# MARINA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024 | Vol. VI, No. 11



# MARINA Charts 2025 Plans, Assesses 2024 Performance

Laurel, Batangas – The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has concluded its three-day Year-End Performance Assessment and Planning Conference (YEPAPC) on 29 November 2024, setting its priorities for 2025 while evaluating its performance over the past vear.

The conference, held in Batangas from 27 to 29 November 2024 reviewed key accomplishments for 2024 and identified its strategic deliverables as aligned under its Voyage Plan for 2025.

Continue to Page 4



#### **EU maritime assistance elevates** standards for Filipino seafarers - MARINA **Administrator**

"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."

This was stated by MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan as she delivered the Agency's Statement of Cooperation during the official launch of the Seafarers-Technical Assistance component of the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package (SCOPE) on 11 November 2024 at the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Office in San Juan City, Metro Manila.

Continue to Page 4

INSIDE **STORIES**  Page 2 **MARINA** reaffirms its commitment to advancing country's maritime standards

Page 2 Variety Cruises CEO, MARINA Chief Explore **Opportunities for Inter-**Island Cruise Ship Tourism

Page 5 MARINA. IAMU highlight technological advancements, faculty skills at MET symposium Page 5 **MARINA** Joins Regional Workshop on Cambating Deceptive Shipping Practices

Page 08 Regional News

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# MARINA reaffirms its commitment to advancing country's maritime standards at Crew Connect Global

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – The MARINA has once again underscored its dedication to enhancing the country's maritime standards on the first day of the Seatrade Maritime Crew Connect Global conference on 12 November 2024.

During the conference, Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan highlighted the collective achievements of the industry and the significant role of the Philippines, particularly in its contributions to the global workforce of seafarers.

In her keynote address, MARINA Chief Malaluan expressed MARINA's gratitude to the European Commission for recently launching the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package on Seafarers Technical Assistance, which elevates technical standards, reflects a broader vision of collaboration, shared growth, and mutual benefit in the maritime sector.

The recently passed Magna Carta for Seafarers was also highlighted as a transformative achievement for the Philippine maritime industry. The legislation gives MARINA the mandate to oversee an efficient maritime education, training, and certification system, benefiting present and future Filipino seafarers.

She also flexed MARINA's modernization efforts, including digital platforms that allow remote processing of certifications, alongside the integration of blockchain technology to enhance efficiency and transparency.

Beyond digital advancements, the Philippine government, through the MARINA, is focused on strengthening the shipbuilding, ship repair, and ship registry sectors. With this, Administrator Malaluan urged shipowners and maritime industry leaders to consider registering vessels under the Philippine flag, noting the country's modernization efforts and the talent pool of skilled seafarers available for global shipping



operations. A key highlight of the conference was a panel discussion featuring Administrator Malaluan, who joined industry leaders to explore the topic, "Revising STCW: Where are we now, and how can we accelerate progress?" She was joined by PTC Group President and Filipino Shipowners Association Vice President Gerardo Borromeo as the moderator, European Commission Policy Officer Justyna Bartnicka, INTERTANKO Gas Manager Capt. Mahyar Jokhi, International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) Senior Manager Arvind Natrajan, and Danish Maritime Authority Director-General Andreas Nordseth.

The conference provided MARINA the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with international organizations and stakeholders, furthering its goal of shaping a resilient and progressive maritime sector that prioritizes the welfare and skills of Filipino seafarers in an increasingly technological global environment.

## Variety cruises CEO, MARINA Chief explore opportunities for inter-island cruise ship tourism

Manila, Philippines -- Mr Filippos Venetepoulous, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Variety Cruises called on MARINA Administrator Sonia B Malaluan explored opportunities for the operationalization of inter-island cruising through the deployment of one of its adventure/sail cruise ships.

MARINA Administrator welcomed this visit and conveyed her commitment to provide the necessary support from the government, including information relating to ship registration and operations in the country, suggested inter-island tourism packages and other products and services that would showcase the uniqueness of the Philippines in terms of maritime tourism. Venetepoulous noted that the Philippines is an untapped market for inter-island cruising and that the country has a lot of experiences to offer, from water activities, to food, history, culture and the people themselves.

The MARINA and Variety Cruises agreed to continue discussing further on the latter's interest to operate business in the country.



