



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

BEACON 2024
“Opening Ceremony”

OPENING REMARKS
30 September 2024, 10:00 AM

SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator
Maritime Industry Authority

[OPENING SPIEL: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

TO OUR GUEST OF HONOR,
SECRETARY JAIME BAUTISTA;
TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MARITIME AND
OCEAN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ASEC. LOUIS ELFEREZ,
TO MARITIME LEAGUE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT VICE ADMIRAL
EDUARDO MA R SANTOS;
TO PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD COMMANDANT
ADMIRAL RONIE GIL GAVAN, REPRESENTED BY VICE ADMIRAL
ROLANDO PUNZALAN,
TO THE OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
TO OUR ESTEEMED MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS AND EXHIBITORS,
FELLOW WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT, DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, A VERY LOVELY MORNING TO
ALL.

SINCE THE INAUGURATION LAST YEAR, THE BEACON ENVISAGED
TO ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY'S MARITIME
SECTOR THROUGH INFORMATION SHARING, MARINE



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TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS.

RIGHT NOW, WE ARE ALL HERE TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INDUSTRY, ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMPANIES IN OUR COUNTRY AND FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE TO CONTINUE THAT EFFORT, SHOWCASING THE CURRENT TRENDS AND LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION, MARITIME TOURISM, MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION, OIL & GAS AND DEFENSE INDUSTRY.

IN THIS REGARD, IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE **BLUE ECONOMY ANNUAL TRADE AND CONFERENCE (BEACON 2024)** WHICH WILL CULMINATE THE MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION OF MARITIME ARCHIPELAGIC NATION AWARENESS MONTH (MANA-MO) PER PROCLAMATION NO. 316 SERIES OF 2017.

WITH THE THEME “**OCEANS OF OPPORTUNITY: SUSTAINING BLUE ECONOMY**”, THIS JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN THE MARITIME LEAGUE AND THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL FEATURE DIFFERENT UPDATES IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY OF THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY THE MARITIME SAFETY, MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION INCLUDING THE GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSION REDUCTION FROM SHIPS AND MARITIME SECURITY.



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WE, IN MARINA, HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING VARIOUS EFFORTS PARTICULARLY IN ASSESSING THE CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY OF THE MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO ENSURE ITS GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS.

AS REGARDS TO MARITIME SAFETY, THE MARINA, WITH ITS PARTNERED FRENCH MARITIME EXPERT (FME), HAS CONDUCTED THE “SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM OF THE ROPAX FLEET” WHICH IS IN LINE WITH REDUCING MARITIME INCIDENTS AND ENHANCING MARITIME SAFETY IN GENERAL.

MEANWHILE, THE MARINA, HAS TAKEN THE RESPONSIBILITY IN DEVELOPING STRATEGIC ACTION PLANS, REVIEWING AND AMENDING EXISTING POLICIES, AS WELL AS FACILITATION AND PARTICIPATION ON THE EMERGING MARITIME TRANSPORT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ISSUES, LIKE THE MARINE LITTER, BIOFOULING, AND DECARBONIZATION OF SHIPS.

I BELIEVE WE ALL AGREE THAT THE OVERALL SAFETY OF MARINE TRANSPORTATION IS ONE OF THE KEY PILLARS FOR A BLUE ECONOMY, FOR A BLUE NATION. ADMITTEDLY, WHILE THE PHILIPPINES IS RECENTLY CLASSIFIED BY WORLD BANK AS LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY; AND IDENTIFIED AS ONE OF THE EMERGING MARKET ECONOMIES IN THE EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION FOR A MIDDLE-INCOME DEVELOPING COUNTRY¹,

¹ [Country context | UNIDO](#)



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WE HAVE JUST BEGUN THE RIGORS OF GROUND WORK AND PERHAPS, TAKING ONE STEP AT A TIME, WITH THAT SLOWLY BUT SURELY STRIDES, WE WILL DEFINITELY GET THERE — OUR BECOMING A BLUE NATION — A LEADER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY, CONSERVATION EFFORTS, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, INVESTING IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES, PROMOTING SAFETY AND GREEN PRACTICES, AND PRIORITIZING THE PRESERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY, KNOWING THAT A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, SOCIAL STABILITY, AND OVERALL HUMAN WELL-BEING.

IN THIS REGARD, I ENCOURAGE OUR PARTNER AGENCIES AND RELEVANT MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS TO MAXIMIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO US IN THE NEXT THREE DAYS PARTICULARLY IN GAINING NEW KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNINGS ON ADVANCE MARITIME TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER VARIOUS INNOVATIONS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME INDUSTRY.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO THE BACK-TO-BACK MARINA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE TOMORROW, OCTOBER 1, 2024, IN THIS SAME VENUE, WITH THE THEME: “*CLEAN, GREEN AND SAFE SHIPPING: A STRONG PILLAR OF BLUE ECONOMY* “. THE MORNING SESSION WILL BE THE 4TH MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION FORUM, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY MANAGEMENT AND GREENHOUSE GAS



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EMISSIONS REDUCTION, BIOFOULING AND REDUCTION OF MARINE PLASTIC LITTER FROM SHIPS.

NEXT SESSION IN THE AFTERNOON IS THE MARITIME SAFETY CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL TACKLE UPDATES ON THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS THAT WERE RECOGNIZED THROUGH A RESOLUTION DURING THE MARITIME SAFETY SUMMIT LAST NOVEMBER 15, 2023; INCLUDED HERE IS THE DISCUSSION ON NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY, MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, WELFARE AND TRAINING OF MARITIME PROFESSIONALS, GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND SUPPORT MECHANISM.

WITH THAT, I LOOK FORWARD FOR THIS THREE – DAY EVENT TO BE INTERESTING AND BENEFICIAL TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

THANK YOU AND MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT.