



SEPTEMBER 2024 | Vol. VI, No. 09

MARINA NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Maritime Industry Authority | Republic of the Philippines



Turning the blue lights on: The MARINA Central Office in Manila lit up in blue to show its support for the annual celebration of World Maritime Day on 26 September 2024.



Photo courtesy of Presidential Communications Office

PBBM signs Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers

MANILA, Philippines – In a major step toward bolstering the maritime sector, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed Republic Act No. 12021, or the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers, on 23 September 2024. The law aims to establish comprehensive guidelines for the education, training, and certification of seafarers in both international and domestic shipping.

Continue to Page 4

MARINA Administrator Appointed as Vice-Chairperson of IFETAS on High-Tech Maritime Mobility

Busan, South Korea – Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of the International Forum on Education and Training for Advanced Seafarers (IFETAS) on High-Tech Maritime Mobility. The appointment was formalized during the inaugural International Maritime Mobility Forum (IMMF) held on 10 September 2024. Administrator Malaluan will serve in this prestigious position for a five-year term, from 10 September 2024 to 09 September 2029.

Continue to Page 4



INSIDE STORIES

Page 2

PBBM appoints Ms. Nenita S. Atienza as the new MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning

Page 2

PHL Representatives Selected as Vice Chairs of APEC SEN for 2025-2026 Term

Page 3

[Editorial] PBBM's Signing of the Magna Carta: A Transformative Moment for Filipino Seafarers

Page 5

MARINA hosts BEACON 2024 to promote maritime safety...

Page 10

World Maritime Day

Page 11

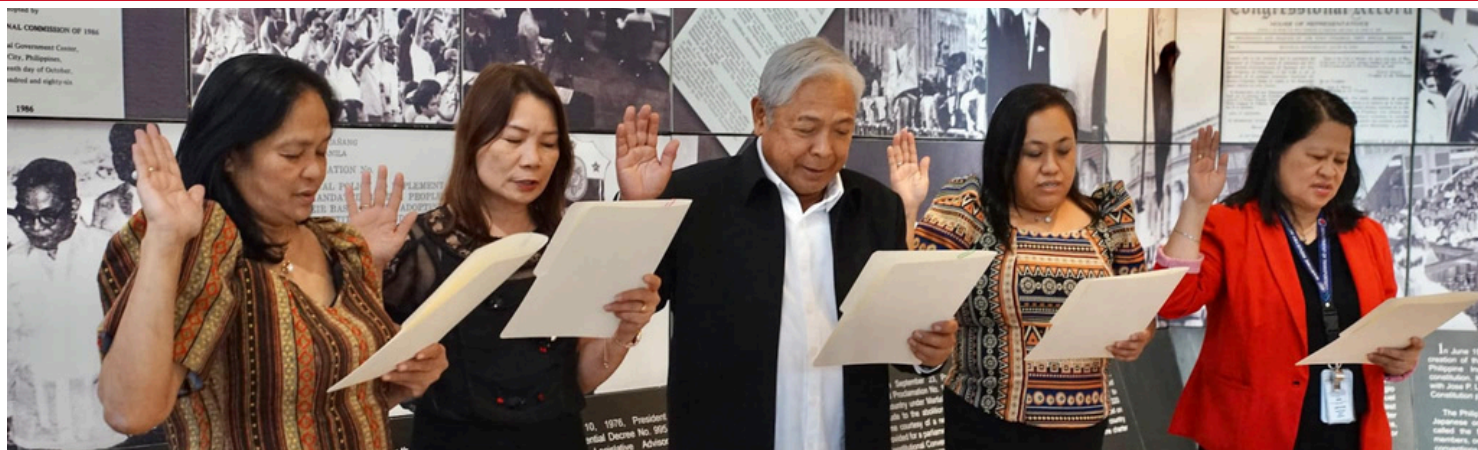
National Maritime Week



DOTMARINAPH



marina.gov.ph



PBBM appoints Ms. Nenita S. Atienza as the new MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning

Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime J. Bautista administered the oath-taking of newly-appointed MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Ms. Nenita S. Atienza along with other DOTr officials on 24 September 2024. This comes after the senior official's appointment signed by President Bongbong Marcos.

An insider, Ms. Atienza brings her wealth of experience of 41 years to the MARINA. She began her journey with the Agency in 1983.

Over the decades, she has played a key role in advancing the maritime industry, contributing significantly to its growth and development.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Atienza on her well-deserved appointment. Her dedication to operational excellence and her impactful leadership in the maritime sector will continue to guide MARINA towards creating more impacts to the maritime industry.