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02 | OCTOBER 2024

# **E DITORIAL** Sailing Towards a Safer, Smarter, and Stronger Maritime Industry

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As 2024 draws to a close, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) sets sail on a course for an ambitious 2025. The recently concluded Year-End Performance Assessment and Planning Conference (YEPAPC) in Laurel, Batangas, not only highlighted the agency's achievements over the past year but also charted a forward-looking Voyage Plan for the year ahead.

The priorities laid out are both promising and necessary. In domestic shipping, the intensified compliance monitoring and safety awareness campaign acknowledges that maritime safety is not just a regulatory checkbox—it's a lifeline for millions of Filipinos who rely on our waters for livelihood, commerce, and connection.

MARINA's Equally commendable is commitment to elevating the Philippines' voice in global maritime standards. In a world where seafarers' education, training, and certification increasingly define maritime MARINA's competitiveness, active participation on this front will serve not only our local industry but also the global seafaring community. Filipino seafarers, the backbone of international shipping, deserve representation safeguards their interests while that advancing their skills and welfare.

The agency's push to revitalize the Philippine Ship Registry and strengthen the shipbuilding and ship repair industries also reflects a deep understanding of the sector's economic potential.

potential. These initiatives are critical to achieving a robust and sustainable maritime industry—one capable of addressing local demands while competing on the international stage.

Moreover, MARINA's resolve to enhance governance and align its initiatives with longterm goals is a testament to its commitment to institutional excellence. The agency recognizes that true progress comes from cultivating systems and processes that not only perform but also inspire trust and collaboration among stakeholders.

As MARINA steers towards its ambitious goals, the agency is not just shaping the future of the maritime sector—it is securing the lifeblood of our archipelagic nation. The sea connects us, sustains us, and defines us as Filipinos. With MARINA at the helm, 2025 holds the promise of a safer, smarter, and stronger maritime industry.

Let us all rally behind this vision, for the seas ahead are vast and full of opportunity. The tides of progress are rising; it's time to set sail with purpose.

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.

#### MARINA Charts 2025 Plans, Assesses 2024 Performance

#### from page 1

Top priorities include intensified compliance monitoring and safety awareness campaign in domestic shipping; louder voice in the deliberation of global standards on seafarers' education, training and certification; development of the Philippine Ship Registry and Shipbuilding Ship Repair industry and improved governance system.

"I have been a witness to how tirelessly all of us have worked during this year, and I cannot thank you enough for all your efforts," MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan said. "Let us continue to work in solidarity, anchored in partnership, passion, and purpose, to establish our shared goals."

Meanwhile, Deputy Administrator for Planning Nenita S. Atienza emphasized the importance of aligning initiatives

with long-term objectives, stating, "Let us ignite the vision we have for the maritime industry by ensuring our plans cultivate value-informed strategic deliverables."

For her part, Deputy Administrator for Operations Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol called for sustained collaboration, adding, "With the collective effort and commitment we've demonstrated, we are well-positioned for success in the coming year."

MARINA, which oversees and promotes the Philippine maritime industry, is committed to advancing safety, sustainability, and competitiveness as it navigates towards next calendar year, 2025.



#### EU maritime assistance elevates standards for Filipino seafarers...

#### from page 1

The assistance from the EU gives the Philippines a unique opportunity to build strengths, incorporate international expertise, and further develop the country's maritime education, training and certification systems to meet the evolving demands of the global maritime sector.

MARINA Administrator Malaluan also noted that the SCOPE project arrives at a fitting time, aligning with the recent enactment of Philippine Republic Act No. 12021, or the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers.

For his part, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime Bautista expressed confidence that the technical assistance will enhance transport connectivity and technical cooperation between the EU and ASEAN countries, with a focus on digital solutions and social and environmental sustainability.

EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro, on the other hand, affirmed the EU's full support for strengthening the Philippine maritime industry, expressing confidence in the Philippines as a reliable partner. He assured that the

country could count on the EU's backing and conveyed trust in the country's commitment to enhancing training programs for its seafarers.



Other key officials present in the event were DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac, EU Delegation to the Philippines headed by Marco Gemmer, European Commission Waterborne Director Fotini Ioannidou, Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) Director General Andreas Nordseth, DOTr Undersecretary Secretary for Maritime Elmer Sarmiento, DOLE Assistant Secretary Lennard Constantine Serrano, DMW Assistant Secretary Jerome Pampolina, PCG Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Maritime Safety Services, Jomark Angue, Philippine Transmarine Carriers Group of Companies CEO Gerardo Borromeo, and professors and officers from various European training institutions and universities.

