation, and territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea. The Undersecretary also emphasized that the said concept goes beyond traditional

economic growth, emphasizing sustainability, conservation, and responsible management of marine resources.

By embracing the concept of Blue Economy, Usec. Sarmiento remains confident that it can secure our future while contributing to global efforts in combating climate change and preserving biodiversity.

Meanwhile, National Coast Watch Council Secretariat Executive Director Undersecretary Edmund Tayao encouraged participants of BEACON 2023 to be the "real stakeholders" of Blue Economy, as it is not only about the economy itself but also about security. With that, Usec. Tayao reiterates that real work can only be done as far as securing our archipelago if the Filipinos know more about the Philippines as a nation particularly its advantages, richness, and the reason why the foreigners have always been going to the Philippines.





# EU CRIMARIO TRAINS MARINA AND NCWC PERSONNEL FOR MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY INFORMATION-SHARING

In a concerted effort to bolster maritime safety and security in line with the Maritime Industry Development Plan 2028 (MIDP 2028), the European Union Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (EU CRIMARIO), under the leadership of Mr. Kenneth Nijnes, conducts training for personnel from the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC) from 18-22 September 2022 at the B-Hotel, Quezon City. This training focused on the effective utilization of the Indian Ocean Regional Information Sharing (IORIS).

The primary objective of this comprehensive training is to equip MARINA and NCWC personnel with the necessary skills to become proficient trainers and operators of the IORIS Platform, facilitating seamless information sharing within and between agencies.

During the Opening Ceremony, Director Engr. Ronaldo P. Bandalaria of the Enforcement Service welcomed the participants and underscored the significance of the five-day Foundation Course. He also emphasized that the trained participants will be at the forefront of implementing the project across various service units and Regional Offices.

Notably, on 7 September 2023, critical agreements were signed between MARINA, NCWC, and EU CRIMARIO, marking a pivotal step towards ensuring the safety and security of maritime industries in the archipelago, ushering in a new era of prosperity and security.



MARINA and NCWC Personnel join European Union Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean Initiative to enhance maritime safety and security.

## MARINA, EU CRIMARIO, NCWC JOIN FORCES TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY

MANILA – As the maritime industry continues to propel its long-term Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has taken a significant stride by solidifying agreements with the EU-CRIMARIO and the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC) on 07 September 2023, dedicated to advancing safety and security in the maritime sector.

In his address, MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani Fabia expressed heartfelt gratitude to the



MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia signs agreements with EU-CRIMARIO and NCWC.

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# MARINA, EU CRIMARIO, NCWC JOIN FORCES TO...

EU-CRIMARIO and the NCWC, envisioning that these partnerships “will further strengthen our camaraderie and intensify maritime security.”

“This significant undertaking is an integral part of the country’s Maritime Industry Development Plan 2028 (MIDP). Rest assured that the terms stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement and the IORIS Partnership Agreement will be diligently observed by our Agency. I sincerely hope that the NCWC, the MARINA, and the EU-CRIMARIO will become formidable partners in delivering public service for mutual concerns... Indeed, with our valuable partnership and mutual cooperation, I am confident that we will achieve a safer and more secure maritime industry within the archipelago,” Administrator Fabia stated.

MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Sonia Malaluan, in her address, highlighted the significance of the IORIS Partnership Agreement, stating, “The IORIS Partnership Agreement will enable our Agency to utilize the IORIS platform, a project fully funded by the European Commission, which serves as a neutral and secure channel for operational coordination and communication. On the other hand, our Memorandum of Agreement with NCWC will enhance the effective and efficient implementation of a safe, secure, and peaceful maritime environment in the Philippines.”

EU CRIMARIO Project Director Martin Cauchi-Inglott emphasized the importance of coordination and sustained maritime information exchange, saying, “Coordination between national agencies and sustained maritime information exchange are key to a safer and more secure maritime domain, particularly in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. We are pleased to acknowledge that Filipino agencies are determined to move in that direction.”

NCWC Director CG VADM Roy A Echeverria stressed the comprehensive nature of their duty, saying, “Our duty extends beyond safeguarding our waters; it reaches into securing the livelihoods of our people, protecting our environment, and fortifying the foundations of our maritime industry. With this responsibility comes the understanding that our

successes rely on our ability to form alliances, share expertise, and align our strategies.”