PH Representatives Selected as Vice Chairs of APEC SEN for 2025-2026 Term

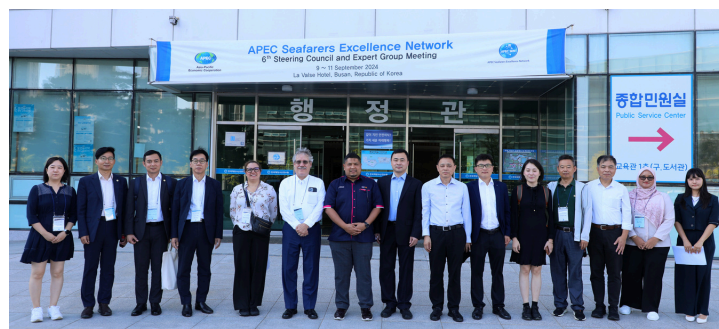
The Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), secured key leadership positions during the 6th APEC Seafarers Excellence Network (SEN) meetings held from September 9 to 11, 2024. Two MARINA representatives were chosen as Vice Chairs for the upcoming 2025-2026 term, solidifying the Philippines' commitment to enhancing maritime standards across the Asia-Pacific region.

Ms. Presca Lee B. Lugo, Maritime Education and Training Standards Supervisor at MARINA's STCW Office, was appointed Vice Chair of the APEC SEN Steering Council, while Mr. Herbert V. Nalupa was selected as Vice Chair of APEC SEN Expert Group 2. Their appointments reflect the Philippines' active role in addressing maritime education, training, and seafarer welfare at the international level.

The meetings gathered policymakers and experts from the APEC Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), Maritime Expert Group (MEG), and APEC SEN Steering Council to discuss pressing global maritime issues. Day one focused on navigation technology and the development of marine engineers, addressing the skills required for future seafarers, including education for autonomous vessels.

On the second day, Expert Group 1 examined challenges in maritime education and training, particularly in the context of emerging technologies and new standards. Topics included recent changes in seafarer employment, updates on the Korean ODA capacity-building program, and the transition to sustainable maritime human resources.

The final day highlighted discussions in Expert Group 2, which centered on improving the job appeal and rights of seafarers in the Asia-Pacific region. Issues like ambulance chasing in the Philippines, advancements in maritime labor rights, and the impact of COVID-19 on maritime transport were also addressed. Through MARINA's proactive international engagement, the Philippines remains committed to the professional growth and welfare of its seafarers.



**Maritime Industry
Authority
Publisher**

Merrowen M. Andong, MC
Editor-in-Chief

Jennie Rose L. Mallanao
Managing Editor

Tretch Boy I. Melarpes
Lead Correspondent for STCWO

Austin Bradley S. Magsino
Writer

Paul Jordan R. Abejero
Graphics/Layout Artist

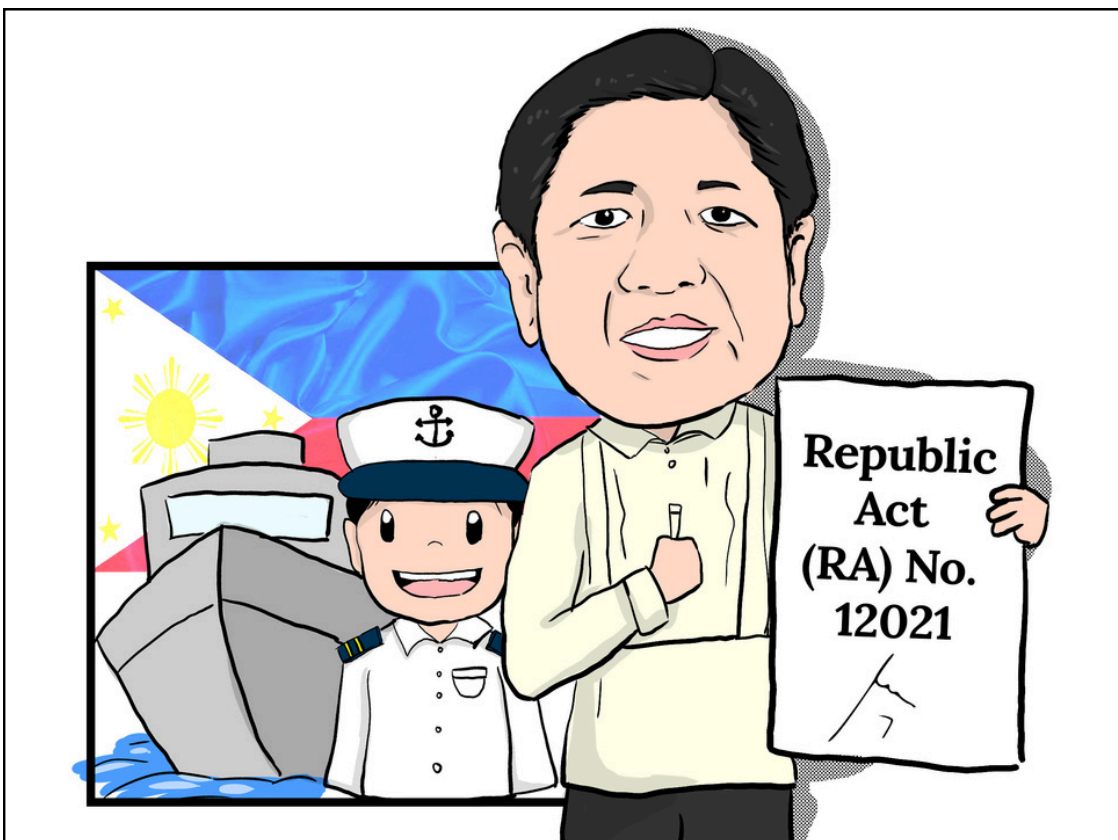
William Carlo B. Valenzuela
Editorial Cartoonist

Carlo Roman E. Atento
Photographer

**MARINA Service Units
MARINA Regional Offices**
Contributors

**Director Luisito U.
Delos Santos**
*Adviser as Director II,
Planning and Policy Service*

PBBM's Signing of the Magna Carta: A Transformative Moment for Filipino Seafarers



As we celebrate Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANAMo) and National Maritime Week, a significant milestone has emerged for the Filipino maritime community: President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has signed Republic Act No. 12021, the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers. This landmark legislation aims to redefine the landscape of maritime labor in the Philippines, establishing robust frameworks for the education, training, and certification of our seafarers in both international and domestic shipping.

This moment is not just a victory for policy; it is a recognition of the invaluable contributions of Filipino seafarers to the global maritime industry. As we navigate an increasingly complex maritime environment, the need for highly trained and certified professionals has never been greater. With MARINA stepping up to ensure rigorous accreditation and monitoring of maritime training institutions, we are on a path to bolster the quality and relevance of maritime education. This commitment to high standards is crucial, especially as the industry faces rapid technological changes and new challenges.

The Magna Carta places a strong emphasis on practical training aboard ships, establishing clear guidelines for training durations and qualifications for officers. However, what stands out is the law's proactive measures to ensure cadet safety, particularly the mechanisms

designed to address harassment and create a respectful training environment. This commitment to safeguarding our cadets speaks volumes about our collective responsibility to foster a culture of respect and professionalism in maritime training.

Moreover, the introduction of a 'green lane' for seafarers during crises exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to maritime labor. By ensuring the safe passage of our seafarers in times of crisis, the government is not just protecting individual rights but is also reinforcing the critical role that seafarers play in maintaining global supply chains. This initiative reflects a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by maritime professionals and demonstrates a commitment to their welfare.

In signing this Magna Carta, the Philippine government reaffirms its dedication to the Filipino seafarer, equipping them with the skills and protections needed to thrive in an ever-evolving industry. As we look to the future, it is imperative that we embrace this transformative moment, leveraging the law to enhance the professionalism, safety, and global standing of our maritime workforce. Let us work together to build on this foundation, ensuring that our seafarers are not only recognized for their contributions but are also empowered to excel in their vital roles on the world stage.

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 padmo@marina.gov.ph. Members of the Editorial Board assume full responsibility for all articles and contributions published in this newsletter.

PBBM signs Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers...

from page 1

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) will play a pivotal role in enhancing the education and training systems for Filipino seafarers. MARINA is tasked with accrediting, regulating, and monitoring institutions offering maritime degree programs and technical courses, ensuring high standards for overseas and domestic seafarers.

The new law also mandates the creation of a robust shipboard training framework, which includes setting training durations, qualifications for officers, and mechanisms to address harassment, underscoring the commitment to both practical training and cadet safety. MARINA is expected to work closely

with industry stakeholders to craft effective training guidelines that reflect the needs of the maritime workforce.

Additionally, the Magna Carta establishes a 'green lane' for the safe travel of seafarers during crises, further demonstrating the government's proactive approach to their welfare.

This landmark legislation reaffirms the Philippines' position as a global leader in maritime professionals, equipping Filipino seafarers with the skills needed to thrive in the industry while enhancing the safety and professionalism of the country's maritime workforce.

MARINA Administrator Appointed as Vice-Chairperson of IFETA...

from page 1

IFETAS, initiated by the Republic of Korea (RoK), brings together key stakeholders from seafaring nations, international maritime organizations, and research institutions to address the evolving landscape of maritime mobility. The forum aims to tackle challenges arising from rapid technological advancements and the global shift toward environmental sustainability, particularly within the maritime industry.

The forum's discussions highlighted emerging technologies, including AI-powered digital ships and Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS). Additionally, participants explored the global transition to a green supply chain, aligned with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) 2050 Net-Zero Strategy. These advancements emphasize the need for a shift in maritime education and training to equip seafarers with the skills required for operating these high-tech vessels.

The Republic of Korea, in collaboration with its international partners, is working to establish a global platform for training seafarers to safely operate advanced ships. The forum emphasized the importance of international cooperation, the development of a global training framework, and securing funding for projects aimed at preparing a skilled maritime workforce for the future.



The event gathered participants from key organizations, including the Korea Maritime Institute, Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering, and Korea Maritime & Ocean University. The forum concluded with the signing of a letter of intent, affirming the commitment of all participants to foster global collaboration in advancing maritime mobility.

Administrator Malaluan Advocates Continuous Learning for Seafarers at DMW Job Fair

MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan emphasized the importance of continuous learning for Filipino seafarers during the Department of Migrant Workers' (DMW) "Disenteng Trabaho para sa mga Marinong Filipino Mega Job Fair" on 22 September 2024. The event, held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, celebrated National Maritime Week and National Seafarers Day, offering over 3,000 employment opportunities from licensed manning agencies (LMAs).

