

Closing Remarks by Administrator, Sonia Malaluan

Turn-Over Ceremony for the French Maritime Expert

28 October 2024

Her Excellency Ambassador Marie Fontanel as represented by Mr. Alain Fontanel, Head of Economic Service of the French Republic to the Philippines;
Our French Maritime Expert Mr. Emeric Faure;
Our Deputy Administrator for Planning Nenita Atienza,
Director Ramon Hernandez;
New FME Geraldine Foregeard;
Other officials of MARINA;
Ladies and gentlemen;

Again, good afternoon to all.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of today's event. The partnership between the Government of France and the Republic of the Philippines, especially in the maritime sector, continues to grow stronger, and today's signing of another Memorandum of Agreement on the Placement of the Second French Maritime Expert in MARINA and at the same time, the turnover ceremony is a testament that enduring relationship with our common objective of enhancing maritime safety, security and pollution prevention.

This partnership has been proven effective and beneficial of course to the MARINA and to the Philippine maritime industry. As I mentioned earlier during our MARINA Board Meeting, this collaboration did not only, provided the valuable technical assistance and advise to the MARINA but also open several doors for opportunities in the development of the Philippine maritime industry.

So, I extend my deepest thanks to Mr. Emeric Faure for his invaluable contributions over the past two years. His expertise has been instrumental in enhancing our maritime safety protocols, and we are grateful for the dedication he has shown to our shared mission. The projects and initiatives he spearheaded, particularly in the areas of the ROPAX safety and maritime training, as well as the enhancement and improvement of the capacity of the MARINA have left a lasting impact to our organization and to the industry in general.

To Ms. Geraldine Foregeard, we warmly welcome you as the new French Maritime Expert and we look forward to our continuing work that has been started and to building new successes together. Your role is vital to ensuring the progress and the development of the safety standards that we have set, and as well as the implementation of the recommendations that Emeric has started during the first two years. So, we look forward and we are very eager to work with you and as I always say, in this case, again, testimony and a show of women power. In MARINA, the Administrator, Deputy Administrators are all women, so, we are again happy to have another – our French Maritime Expert, as again, promoting women empowerment in the maritime.

Let me also take this opportunity to extend again our sincerest gratitude to the Government of France for their unwavering support. It's not only in this aspect, in many areas, we can see further collaboration as we also welcome the CMA CGM in the Philippines and we also look forward to more ships under the CMA CGM Philippines,... So, it's not only the domestic shipping but as well as in shipbuilding and ship repair sector. So again, thank you so much for this collaboration. It is not, it is more than just exchange of expertise—it is a symbol of our shared commitment to ensure

safer seas and brighter future for the maritime industry not only for the Philippines, as well as for France...

As we move forward, let us continue to strengthen this partnership and also to deeper cooperation in other areas of maritime development. With our MIDP, we can see more areas where we can collaborate, and in particular, as we also address the challenges of automation and decarbonization. Together, we can reach greater heights and that we can ensure that our seas remain safe, secure, and sustainable.

So, again, thank you so much to all of you. Of course, SRS, MSS, LS and everyone who has also worked closely together with our French Maritime Expert. As I said earlier, this is the first time that we have this technical assistance and yes it goes beyond technical assistance, and I join Ramon in saying that we did not only find an expert and a friend but also we really consider you as a part of MARINA, and that will always be in our records, the assistance and the help that you have provided us during this very short two years.

To our new FME, again, we look forward for the continued success of our working relationship and to the Embassy of France in the Philippines for more partnership and collaboration.

Maraming salamat. Merci beaucoup.