



MARINA launches nationwide campaign on Maritime Safety, Marine Plastic reduction

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on 15 October 2024 launched a six-month national campaign aimed at bolstering maritime safety and addressing marine plastic pollution across the Philippines' major seaports and coastal areas.

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Ghana officials visit PH for best practices in maritime admin governance

Officials of the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA) visited the Philippines' Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on 07-10 October 2024 for benchmarking best practices in maritime administration particularly on seafarers' regulation and governance.

In a statement, MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan flexed the country's "continuous dedication and commitment to further improve international policies particularly those that concern seafarers." It should be noted that the MARINA has submitted proposals on addressing gaps between Regulation I/2 and Regulation I/10 which were identified during the review of STCW Convention Code; Digitalization of documentation, including certificates issued under STCW; Addressing seafarers' issues of violence and harassment; Reduction of the onboard training requirements; and Identified provision to be addressed in Regulation V/3.

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MARINA leads awareness-raising event on Biofouling Mgmt at BEACON 2024



The Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), as a Lead Partnering Country (LPC) of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships Project, spearheaded the Awareness-Raising Event on Biofouling Management for Recreational Vessels as part of the Blue Economy Annual Trade and Conference (BEACON) Exposition 2024, held from 30 September to 02 October 2024.

The event emphasized the importance of biofouling management for recreational boating, providing recommendations to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive aquatic species.

In collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), MARINA organized a biofouling virtual reality experience for guests and visitors at its booth during BEACON 2024. The virtual reality demonstration visually depicted biofouling on various parts of vessels, including hulls, propellers, and other niche areas.

As part of the awareness-raising efforts, Dr. Won-Tae Shin, Regional Project Manager of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), delivered a presentation on biofouling during the 4th Marine Environment Protection Forum on 01 October 2024, held alongside the conference. Dr. Shin discussed the significance of biofouling management, its environmental impact, and the factors influencing biofouling in the East Asian Seas region. He also presented the regional strategy on biofouling management, offering guidance to East Asian Seas (EAS) countries in developing their national biofouling management strategies. This strategy was likewise adopted by ASEAN member states during the 47th ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) Meeting.

The forum was attended by representatives from relevant government agencies, shipping companies, ship owners, maritime institutions, organizations, and other stakeholders in the maritime sector.

PH welcomes adoption of maritime workforce as APEC TPT Main Policy Theme for Maritime in 2025

APEC Secretariat, Singapore – The Philippines recently welcomed the adoption of the Maritime Workforce as the 2025 Main Policy Theme (MPT) of the Maritime Experts Group (MEG) of the APEC Transportation Working Group (TPT) at its 54th Meeting in Singapore from 30 September 2024 to 02 October 2024.

MARINA Director and Head of the Philippine Delegation, Luisito U. delos Santos, said that “putting the human element at the center of the work of the APEC TPT’s Maritime Experts Group is a reaffirmation and recognition of the indispensable role of our maritime workforce in sustaining the global economy.”

In its continued effort to promote inclusivity across the Asia-Pacific Region, the MEG noted the discussions provided by Canada on the maritime workforce and as interjected by the Philippines, to include port workers, shipyard workers, fishers, and others who may be identified as within the scope of the maritime workforce. The MEG likewise noted that the sub-topics relating to labor standards, labor shortages, gender

representation and global regulations and their impact on seafarers will serve as sources for project concept notes and project proposals.

The Philippines will cooperate with Canada for the development of project concept notes leading to the formulation of project proposals for TPT’s submission to the APEC Budget and Management Committee (BMC) for funding consideration. Progress on this main policy theme will be reported at the next TPT meeting when Korea hosts APEC 2025.

Other members of the Philippine delegation for APEC TPT54 include Ms. Ma. Pilipinas P. Abando, Supervising Communications Development Officer, Department of Transportation (DOTr) for the Land Experts Group (LEG) and the Intelligent and Intermodal Systems Experts Group (IEG), and Ms. Katherine E. Barcellano, Corporate Planning Analyst A, Civil Aeronautics Board for the Air Services Experts Group, respectively.



MARINA's Oplan Ligtas Byaheng Dagat: A Sea Change in Philippine Maritime Safety

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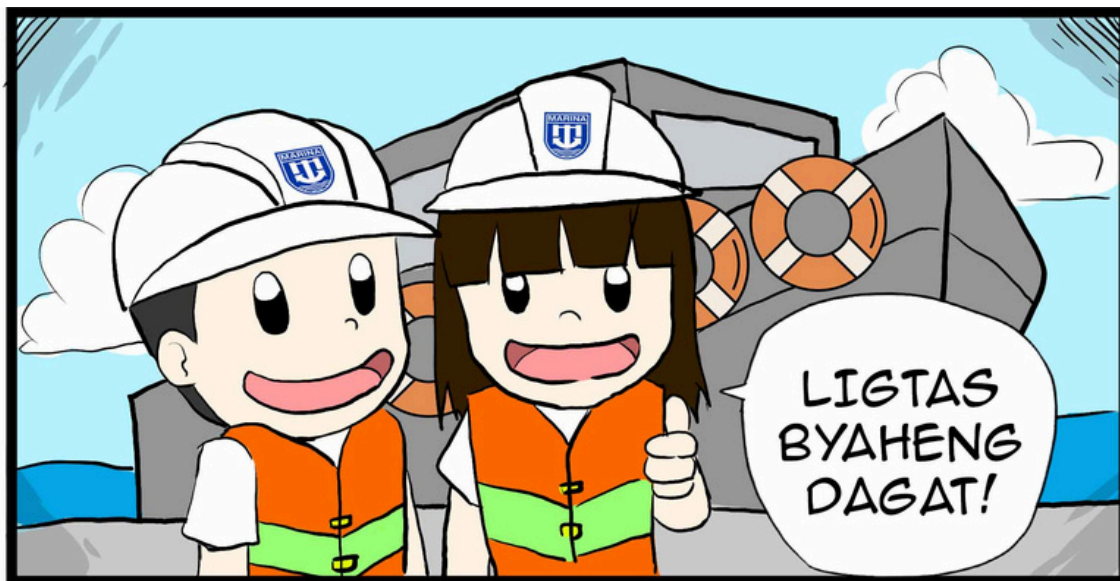
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The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has embarked on a groundbreaking mission to reshape the culture of maritime safety and environmental stewardship across the Philippines. Launched on 15 October 2024, the "Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan: Ligtas Byaheng Dagat" brings a first-of-its-kind national focus on passenger safety, community awareness, and marine conservation.