In her address, Administrator Malaluan encouraged seafarers to embrace advancements like automation, digitalization, and decarbonization, noting that younger generations are

well-equipped to adapt to these changes. She also highlighted the importance of proper training, especially with the introduction of alternative fuels in the maritime industry, advising officers to be fully prepared before boarding.

As discussions on the STCW Convention continue, Administrator Malaluan reaffirmed her commitment to aligning training programs with the actual needs of seafarers, ensuring they remain competitive in the global market. During the event, she engaged with applicants to address concerns about the processing of COPs, COCs, SRBs, and SIDs, vowing to address delays in the issuance of SRBs.



MARINA Hosts BEACON 2024 to Promote Maritime Safety and Marine Environmental Protection



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) hosted BEACON 2024 in collaboration with the Maritime League, focusing on enhancing maritime safety and promoting marine environmental protection. Held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, the event showcased advancements in maritime transportation, naval defense, oil and gas, shipbuilding, renewable energy, and other sectors.

During the opening ceremony on 30 September 2024, Vice Admiral Eduardo Ma. R. Santos, President and Chairman of the Maritime League Inc., highlighted the importance of the blue economy for economic growth and national identity, especially as an archipelagic country. The event also marked the culmination of the National Maritime Archipelagic Awareness Month (MANA Mo).

Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista reaffirmed the government's support for the maritime sector and Filipino

seafarers through the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers, urging attendees to explore concrete ways to advance the blue economy.

MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan shared the agency's initiatives to assess the capabilities of the maritime transport sector and promote technologies such as automation, digitalization, and decarbonization. She also invited participants to the Marine Environment Protection Forum and the Maritime Safety Conference, hosted by MARINA on the second day of the expo.

The three-day event featured exhibitions and discussions on maritime safety, environmental challenges, and technological innovations. Simultaneously, the Manila International Boat Show took place at the Manila Yacht Club, showcasing further advancements in the maritime sector.



MARINA Presents Draft Papers for STCW Convention Revision

PASAY CITY – The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its STCW Office, hosted the "Usapang STCW" forum on 04 September 2024, as part of its preparations for the upcoming revision of the STCW Convention. The forum focused on discussing five draft papers that the Philippines plans to submit to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), gathering insights from key maritime stakeholders. This initiative underscores the country's efforts to ensure that the revised convention addresses both current challenges and future developments in the maritime industry.

The draft papers reflect the Philippines' commitment to contributing meaningfully to the global maritime framework. MARINA STCW Office Executive Director Samuel L. Batalla emphasized the importance of inclusivity and forward-thinking in the revision process, ensuring that the new standards cater to the evolving needs of seafarers and the maritime community at large.

"We are committed to contributing to a Convention that is not only a regulatory framework but also a tool for empowerment, enabling not only our seafarers but all maritime industry stakeholders to thrive in a dynamic and challenging future," Executive Director Batalla stated. He encouraged all participants to provide input that would shape a convention tailored to the realities of the maritime industry, both globally and in the Philippines.

During the event, STCW Office MET Standards Supervisor Presca Lee B. Lugo facilitated discussions on the draft papers. The morning session opened with Maritime Industry Development Specialist Margie M. Mataac presenting the first paper on the digitalization of documentation, including STCW certificates. This was followed by MET Standards Supervisor Capt. Ronald Sediego's presentation on reducing onboard training requirements, with a focus on advanced simulator-based training to improve efficiency.

continue to next page

from previous page

In the afternoon, ISWAN Country Manager Marville Cullen Espago addressed seafarer welfare issues, particularly workplace violence and harassment. MET Standards Supervisor C/E Charlie M. Pandongan presented a paper on the qualifications of seafarers aboard ships subject to the IGF Code. The final presentation by MET Standards Supervisor Herbert V. Nalupa highlighted the need to harmonize gaps between Regulation 1/10 and Regulation 1/2 for better implementation. The forum concluded with representatives from government agencies, Maritime Higher Education Institutions, Maritime Training Institutions, and other industry partners contributing valuable feedback, ensuring the Philippines plays a proactive role in shaping global maritime regulations.



MARINA welcomes first foreign-owned shipping company in the Philippines

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) welcomed the first foreign-owned shipping company in the Philippines.

Under its flagship intra-Asia brand CNC, the CMA CGM Group launched the CMA CGM Philippines Shipping (CCPS) as the first 100% foreign-owned shipping company registered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that will provide domestic shipping service in the country. The CNC Pilipinas, first Philippine-flagged vessel in the CMA CGM fleet, has a capacity to carry 1,037 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) would serve weekly via Luzon Visayas Mindanao Express (LVMX), with port rotation Manila-Cagayan De Oro-Cebu-Manila.

The MARINA led by Administrator Sonia Malaluan expressed its support to the CCPS during its inauguration ceremony held at Hilton Hotel, Pasay City on 27 September 2024. Malaluan highlighted that the Agency welcomes new players such as CMA CGM in the country especially with the amendment of RA 11659 otherwise known as Public Service Act, which allows 100 percent foreign ownership. She said that MARINA believes that this development will lead to attracting more investments and

level up the competition in the maritime sector. The Administrator added that they expect bigger, better, greener and safer ships in the domestic shipping following the entry of the CMA CGM Philippines, as well as more job opportunities for Filipino seafarers and reduced transport cost in the future.

