

**DAY OF THE FILIPINO SEAFARER 2024**  
25 June 2024 | Midas Hotel, Pasay, Metro Manila

# 2  
9:00 am

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

**HON. SONIA B. MALALUAN**  
Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority

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Distinguished guests, STCW Office Executive Director Mr. Samuel L. Batalla, Chairperson of the Committee for the Celebration of the Day of the Filipino Seafarer and Manpower Development Service Director Mr. Arsenio F. Lingad II, our speakers for today's morning session, our participants from Maritime Higher Education Institutions and Maritime Training Institutions, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is with great pleasure to welcome you all to this significant occasion as we celebrate the Day of the Filipino Seafarer 2024. Today, we come together to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of our Filipino seafarers, who continue to be the backbone of the global maritime industry.

This year's celebration of the Day of the Filipino Seafarer adapts the World Maritime theme, "Navigating the Future: Safety First," which underscores the paramount importance of safety in every aspect of maritime operations. Our campaign, highlighted by the hashtag SafetyTipsAtSea, serves as a reminder that the well-being of our seafarers is at the heart of everything we do. Safety is not just a protocol but a culture that must be ingrained in every maritime professional.

Our seafarers have shown exceptional dedication, resilience, and professionalism, navigating the world's oceans and ensuring the smooth transport of essential goods, as well as the safety of ocean travelers. Their hard work and sacrifices not only bolster the maritime industry but also uplift the economy of our nation and support countless families back home.

This year's celebration is particularly meaningful as we continue to recover from the challenges brought by the pandemic. Our seafarers have been at the forefront, facing unprecedented trials and uncertainties with unwavering strength and courage. Their commitment to their duties, despite the hardships, is truly commendable and deserves our utmost appreciation and recognition.

Safety is an integral part of our seafarers' everyday lives. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to navigate their duties safely. As we celebrate today, let us reinforce our commitment to creating a safer maritime environment, where every seafarer is protected, valued, and empowered.

As we embark on today's events, I encourage everyone to engage actively in the discussions and activities prepared for you. Let us use this opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore new ways to further enhance the welfare and wellbeing of our seafarers. Remember to incorporate hashtag [SafetyTipsAtSea](#) in your discussions and social media posts, spreading valuable safety insights across our community.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the organizers, speakers, and participants who have made this celebration possible. Your collective efforts are a testament to our shared commitment to the growth and excellence of the Filipino seafaring community.

Once again, welcome to the Day of the Filipino Seafarer 2024. May we continue to work together to support and empower our seafarers, ensuring that they receive the recognition and respect they truly deserve. Thank you, and mabuhay ang Pilipinong marino!