

WORLD MARITIME DAY 2024

Navigating The Future: Safety First!

Simultaneous Lighting of IMO Building and Emblematic Landmarks

A Welcome Message

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Maritime Industry Authority

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TO MARINA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, STCWO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL OFFICE SERVICE UNITS, AND REGIONAL OFFICES, ALL MARINA EMPLOYEES, OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY WHO ARE PRESENT HERE AND JOINING US VIRTUALLY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD EVENING.

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD MARITIME DAY 2024, A MOMENTOUS OCCASION WITH A THEME, *“NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: SAFETY FIRST.”* THIS IS A SPECIAL MOMENT AS WE NOT ONLY CELEBRATE THE WORLD MARITIME DAY 2024 BUT ALSO REMEMBER THE ADOPTION OF THE 1974 SOLAS CONVENTION, 50 YEARS AGO. THIS IS INDEED A PERFECT MOMENT TO REFLECT ON THE LEARNINGS FROM THE PAST AND REVIEW OUR VITAL ROLES IN ENSURING SAFETY IN THE MARITIME TRANSPORT, AS WE NAVIGATE OUR OCEANS TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

WE COME HERE TOGETHER TO REMIND US OF IMPORTANCE OF MARITIME SAFETY. YOU AND I PLAY UNIQUE ROLES IN ENSURING SAFETY OF NUMBER 1.) OUR SEAFARERS AND OTHER MARITIME PROFESSIONALS WHO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE PERILS OF OUR UNPREDICTABLE OCEANS, AND 2.) SHIPS WHICH PROVIDE WATER TRANSPORTATION, FISHING AND OTHERS SHIPS USE FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS, HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AMONG OTHERS.

FOR US IN THE PHILIPPINE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, WE CONSIDER MARITIME SAFETY AS A MORAL IMPERATIVE, MORE THAN A MERE REGULATORY OBLIGATION, THAT WE MUST UPHOLD. COUNTLESS LIVES ARE AT RISK DUE TO ACCIDENTS, HUMAN ERROR AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES. THESE ACCIDENTS DO NOT ONLY CAUSE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE; THEY COULD ALSO DISRUPT THE BALANCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION.^[1] HENCE, LEARNING FROM THE PAST TRAGEDIES AND RECOGNIZING OUR SPECIFIC DUTIES IN SECURING SAFER INDUSTRY SHOULD BE OUR WAY FORWARD.

PEOPLE. INNOVATION. UNITY OF ACTION. THESE ARE THE THREE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE TODAY. AS WE CELEBRATE THIS DAY, LET US BE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIORITIZING OUR SEAFARERS' MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING IN CREATING A SAFER WORK ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE, WHICH IS CRITICAL IN MAINTAINING SAFETY AT SEA. PRESIDENT MARCOS' SIGNING OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 12021 ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS" LAST MONDAY IS A CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE OF HUMAN ELEMENT, IN PARTICULAR, THE WELFARE AND WELLBEING OF SEAFARERS, TOWARDS THE END GOAL OF ENSURING SAFETY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AT SEA.

IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT, THERE IS A NEED TO REALIGN OUR RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES TO RESEARCH, FOCUSING ON ADVANCED NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, AND INSTANT DATA SHARING TECHNOLOGIES, WHICH CAN LEAD TO INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT WILL ENABLE US TO MITIGATE RISKS AND RESPOND SWIFTLY TO EMERGENCIES.

LASTLY STRONG COLLABORATION IS ESSENTIAL. GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS, AND MARITIME ORGANIZATIONS CANNOT WORK IN ISOLATION. BY FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT OF COOPERATION, WE CAN COME UP WITH A ROBUST FRAMEWORK FOR MARITIME SAFETY THAT CAN BENEFIT THE WHOLE INDUSTRY.

IN CONCLUSION, I HOPE THAT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT SERVES AS A REAFFIRMATION OF YOUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PRIORITIZING SAFETY IN ALL MARITIME ACTIVITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, LET US CONTINUOUSLY ENDEAVOR TO KEEP OUR STANCE AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE IMO COUNCIL, OUR PEOPLE, CONTINUOUS INNOVATION, AND UNITY OF ACTION TOWARDS MARITIME SAFETY. PLEASE JOIN ME IN SHOWING THE GLOBAL MARITIME COMMUNITY, THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS GIVING THE WORLD ITS BEST!

MABUHAY AND TARA SA LIGTAS BIYAHENG DAGAT!

THANK YOU.

^[1] *Environmental Impacts Caused By Fire And Explosion Accidents In Maritime Activities: A Review*