Undersecretary for Maritime Elmer Francisco Sarmiento said that the government focuses on safety, decarbonization and innovation through digitalization, which is consistent with the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028. He emphasized that safety is the main priority and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) is confident that CNC will be a core partner in promoting a safety culture and green shipping in the country. Usec. Sarmiento believes that CNC will lead the way in decarbonizing sea transport in line with the goal of complying with the IMO GHG strategy.

The CNC Philippines Domestic Shipping Service Launch was also attended by CMA CGM Asia Pacific CEO Bo Wegener, CNC CEO Steven Zhu, French Ambassador H.E. Marie Fontanel and other MARINA officials among others.

MARINA Harmonizes Strategic Plans for 2025 to Enhance Maritime Industry Initiatives



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) held a strategic planning workshop focused on harmonizing key plans for Fiscal Year 2025 from 02-04 September 2025.

The activity aimed to ensure the effective implementation of MARINA's Programs, Activities, and Projects (PAPs) for 2025, while also enhancing project and procurement planning and optimizing resource allocation.

In her address, MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan highlighted the importance of aligning these plans with Executive Order 55, which adopts the Ten-Year Maritime Industry Development Plan 2028, and other agency initiatives. "We bear significant responsibilities, and it is crucial that our plans are not only meticulously crafted but also seamlessly aligned and executed across our strategic posts," she stated.

continue to next page



from previous page

The event provided a platform for the presentation, discussion, and alignment of critical documents, including the Annual Plans and Budget (APB), Learning and Development Plan (LDP), Annual Procurement Plan (APP), Annual Regulatory Plan (ARP), MARINA Voyage Plan (MVP), and Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP).

Representatives from MARINA service units participated in the event and committed to the effective execution of all the initiatives to drive enhancements in the maritime sector.



MARINA Chief Presents Investments Opportunities to European Chambers

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) presented various investment opportunities in the Philippine maritime industry to different European chambers of commerce and industry.

During the Joint Maritime Committee (JMC) Meeting, MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan discussed the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028, as well as the respective legislative agenda and high impact projects for each MIDP program. The event was held at German Club Manila in Makati City on 29 August 2024, and it was facilitated by JMC Chairperson Mr. Tore Henriksen.

Malaluan presented the 10-point agenda under her administration and the highlights of accomplishments during first quarter of the year. Aside from MIDP 2028, she provided updates on the rollout of MARINA Blockchain Enabled Automated Certification System (BEST); the efforts in relation to the Agency's goal in expanding its ISO 9001:2015 certification; bilateral agreements on recognition of STCW certificates; as well as various partnership with concerned government agencies and relevant maritime stakeholders.

Among other accomplishments that were presented are programs related to enhancing maritime safety; the inclusion of the Philippines in the "IMO Whitelist," which recognized

the country's commitment to maintaining high standards in maritime education, training, and certification for seafarers; the proposed policy on operational flexibility; capacity building and cooperation on alternative fuels; and the respective Bills that aim to improve ship registry and shipbuilding and ship repair sector.

The Administrator was accompanied by MARINA Planning and Policy Service Director Luisito delos Santos. The said meeting was also attended by German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Nordic Chamber of Commerce, French Chamber of Commerce, Dutch Chamber of Commerce and Philippine-Norway Business Council among others.



MARINA participates in 31st Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum



The event emphasized the importance of international collaboration in marine casualty investigations and maritime safety.

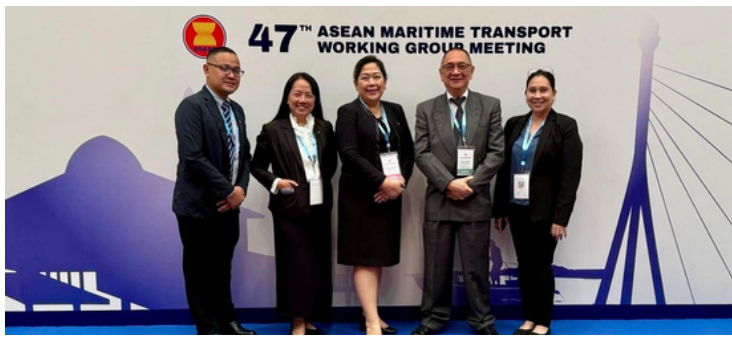
Representing the Philippines were Engr. Ronaldo P. Bandalaria, MARINA ES Director, and Engr. Gielver M. Castillo, Senior MIDS. The forum brought together 29 countries from Europe, Asia, America, and Africa to enhance cooperation and share expertise in marine safety investigations.

During the forum, the Philippine delegation presented insights from the recently concluded Marine Accident Investigators' Forum in Asia (MAIFA24), held in Boracay, Aklan. Discussions also covered each country's progress in maritime safety investigations, a review of the MAIIF charter, and plans for future collaboration.

The Maritime Industry Authority-Enforcement Service (MARINA-ES) participated in the 31st Session of the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (MAIIF31) held in Beijing, China from 23-27 September 2024.