Enforcement Service Director Ronaldo Bandalaria announced that MARINA would be actively participating in the IORIS Steering Committee to ensure the long-term implementation, sustainability, and regional governance of the Project, saying, “We will be counting on your support for the fulfillment and success of our joint endeavors.”

The collaboration among MARINA, EU CRIMARIO, and NCWC underscores a collective commitment to advancing maritime safety and security, ultimately contributing to a safer and more prosperous maritime industry in the Philippines.



MARINA Administrator Atty. Hernani N. Fabia shakes hand with the EU-CRIMARIO and the NCWC signifying its collaboration in advancing safety and security in the maritime sector.





# MARINA UNVEILS PIONEERING 'ROPAX FLEET SAFETY ENHANCEMENT CONCENTRATED CAMPAIGN' IN COLLABORATION WITH FRENCH MARITIME EXPERT

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and French Maritime Expert (FME) marked a historic moment with the launch of the 'Concentrated Campaign on the Enhancement of the ROPAX Fleet Safety Level' at the MARINA Regional Office IV in Batangas City on 27 September 2023.

This program is set to redefine safety standards within the Philippines' domestic ROPAX (Roll-on/Roll-off Passenger) fleet in various regions and will run until November 2023. Furthermore, the ROPAX Fleet Concentrated Campaign will address identified safety issues and ensure compliance with rules and regulations governing this type of ship.

Concurrently, MARINA conducted its inaugural assessment of a ROPAX vessel owned and operated by Montenegro Shipping Lines Inc. at Batangas Port. Mr. Emeric Faure, the FME who took the helm as the campaign's presenter, focused on the ROPAX evaluation campaign questionnaire in accordance with the Philippine Merchant Marine Rules and Regulations (PMMRR) of 1997 and other MARINA Safety Circulars.

This groundbreaking campaign was attended by Engr. Ramon C. Hernandez, Director of Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS) and Marine Environment Protection Development Service (MEPDS), Engr. Rizal J. Victoria, Director of MRO4, and MARINA technical personnel from the Shipyards Regulation Service (SRS), Maritime Safety Service (MSS), Enforcement Service (ES), MRO-NCR, and MRO4.



Several MARINA personnel take notes during the Safety Enhancement Campaign for Domestic ROPAX Fleet.

## OATH TAKING CEREMONY FOR MERCHANT MARINE OFFICERS ANCHORS NATIONAL MARITIME WEEK 2023

Conducted every quarter of the year, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Examination and Assessment Division (EAD) under the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Office, held an oath taking ceremony for Marine Deck and Engineer Officers on 27 September 2023, at the AMOSUP Convention Hall in Intramuros, Manila.

A total of 56 dedicated marine deck and engineer officers embarked on a new chapter of their careers as they were officially sworn into their roles. This significant event, which also took place as part of the



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## OATH TAKING CEREMONY...

celebration of National Maritime Week, emphasized the gravity of their duties in ensuring the safety of lives at sea and protecting the marine environment.

For the Deck Department, there were 39 oath takers comprising 12 Master Mariners, one (1) Chief Mate, and 26 Officers-In-Charge of a Navigational Watch (OIC-NW). As for the Engine Department, 25 marine engineer officers comprising six (6) Chief Engineer Officers, two (2) Second Engineer Officers, and 17 Officers-In-Charge of an Engineering Watch (OIC-EW) also took their oath.

The oath-taking ceremony, which is also in line with the celebration of National Maritime Week, symbolizes the official commencement of a marine officer's commitment to their duties, responsibilities, and obligations as guardians of safety at sea and stewards of the marine environment. It serves as a solemn promise to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and dedication throughout their careers.

The event was graced by MARINA STCW Office Deputy Executive Director Capt. Vicente C. Navarro, who delivered a welcoming address, emphasizing that this day marked a pivotal moment in the lives of the new officers as they assumed leadership roles in the industry.

"We, in the Administration, are very proud and grateful to witness the commemorative day of your success in fulfilling your dreams and aspirations of becoming a certified and competent merchant marine officer of the country," Capt. Navarro said.

Integrated Seafarers of the Philippines (ISP) and Filipino Association of Mariners' Employment (FAME) President Capt. Gaudencio C. Morales provided an inspirational message that resonated

with the aspiring marine officers.

Several remarkable women were also sworn into their official duties, breaking down barriers and stereotypes that have historically characterized the maritime industry. These dedicated women marine officers have played a pivotal role in addressing gender disparities and championing diversity within the maritime sector.

Moreover, among those who took their oath was Mr. Van Alfred M. Villanueva, an Officer-in-Charge of a Navigational Watch (OIC-NW), who had been honored as the Seafarer of the Year at the Crew Connect Global Conference 2022 and as Cadet of the Year at the Seafarers Awards Singapore 2022.



56 Marine Deck and Engineer Officers take their official oaths at AMOSUP Convention Hall in Intramuros, Manila.



## WMU PH ALUMNI, AIMS HOLD JOINT INITIATIVE SYMPOSIUM; STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION FOR MET, EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

PASAY CITY – In a significant step toward advancing maritime education and training (MET) and harnessing emerging technologies, the World Maritime University Philippine Alumni Association, Inc. (WMUPAAI) and the Asian Institute of Maritime Studies (AIMS) have joined forces by conducting a symposium on 08 September 2023.



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## WMU PH ALUMNI, AIMS...

WMUPAAI President Atty. Jabeth Sena Jepath Dacanay and AIMS President Dr. Arlene Abuid-Paderanga spearheaded the organization of the symposium titled “Leveraging Maritime Education and Training for Emerging Maritime Technologies.”

The symposium commenced with a warm welcome from AIMS President Abuid-Paderanga, who emphasized the importance of the event as a platform to discuss, share insights, and collaborate to bridge the gap in technological advancements and human elements in maritime operations.

The MARINA, through its Planning and Policy Service (PPS) Director Mr. Luisito Delos Santos, promoted the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), highlighting the MARINA’s strategic initiatives and vision for the maritime industry’s future growth and sustainability.

In the symposium proper, MARINA STCW Office Maritime Education and Training Standards Supervisor (METSS) and concurrent Chief of Public Information Division and Monitoring Division Mr. Herbert Nalupa presented his dissertation titled “Challenges and Opportunities for Maritime Education and Training in the 4th Industrial Revolution”.

For their part, AIMS’ CEO, Dr. Felicito P. Dalaguete shared an AVP presentation underscoring the institution’s commitment to fostering maritime excellence. Afterward, Capt. Mario L. De Rama, a distinguished AIMS MARAD graduate, presented his research, titled “Employability and Employment Opportunities: The Case of Aging Seafarers”.

One of the key milestones of the symposium was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between AIMS and WMUPAAI. The partnership aims

to facilitate greater cooperation and synergy in the advancement of maritime education and training, development of emerging technologies, and industry-oriented research, among others.

As the highlight of the event, former MARINA Administrator and currently the WMU President, Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia Jr., delivered his remarks as the Keynote Speaker, emphasizing the significance of gathering after the voyage of exploration of all the WMU alumni in Malmo. He pointed out the importance of sharing knowledge and experiences among participants, noting how this enriches not only each other but also the advancement of the maritime industry and Philippine society.

“Let’s do more (symposium) because continued research and study are important. New knowledge is the key to innovation. The ability to create new knowledge is vital to consistent progress and sustained competitive advantage. These are what we need to leverage maritime education and training for emerging maritime technologies,” Dr. Mejia said.

To conclude the symposium, WMUPAAI President Atty. Jabeth Sena Jepath Dacanay delivered closing remarks, underscoring the collective commitment to propelling the Philippines’ maritime education landscape forward.

“The WMUPAAI aims to organize exchanges like this – to stimulate more studies on how we can leverage maritime education and training in emerging maritime technologies and innovation. Our ultimate goal is to sustain the stature of the Philippines as the primary source of globally competitive, well-educated, well-trained, and competent, not only seafarers but other maritime professionals,” Atty. Dacanay highlighted.



WMU President Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia Jr., WMU-Philippines Alumni Association, and AIMS officials gather for a group photo during a symposium on Leveraging Maritime Education for Emerging Technologies.