With the launch of the Seafarers-Technical Assistance to the Philippines, the MARINA assures that it will remain dedicated to supporting, implementing and sustaining the project as it aligns with its vision of fostering a globally competitive, highly skilled Filipino seafaring workforce.

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# MARINA. IAMU highlight technological advancements, faculty skills at MET symposium



MANILA, PHILIPPINES - To ensure that maritime education and training (MET) evolves to meet the demands of a rapidly advancing industry, the MARINA has partnered with the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) in conducting a Symposium on Maritime Education and Training (MET) on 08 November 2024.

MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan emphasized that technological advancements are redefining operations across areas such as navigation, logistics, safety protocols, and sustainability initiatives.

This symposium spotlighted two pressing topics: the leveraging of technology for a future-ready maritime workforce and the upskilling of instructors and assessors of future seafarers. Esteemed maritime experts from IAMU shared insights on these topics, underscoring the importance of adapting to technological advancements and strengthening MET faculty skills.

During the morning session, key discussions included integrating immersive technologies to augment onboard training for seafarers, making effective use of simulators for enhanced teaching and assessment of competence, and upgrading the digital skills of MET faculty to better prepare students for the modern maritime environment.

MLA College (United Kingdom) Head of Naval Education Prof. Malek Pourzanjani mentioned in his keynote address that the shipping industry is changing very rapidly, and that "we need to think differently, think smarter, and prepare smarter people to serve the industry. The changes I mentioned also include the global regulatory regime."

In the afternoon session, discussions revolved around essential skills for maritime educators and institutions. Topics included fostering critical thinking in future maritime workforces and MET institutions; managing seafarers' education and training in line with the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention; and ensuring academic excellence and professional competence in maritime higher education institutions (MHEIs).

In his closing remarks, MARINA STCW Office Deputy Executive Director Capt. Vicente C. Navarro urged participants to take the knowledge gained from the event and apply it within their institutions as a call to action.

The symposium was moderated by MARINA STCW Office MET Standards Supervisor Presca Lee B. Lugo and John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University International Relations Director Dr. Virmari S. Tan.



# **MARINA Joins Regional Workshop on Combating Deceptive Shipping Practices**

Valletta, Malta — The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), along with officials from the maritime administrations and coast guards of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, participated in the Regional Workshop on Deceptive Shipping Practices.

The workshop, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - Global Maritime Crime Program and funded by the Governments of Malta and Japan, tackled global threats posed by deceptive vessel behavior. Discussions centered on combating maritime smuggling, particularly the transport of hazardous contraband such as weapons, drugs, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials.

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Deceptive shipping practices—such as falsification of shipping documents and manipulation of ship identification and tracking systems and complex routing strategies— undermine United Nations (UN) sanctions and compromise global maritime security.

As the Philippine flag administration, MARINA highlighted its role in addressing fraudulent ship registries and smuggling activities. The agency's participation reflects the country's commitment to international maritime security and aligns with the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028.

The Philippine delegation included officials from MARINA, PCG and the National Maritime Center (NMC).

#### Former Philippine Maritime Attache' Takes Helm of IMO's and Pacific Section, Technical Cooperation Asia **Implementation Division**

Atty. Jean Ver Pia, former Maritime Attaché and senior official of the MARINA, has been appointed by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as Head, Asia and Pacific Section, Subdivision for Maritime Development, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID) effective yesterday, 04 November 2024. Atty. Pia will focus on capacity building and strengthening technical cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region, working closely with countries and organizations to develop and implement key initiatives.

"Transitioning from a labor-providing IMO member State representative of the Philippines, to the IMO, I have come to realize that competent

and well-trained people are crucial in implementing and enforcing our obligations to the international maritime community," Atty. Pia expressed. She emphasized that despite the region's diversity, "we must continue capacity building at the center of our efforts."

Atty. Pia's new role will involve collaborating with Asia-



Pacific nations on technical cooperation projects and contributing to IMO's strategies to ensure efficient program implementation. She will also assist in shaping policies aligned with the Technical Cooperation Committee (TC) and IMO's broader international goals.

Congratulations, Atty. Jean! We are proud of you!