The event focused on sharing best practices and the outcomes of various marine safety investigations, highlighting the importance of training and continuous professional development for investigators.





ASEAN Adopts Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management to Protect Marine Ecosystems

The ASEAN Member States adopted the Regional Strategy on Biofouling Management during the 47th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) meeting in Brunei Darussalam, held from 17 to 18 September 2024. This strategy aims to enhance biofouling management practices across the region to protect marine ecosystems and improve the energy efficiency of ships.

Led by MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations, Ms. Nannette V. Dinopol, the Philippine delegation presented the draft strategy. The initiative, a collaboration between the Philippines, Indonesia, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and PEMSEA, demonstrates a collective commitment to sustainable maritime operations and marine ecosystem preservation.

The strategy's adoption opens opportunities for capacity-building among ASEAN Member States, with the Philippines and Indonesia promoting regional cooperation on biofouling management. This effort is supported by the IMO and PEMSEA, fostering coordinated action at the ASEAN level.

The Philippines expressed gratitude to ASEAN dialogue partners and the European Union for their support in capacity-building and technical assistance, which have helped the country comply with maritime conventions.

The Philippine delegation included representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MARINA, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA).

MARINA Takes Part in WIMA Asia Regional Conference to Boost Women's Maritime Leadership



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) took an active role in the Women in Maritime Association (WIMA) Asia Regional Conference held from 10-12 September 2024. Themed "Tides and Change: Women Leading to a Sustainable and Innovative Maritime Future," the conference was organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Women in Maritime Association - Korea (WIMA-Korea). It aimed to address the challenges women face in the maritime industry and empower them through education and collaboration.

MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan highlighted the Philippines' leadership in the maritime sector, with a strong focus on digitalization and decarbonization. She introduced MARINA's "Charting a Clean Course" campaign, emphasizing responsible governance and sustainability. Malaluan also showcased digital innovations like the MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) System and the Blockchain Enabled Automated Certification System (MARINA-BEST), both designed to enhance efficiency and transparency in maritime operations.

In addition to digitalization, Malaluan discussed MARINA's efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the development of a National Strategy and Action Plan on decarbonization. She stressed the importance of partnerships with government and industry stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of these initiatives, further strengthening MARINA's role in driving industry-wide reforms.

Atty. Sharon D. Aledo, MARINA's Director for Legal Service, contributed to the discussions as a panelist, focusing on the evolving leadership roles of women in the Asian maritime sector. She emphasized the importance of inclusivity, collaboration, and the crucial role of women in driving innovation, while addressing the challenges posed by gender stereotyping in the industry.

The conference gathered representatives from various sectors, including private companies and government agencies, from across the region.

MARINA Hosts MAIFA24 to Enhance Maritime Safety Cooperation

Malay, Aklan – The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Enforcement Service (ES), successfully hosted the Marine Accident Investigators' Forum in Asia 2024 (MAIFA24) from 4-6 September 2024. The event aimed to strengthen collaboration and improve maritime safety by bringing together international delegates and marine investigators from across the region.

In her opening remarks, MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan emphasized the significance of proactive discussions during the forum, highlighting MAIFA's role in fostering a progressive and collaborative spirit in the maritime sector. She underscored the importance of continuous cooperation to enhance safety practices in the industry.

Throughout the three-day forum, delegates exchanged insights and presented case studies on critical maritime incidents, such as ship sinkings, collisions, capsizing, occupational accidents, and onboard fires. The event provided a platform for sharing best practices and new methodologies in marine casualty

investigations. Key updates on the Comprehensive Review of the Casualty Investigation Code and findings from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) were also discussed.

One of the highlights of MAIFA24 was the formal inclusion of Saudi Arabia as the forum's 15th member, further expanding the organization's international scope. The event was attended by representatives from 11 member states, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia. Observers from France, Denmark, the Marshall Islands, and Saudi Arabia also participated, alongside local stakeholders like the Filipino Shipowners Association and the Philippine Coast Guard.

The forum concluded with a renewed commitment to international cooperation in marine accident investigations, aiming to create safer seas across the region. Singapore was announced as the host for the next MAIFA in 2025.



MARINA Concludes 3rd Capacity Building Workshop on Marine Casualty Investigation

MANILA CITY- The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Enforcement Service, concluded the third batch of its "Capacity Building Workshop on the Conduct of Marine Casualty Investigations," held from 16-20 September 2024.

The event aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out marine casualty investigations, following the standards set by the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Casualty Investigation Code.

The workshop sought to promote a unified approach to investigating marine casualties and incidents to prevent future occurrences and enhance overall safety standards in the maritime industry. Engr. Ronaldo P. Bandalaria, Director of MARINA's Enforcement Service, led the event, alongside MARINA Regional Office VI Director Jeffrey A. Bangsa and investigators Reneil M. Pascual and Engr. Gielver M. Castillo. Special guest, Mr. Francois-Xavier Rubin de Cervens, Chairman of the European Marine

Accident Investigators' International Forum, shared valuable insights and best practices from France.

Deputy Administrator for Operations, Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol, emphasized MARINA's strong commitment to maritime safety during the workshop. She urged participants to engage actively and learn from the experts, stressing the importance of fostering a culture of safety, ensuring safer vessels, and promoting a more secure maritime environment.