# MARINA, DBP COLLABORATE TO ADVANCE MARITIME INDUSTRY MODERNIZATION IN REGION 8

The MARINA Regional Office VIII (MR08), in collaboration with the MARINA Central Office - Shipyard Regulation Service (SRS) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) Central Office, along with its branches in Region VIII, convened a virtual meeting to address crucial issues related to the modernization of ships as outlined in MARINA Circular No. 2016-02 on 04 September 2023.

The said meeting sought to provide solutions and promote the development of the maritime industry in the region. Key presentations during the meeting included: 1) Updates on the Ship/Boat Building in Eastern Visayas by Engr. Ivorre Francisco, 2) Updates on the Modernization Program pursuant to MC 2016-02 by Ms. Mildred Camino, and 3) "Cruise" by Ms. Raquel Anzures.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between MARINA and DBP on the scope of the financial package extended to maritime stakeholders, particularly in

Region VIII, has yet to be discussed. A further meeting with stakeholders is in the offing. It is noted that the objective of the MOA is to provide a framework for a partnership arrangement between MARINA and DBP for the purpose of providing financial assistance, which will promote, develop, and foster a sustainable and progressive maritime industry.

The meeting emphasized the importance of providing incentives and subsidies to boatbuilders and shipowners/operators, similar to those offered to the Land Transportation Sector. This initiative aims to stimulate growth and innovation within the maritime sector.

Another significant point of discussion revolved around MARINA's request for DBP to provide sample computations of the monthly loan amortizations, including interest rates. This request aimed to address concerns regarding the affordability of the financial package and the stakeholders' ability to meet payment obligations.

## MARINA CONSIDERS INCENTIVES IN REVIEW OF DOMESTIC SHIPPING ACT

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) is currently reviewing the 2004 Domestic Shipping Development Act, with a primary focus on providing incentives for shipowners and shipbuilders. These incentives, originally designed to encourage growth in the Philippine domestic shipping industry, were initially valid for a ten-year period and expired in 2014.

One of the key features of the law is the provision of value-added tax (VAT) exemptions for larger passenger and cargo vessels. While amending the law is part of MARINA's legislative agenda, as of now, no bill for its modification has been introduced in Congress.

Additionally, the Agency is advocating for the enactment of a Shipbuilding Ship Repair Development Act, with House Bills 4335 and 8374 proposing this act currently pending before the Committee on Trade and Industry.



**24<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL MARITIME WEEK**  
24-30 SEPTEMBER 2023

**28<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL SEAFARERS' DAY**  
24 SEPTEMBER 2023

**IMO MARPOL@50: Our Commitment Goes On**  
Marinong Filipino: Patuloy sa Pangangalaga ng Karagatan!

SUPPORTED BY:

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Dr. Philip Abayabay  
27th NSD (2022) - 13th On-the-Spot Art Contest Grand Winner  
Capital University, Cagayan de Oro



# MARINA GALLERY



MARINA Regional Office 8 Joins Global Maritime Celebration: San Juanico Bridge Illuminated in Blue for World Maritime Day.



MRO 6 Joins Global Maritime Community in Illuminating its office for World Maritime Day, Embracing Solidarity for MARPOL Commitment.



## MARINA Regional Director Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio Promoted to Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary Executive Squadron

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and its Regional Office VII (MRO7) proudly congratulate Engr. Emmanuel B. Carpio, Ph.D., Regional Director of MRO7, on his recent appointment and promotion as a distinguished member of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) Executive Squadron. This accomplishment reflects his unwavering commitment to public service and his outstanding leadership qualities. Engr. Carpio's dedication to serving the Filipino people serves as a powerful source of inspiration within the MARINA organization. His tireless efforts and exemplary leadership have consistently contributed to the betterment of the maritime industry and the nation as a whole.

Congratulations, AUX COM EMMANUEL B. CARPIO PCGA!



MARINA Region 7 officially unveils its San Remigio Extension Office.



# MARINA GALLERY

## Maritime Industry Authority Celebrates National Maritime Week Honoring Seafarers and Industry's Significance

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), together with its regional offices, celebrated National Maritime Week with a series of engaging activities and events aimed at acknowledging the invaluable contributions of seafarers and underlining the significance of the maritime industry in our nation's growth and prosperity from 24-30 September 2023.