### Philippines' MARINA Hosts IMO Workshop on Safe Ship **Recycling as Hong Kong Convention Approaches Enactment**



The Philippines' MARINA delivered a three-day subregional workshop by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), aimed at enhancing compliance and safety in ship recycling across Asia. Commenced on 06 November 2024, the workshop is a crucial step in advancing the implementation of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC), which is set to enter into force on 26 June 2025.

During the workshop, MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan expressed, "This workshop provides us with the vital opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Hong Kong Convention, which aims to ensure that ship recycling is conducted with maximum safety and minimal environmental impact."

Continue to Next Page

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The three-day workshop, organized under the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Program (ITCP), combines interactive discussions, technical presentations, and realworld exposure. The agenda covers critical aspects of the HKC, including the Inventory of Hazardous Materials, ship recycling facility standards, authorization processes, and EU regulations on ship recycling. Topics on related conventions, such as the Basel Convention on hazardous waste, are also included, offering a comprehensive look at the global framework shaping the industry.

Meanwhile, IMO Technical Officer Mr. Jun Sun highlighted the broader impact of the HKC, describing it as a pivotal advancement toward responsible ship recycling.

Participants toured ship recycling yards in Navotas, observing firsthand the practical aspects of recycling operations and HKC compliance measures. This has been followed by an indepth exploration of IMO-led technical cooperation and country-specific practices in implementing the HKC. Representatives from major ship recycling countries, including Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines, will contribute insights on existing challenges and share best practices. Interactive discussions will address gaps in current compliance efforts, with a focus on developing sustainable solutions to align with the HKC's standards.

The event has drawn notable experts, including Mr. Jun Sun from the IMO, Ms. Guldrun Janssens from the Baltic and Nippon Kaiji Kyokai. The gathering reflects the IMO's commitment to boosting technical cooperation and environmental stewardship among nations heavily involved materials and environmental risks.



International Maritime Council, and Mr. Takeshi Naruse from The workshop was likewise attended by the national participants from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Science and Technology – Philippines Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development in ship recycling, a sector often challenged by hazardous (DOST-PCIEERD), MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and private stakeholders.

### MARINA, Stakeholders Set Regulatory Agenda for the Overseas **Shipping Sector**

The MARINA gathered various maritime associations, government agencies, and industry experts to discuss current challenges and explore opportunities for growth on 25 November 2024.

In her speech, MARINA Chief Sonia B. Malaluan emphasized the rapid transformation of the global shipping landscape, stressing the importance of collective action in response to technological advancements, environmental regulations, and shifting consumer demands.

The said meeting has provided a platform for stakeholders to share insights on sector-specific issues, such as environmental concerns, cost reduction strategies, and regulatory gaps. Key discussions focused on maximizing profits, enhancing competitiveness, and streamlining administrative processes. A detailed cost analysis and market trend report highlighted areas where government intervention could drive industry improvements.

With support from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), participants received valuable updates on port state control measures aimed at preventing detentions of Philippine-flagged ships and ensuring smoother operations.

In her closing speech, delivered by Officer-In-Charge Ms. Precila C. Jara, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Ms. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol stressed the importance of maintaining strong partnerships between MARINA and its stakeholders to achieve shared goals in maritime development. She encouraged all attendees to stay connected,

share knowledge, and support one another in fostering innovation and driving progress towards a more competitive and sustainable shipping sector.

The meeting featured distinguished stakeholders as resource persons, including Mr. Dario R. Alampay, President of the Filipino Shipowners Association (FSA); Capt. Nestor M. Bengil, Maritime Consultant at Victoria Ship Management, Inc.; CG LCDR Dennis R. Rapal, Port State Control focal point at the PCG Ms. Ruby S. Badoy, Division Chief of MARINA's Marine Environment Protection Development Service (MEPDS); and Atty. Ralph G. Torio, Chief Maritime Industry Development Specialist at MARINA's Manpower Development Service (MDS). The event was attended by representatives from maritime associations such as the Filipino Shipowners Association, Joint Manning Group, Seafarer Group of Shipping Companies, and other maritime enterprises and interest groups.



# Philippine Co-Chairs 5th ARF Workshop on Ferry Safety



Guangzhou, China – The Philippines' MARINA co-chaired the 5th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Ferry Safety held from 30 to 31 October 2024.

Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol, Deputy Administrator for Operations of MARINA, led the Philippine delegation and encouraged active participation among member states. She emphasized the importance of identifying areas for technical cooperation to regional ferry safety standards across the region.