In his closing remarks, Engr. Bandalaria thanked the participants for their dedication, which contributed to the workshop's success. He also commended MARINA's Enforcement Service for organizing the event and highlighted the agency's commitment to continuously raising safety standards in the maritime industry. A total of 40 participants from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MARINA, and other maritime stakeholders completed the training, enhancing their capacity to conduct safety investigations.



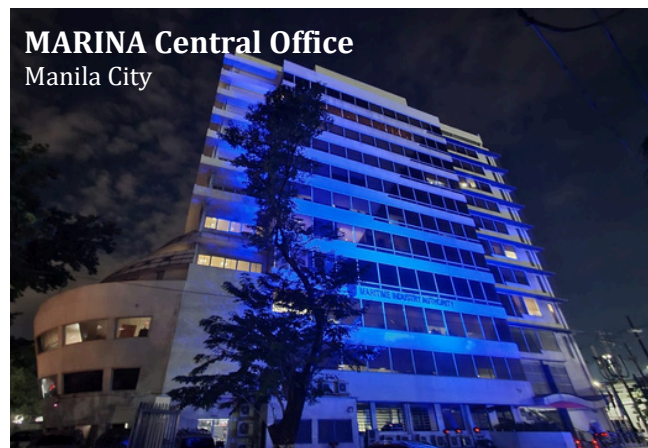
MARINA Lights Up in Blue for World Maritime Day 2024

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) joined the global celebration of World Maritime Day on 26 September 2024, illuminating its Central and Regional Offices in blue to symbolize unity within the maritime community. This year's theme, "Navigating the Future: Safety First," highlighted the crucial role of safety in the maritime industry.

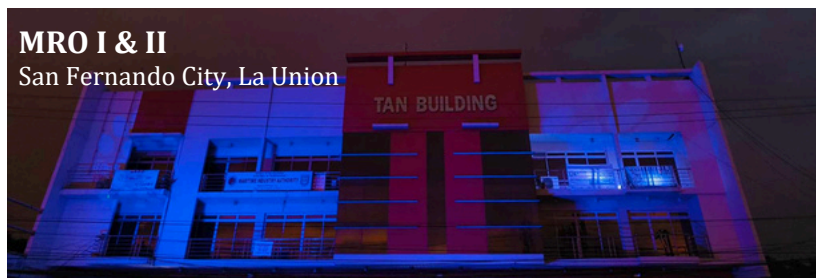
MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan, in a special program, stressed that safety is both a regulatory and moral responsibility. She also emphasized the importance of prioritizing seafarers' well-being to create a safer work environment.

The recent signing of the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers was celebrated as a significant step in recognizing the value of seafarers and ensuring safety at sea. Department of Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista and IMO Secretary General Arsenio Dominguez also highlighted the importance of maritime safety and the role of international standards.

MARINA remains committed to upholding safety standards and promoting the well-being of seafarers as the Philippines navigates toward a safer maritime future.



MARINA Central Office
Manila City



MRO I & II
San Fernando City, La Union



MRO V
Legazpi City



MRO IX
Zamboanga City



MRO VII
Cebu City



MRO VI
Iloilo City

MARINA Celebrates World Maritime Day with Oath Taking for Merchant Marine Officers

In celebration of World Maritime Day and National Maritime Week, MARINA, through its Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) Office, held an oath-taking ceremony for 77 newly sworn marine deck and engineer officers on 26 September 2024 at the AMOSUP Convention Hall, Intramuros, Manila.

The ceremony marked the official start of these officers' commitment to their duties, with 45 deck officers and 32 engineering officers sworn into their ranks. STCW Executive Director Samuel L. Batalla encouraged the officers to embrace growth and leadership within the shipping industry.

Capt. Juanito G. Salvatierra Jr, President of INTERMAP, delivered an inspirational message, urging the new officers to lead by example, prioritize safety, and uphold maritime traditions.



NATIONAL MARITIME WEEK CELEBRATION

MARINA, PCG, PPA, Stella Maris kickoff 25th National Maritime Week

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) actively participated during the kickoff ceremony of the 25th National Maritime Week at the Philippine Coast Guard Headquarters, Manila City on 22 September 2024.

With the theme "Marinong Filipino: Ligtas na Paglalayag!", the Philippine Coast Guard and Stella Maris-Philippines, supported by MARINA and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), hosted this year's National Maritime Week which is scheduled from 22-27 September 2024. It is also in anticipation to the celebration of the 29th National Seafarers' Day on 29 September 2024.

After the Holy Mass and opening program, a wreath-laying ceremony was held in Manila Bay, which served as a tribute to all Filipino seafarers who perished while performing their jobs as "modern day heroes" of the country. MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan, other officials and bereaved families of the seafarers attended the wreath-laying ceremony.

Among the officials who attended the wreath-laying were PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gavan, Assistant Secretary for Sea-based OFW Concerns Atty. Jerome Pampolina, Stella Maris Manila Port Chaplain Fr. Paulo Prigol and PPA Port Police Department Manager Genaro Mancio Jr. among others.



