

MS. SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority

Statement of Cooperation

Launch of EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package (SCOPE) – Seafarers-
Technical Assistance – Philippines
11 November 2024

DOTr Secretary Jaime J. Bautista, EU Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Massimo Santoro, DMW Secretary Hans Leo Caceda, Atty. Lennard Serrano of DOLE, Ms. Fotini Ioannidou, Director 'Waterborne' of DG-MOVE, officials from the EU Delegation to the Philippines, NTU International and WMU consultants, colleagues from government agencies DMW, DOLE, DOH, CHED, PCG, MSGC Chair Gerardo Borromeo, industry partners, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

On behalf of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), I extend our profound gratitude to the European Union for extending the Seafarers-Technical Assistance to the Philippines. This collaboration underscores our shared commitment to enhancing the standards of maritime education and training for Filipino seafarers and fostering sustainable maritime practices in line with our collective global aspirations.

We were delighted when we received from the European Commission extending its recognition of STCW Certificates of Filipino seafarers. This extension comes with conditions to enhance our compliance with the Convention, which the European Commission's technical assistance directly supports. It reinforces MARINA's commitment to addressing these conditions, strengthening our systems, elevating training quality, and continuously meeting STCW requirements to ensure Filipino seafarers as highly regarded in the global maritime industry.

MARINA is dedicated to supporting the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package (SCOPE), which aligns with our vision of fostering a globally competitive, highly skilled Filipino seafaring workforce. This assistance from the European Union gives us a unique opportunity to build on our strengths, incorporate international expertise, and further develop our maritime education, training, and certification systems to meet the evolving demands of the global maritime sector.

This project arrives at a fitting time, coinciding with the enactment of Philippine Republic Act No. 12021, or the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers. This legislation affirms the rights, welfare, and protection of our seafarers, both domestically and internationally. It also provides for the overall jurisdiction of MARINA over maritime education.

MARINA is fully committed to fully supporting, implementing, and sustaining this project. MARINA will dedicate the necessary resources, expertise, and oversight to achieve each

milestone, recognizing the transformative impact this initiative will have on the quality and global standing of our seafarers. This partnership represents a significant step forward for our maritime industry, and we are honored to contribute to its success, and in setting the bar higher for the Filipino seafarers who are at the center of ensuring safety of life at sea and protecting the marine environment.

Once again, thank you for your support to our Filipino seafarers.