Engr. Divinagracia Tolosa, Officer-in-Charge of the Maritime Safety Service (MSS), presented the Philippines' Country Status Report, highlighting the country's significant efforts in promoting ferry safety through awareness campaigns, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and policy review.

Additionally, Engr. Ernesto Caluza, Division Chief of the NAMED – Shipyard Regulations Service, shared insights into the Philippines'

Concentrated Campaign on Ferry & ROPAX Fleet Safety, bilateral cooperation with France to enhance safety standards and reduce risks.

At the sidelines of the workshop, a bilateral meeting with the Philippines and China Maritime Safety Administration was held on 30 October 2024 to discuss possible capacity-building opportunities for the Philippines' technical manpower. The Meeting was attended by representatives from MARINA, the Department of Transportation, the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, China, and the Philippine Consulate General in Guangzhou.

The workshop was co-chaired by the Philippines, People's Republic of China, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, has provided a platform for ARF member states to share best practices, experiences, and innovative solutions to enhance domestic ferry safety.

The Philippines also attended the 14th ASEAN-China Maritime Consultation Mechanism (ACMCM) Meeting, 2nd ARF Safety Capacity Building Training, Workshop on Regional E-cert Application and Maritime Single Window implementation, and the 3rd ASEAN-China Seminar on the Implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 which was held from 28 to 31 October 2024.

The Philippine delegation was composed of representatives from MARINA, the Department of Transportation, and the Philippine Embassy in Beijing.



# **REGIONAL NEWS**

### **MARINA Strengthens Maritime Safety Drive in Bohol**

The MARINA launched its Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan in Bohol on Friday, 15 November 2024, emphasizing collaboration with local governments and stakeholders to enhance safety and environmental practices in the maritime sector.

The campaign began with MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan and Regional Office 7 Director Annabell Lagas and staff, together with some stakeholders from Cebu, traveling aboard MV Lite Cat 2 from Cebu Port to Tubigon Port, where campaign materials, including posters on maritime safety, plastic litter reduction, and passenger rights, were displayed. The delegation was welcomed by Panglao Mayor Edgardo Arcay and Tubigon Port officials.

The Bohol leg featured several activities, including the distribution of information and education campaign (IEC) materials to passengers at Tubigon Port, a motorcade to Tagbilaran Port, and another motorcade to the Panglao Cultural Center. The day concluded with a town hall meeting aimed at fostering collaboration on maritime safety initiatives.

During the meeting, MARINA formalized partnerships with the municipalities of Dauis, Tagbilaran City, and Panglao through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). These agreements outline commitments to support maritime safety programs, monitor compliance with safety protocols, and promote environmental sustainability in their respective jurisdictions.

The event was attended by key maritime stakeholders, including Tagbilaran City Acting Port Manager Anna Theresa M. Biscocho, Western Bohol Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Station Commander Lt. Jg. Romulo Balonga, Police Captain Benito Siddayao, and representatives from local shipping, fishing, and boat operators' associations.

The Bohol leg forms part of MARINA's nationwide campaign launched on 15 October 2024 to establish a culture of safety and environmental responsibility across the Philippine maritime industry.

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08 | NOVEMBER 2024

#### MARINA-Tacloban Empowers Domestic Seafarers Through Two-Day Training on Safe Navigation and Engine Operations

The MARINA-Regional Office VIII (MR08) held a two-day training on Ship/Boat Handling and Safe Navigation 1 and Engine Operation and Maintenance 1 at its regional office in Tacloban City on 26-27 November 2024.

The program aimed to enhance the skills of seafarers engaged in domestic trade, with 24 boat captains and 10 motormen completing the course. Participants received Certificates of Completion, a prerequisite for obtaining the Certificate of Marine Profession.

Engr. Kirstien Jane Pingol and 2/M Joelito Plazuela of MRO8 served as resource speakers, sharing their expertise with the trainees.





#### MARINA-Iloilo Discuss Mutual Concerns with New PCG Western Visayas District Commander



The MARINA Regional Office VI (MRO 6) discussed mutual concerns with newly-installed PCG Western Visayas District Commander CG/Commodore Philipps Y. Soria, during a courtesy visit on 25 November 2024.

CG/Commodore Soria and MRO6 Regional Director Jeffrey A. Bangsa tackled concerns regarding vessel operations in the region. The latter also presented an overview of MRO6's jurisdiction, operations, issuances, and personnel.