MARINA-Tacloban Hosts 21st MRO8-MSAB Meeting for National Maritime Week

In celebration of Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANAMo) and National Maritime Week, MARINA-Regional Office VIII (MRO8) hosted the 21st MRO8-Maritime Safety Advisory Board (MSAB) Meeting in Tacloban City on 26 September 2024. The meeting addressed key maritime safety issues, including weather incident reporting, gale warning protocols, and vessel safety inspections.

A presentation by DOST-PAGASA's Maritime Meteorological Services Section clarified common misconceptions about gale warnings and recommended incorporating these topics into regional consultations for better compliance with safety regulations. Stakeholders strongly supported efforts to enhance maritime regulation awareness.

The meeting gathered shipowners, banca operators, and representatives from various maritime agencies. Atty. Eusebia A. Cadlum-Boco, Chairperson of the Board, thanked all participants for their active involvement in improving maritime safety.



MARINA-Tacloban celebrates National Maritime Week

The MARINA-Regional Office VIII (MRO8) marked the 25th National Maritime Week on 23 September 2024, under the theme "Navigating the Future: Safety First." Led by Regional Director Atty. Eusebia Cadlum-Boco, MRO8 personnel joined the Kick-Off Ceremony in Ormoc City, hosted by the Philippine Coast Guard District Eastern Visayas, alongside officials from various maritime agencies.

In Palo, Leyte, the celebration featured a Eucharistic Mass and a two-day training on Ship Handling and Safe Navigation, attended by Boat Captains and Motormen. The week-long event aims to promote maritime safety and awareness through various activities that engage stakeholders and the community.



MARINA-Zambo participates in Maritime Safety Forum for National Maritime Week

The MARINA Regional Office IX (MRO 9), led by OIC-Director Farida T. Cunanan, Ph.D., and represented by Engr. Joeffrey G. Santos and Engr. Dimaano M. Nuljid, attended the Maritime Safety Forum organized by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), held at the Octagon Hall of Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) as part of the 25th National Maritime Week celebration.



MARINA-Caraga joins Nat'l Maritime Week, Advocating Safety and Collaboration

The MARINA-Caraga (MRO XIII), led by Regional Director Ninfa Dominguez-Martinez, Ph.D., participated in the opening of the 25th National Maritime Week held in Surigao City on 22 September 2024.

The event, themed "Navigating the Future: Safety First," celebrated the maritime industry's contributions to the nation's economy and security. Dr. Dominguez-Martinez emphasized the importance of collaboration and innovation in maritime practices during her opening remarks.



MARINA-GenSan Joins 25th National Maritime Week Kickoff Celebration

The Marina Gensan (MR012), led by Director Engr. Bernardo A. Pollo, participated in the Simultaneous Blowing of Ship's Horn, Full Dressing of Ships, and the Ecumenical Rite at Sea (wreath laying), organized by the Coast Guard District Southern Mindanao (CGDSM) headed by their District Commander CG Captain Dennis A Pandeagua at the PPA Docking Area, Makar Wharf, Brgy. Labangal, General Santos City on 22 September 2024.

The event showcased a collective commitment to maritime safety, unity, and respect for seafarers and the maritime community. It emphasized the essential role maritime professionals play in ensuring sea transport's safe and efficient operation.



Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANAMo)

MARINA-Zamboanga Participates in Coastal Clean-up Drive in Celebration of MANAMo

The Marina RO IX (MR09), led by OIC-Director Farida T. Cunanan, PhD, participated in the International Coastal Clean-up Day as part of the Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo) celebration held in Zamboanga on 21 September 2024.

In collaboration with local environmental organizations, MR09 personnel were deployed to the coastal areas of Barangay San Pedro in Dapitan City, Barangay Bolong in Zamboanga City, and Pagadian City. The clean-up efforts focused on removing trash and marine debris from beaches, rivers, and oceans, helping to protect marine environments from pollution.



MARINA-Legazpi Joins 2024 International Coastal Cleanup in Legazpi City



The MARINA Region V (MR05), led by Regional Director Atty. Maximo I. Bañares, Jr., participated in the International Coastal Cleanup held at the Legazpi Boulevard, Puro, Legazpi City on 21 September 2024.

The event, spearheaded by the Civil Service Commission Regional Office V (CSC-RO5) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office V (DENR-RO5), aimed to promote environmental sustainability under the theme "Clean Seas for Blue Economy."



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ATTY OSCAR M SEVILLA (FORMER MARINA ADMINISTRATOR)

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) extends our deepest condolences to the family of the late Atty. Oscar M Sevilla who passed away on 13 September 2024.

Atty. Sevilla was the former MARINA Administrator from February 2000 to August 2004. During his term, he made significant contributions to the maritime industry and to the agency. It was during his incumbency when the Philippines through the MARINA successfully assumed its role as Lead Shepherd of the APEC Transportation Working Group (TPT) and as host Economy to the 20th APEC TPT-WG Meeting in Manila in March 2001. It was also during his term when Republic Act No. 9295 otherwise known as the Domestic Shipping Modernization Act was signed into law on 03 May 2004.

His unwavering dedication and leadership will always be remembered and his presence will be deeply missed.