Both officials pledged to collaborate in ensuring maritime safety, security, and the development of a sustainable maritime industry in Western Visayas.

#### MARINA-CDO Holds 2nd Leg of Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan

The MARINA Regional Office X (MRO10), under the leadership of OIC-Regional Director Juliet S. Nacion, successfully conducted the Second Leg of the nationwide Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan at the Passenger Terminal Building, Balingoan Port on 13 November 2024.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness about maritime safety and encourage a culture of safety among seafarers, passengers, and port authorities. Activities included a motorcade parade, a town hall meeting, a film showing, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the local government unit, and the distribution of safety kits.





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NOVEMBER 2024 | 09

Meanwhile, Balingoan Mayor Aaron Paul S. Unabia expressed support for the initiative and pledged the local government's and commitment to providing resources and facilitating training to enhance maritime safety.

The 3rd Leg of the campaign is scheduled this December 2024 in Ozamiz City.



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### **MARINA-Legazpi Promotes Mental Health Awareness and Safe Spaces**



Legazpi City, Philippines - The MARINA Regional Office V (MRO5), under the leadership of Regional Director Atty. Maximo I. Bañares, Jr. held an orientation seminar on Mental Health Awareness and the Safe Spaces Act (Bawal Bastos Law) on 21 November, 2024.

The seminar, facilitated by Ms. Honelet S. Bertis, J.D., talked about mental health issues and to promote a safe and inclusive work environment. Participants gained valuable insights into mental health and learned about their rights under the Safe Spaces Act.

By addressing mental health concerns and fostering a culture of respect, MRO5 is taking significant steps to empower its employees and create a positive work environment.

## MARINA-GenSan Prepares for New Satellite Office Opening in Glan, Sarangani

MARINA Regional Office XII (MRO12) Regional Director Engr. Bernardo A. Pollo led an inspection to its upcoming satellite office in Glan, which is set to open in January 2025.

The new office, which was made possible in collaboration with the local government under Municipal Mayor Hon. Victor James B. Yap, Sr., targets to bring MARINA's services to maritime stakeholders, including fisherfolk and fishing companies closer.

MR012 personnel assessed the site's readiness by reviewing the layout and compliance with operational standards to ensure efficient service delivery.

The MARINA-Glan Satellite Office will offer key services like vessel registration, licensing, and safety compliance monitoring while supporting MARINA's campaigns on maritime safety and sustainable practices



10 | NOVEMBER 2024



# FEATURED PHOTOS:

#### KOMSA Conducts Feasibility Study for Biofouling Management Project in Philippine Ports

The Korea Maritime Transportation Safety Authority (KOMSA) conducted a feasibility study in the Philippines from 18-22 November 2024, as part of the proposed Official Development Assistance (ODA) Project aimed at enhancing biofouling management in major Philippine ports.

The initiative, a collaboration between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, seeks to evaluate the technical, economic, and operational feasibility of implementing effective biofouling management strategies. The project focuses on improving governance and human expertise in biofouling control and introducing advanced hull-cleaning technology using Remote-Operated Vessel/s (ROVs) at the Ports of Manila and Cebu.

Representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the MARINA expressed optimism about the collaboration, highlighting its potential to address biofouling challenges and protect the marine environment.





MARINA-Legazpi Conducts Relief Operation Drive for Typhoon Kristine Victims





The MARINA Region V (MRO5) together with the Coast Guard District Bicol led a relief operation on 8 November 2024, at Sitio Malindoc, Zone 7, Libon, Albay to provide essential support to residents impacted by Typhoon "Kristine."

A total of 61 households benefited from this initiative, including 45 households in Sitio Malindoc and an additional 16 in Isla Noah—both areas heavily impacted by Typhoon Kristine. The relief packages contained essential items such as food, clean water, clothing, and hygiene supplies, which are crucial for helping families recover from the typhoon's effects.





#### MARINA Congratulates SIMS on the Opening of its Bohol Branch

The MARINA extends its warmest congratulations to the Southern Institute of Maritime Studies, Inc. (SIMS) on the launch of its Bohol Branch today, 01 December 2024, in Baclayon, Bohol. As the first maritime training center in the region, SIMS Bohol is set to offer essential maritime safety and refresher courses, providing enhanced access to quality training for aspiring and active seafarers in the province.

Congratulations, SIMS!



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