Running for six months, the campaign aims to reach all corners of the archipelago, engaging local governments, seafarers, and the public. Through town hall discussions, safety training sessions, and hands-on demonstrations, MARINA is making maritime safety not just a regulatory requirement but a shared community responsibility. This is more than just a series of workshops; it's about cultivating a sense of responsibility and respect for our waters and those who rely on them daily.

MARINA's approach to this campaign is refreshingly holistic. It's not only about safety protocols but about embedding these values into everyday practices. From MOU signings with local governments to vibrant town hall meetings across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, MARINA has tapped into the power of local partnerships to broaden the reach of its message. Administrator Sonia Malaluan has rightly highlighted the campaign's goal: a culture of responsibility that prioritizes both people and the environment.

One standout element of the campaign is its attention to marine plastic pollution. By integrating environmental stewardship into the program, MARINA addresses a critical issue threatening our seas and coastal communities. Reducing plastic waste in our waters is not just an environmental goal but a health and safety necessity for communities reliant on the sea for transportation and livelihood.

As the campaign rolls through each MARINA regional hub, it serves as a call to action for all Filipinos to play their part. Let us support this vital cause and build a future where safe and sustainable sea journeys are a reality for everyone.

The timing couldn't be better. As a country with one of the world's longest coastlines, the Philippines relies on maritime transport for commerce and daily commuting. Yet, we face persistent safety and environmental challenges that put both people and ecosystems at risk. MARINA's holistic approach, which includes forming alliances with local leaders and reaching the grassroots level, sets a standard that other coastal nations could look to as a model for effective safety and environmental campaigns.

With "Ligtas Byaheng Dagat," MARINA is not just navigating the waters of change—it is steering us toward a safer, cleaner, and more responsible maritime future.

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.

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The campaign, branded as the “Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan: Ligtas Byaheng Dagat,” seeks to improve passenger safety, promote environmental stewardship, and build awareness of passenger rights among communities reliant on maritime transportation. The program, which runs until April 2025, is set to cover all MARINA regional hubs, engaging local governments, seafarers, and the public in town hall discussions and hands-on safety training sessions.

“This initiative is about creating a culture of responsibility within our maritime community,” said MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan. “By fostering environmental awareness and prioritizing passenger rights, we are working towards safer, more sustainable sea journeys for everyone.” In the National Capital Region, MARINA officials kicked off the caravan at the North Port je Passenger Terminal in Manila, providing safety briefings on the MV “2GO Masinag” before moving on to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Binangonan, Rizal, to strengthen local maritime safety initiatives.

The campaign’s regional rollout covered the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley Regions, with activities in Sual, Pangasinan,

where stakeholders participated in a forum on safety practices and signed an MOU with local officials. In Southern Tagalog, a motorcade led from Batangas City to Mabini, culminating in safety demonstrations and collaboration agreements with local leaders.

Meanwhile, in Visayas, Central Visayas held a town hall meeting in Cebu City following a motorcade from key ports, where MARINA signed a commitment with Cebu City officials to support maritime safety programs. In Western Visayas, MARINA conducted a boat caravan from Iloilo to Guimaras, promoting safety awareness and sustainable practices.

Mindanao was also engaged in the campaign, with Northern Mindanao holding events at Cagayan de Oro Port to advocate for regional safety measures. In Davao Region, activities spanned 40 kilometers of coastline, where local government representatives joined the caravan for discussions on maritime safety.

The initiative marked MARINA’s first coordinated nationwide safety and environmental awareness caravan, leveraging regional partnerships to enhance maritime safety standards and reduce plastic waste in Philippine waters.

Ghana officials visit PH for best practices in maritime administration governance

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The Administrator also expressed that these proposals “would not only benefit the Filipino seafarers but also your seafarers, and all other member states who work hard in securing that all maritime workforce we offer are nothing but the best.”

Further, the Ghana delegation was also briefed on the country’s long-term Maritime Industry Development Plan 2028 (MIDP 2028) which is currently being implemented by PH maritime agencies; as well as the country’s maritime education and training, and certification processes for Filipino seafarers.

As part of the PH visit, the Ghanaian delegation saw the seafarers’ examinations and certification facilities within MARINA, as well as government offices such as the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). They also visited the Asian Institute of Maritime Studies (AIMS) and the Philippine Center for Advanced Maritime Simulation and Training, Inc. (PHILCAMSAT).

The collaboration between two maritime nations marks a significant milestone in MARINA’s efforts to position the Philippines as a global leader in maritime governance, with the GMA expressing readiness to partner in achieving shared goals for the maritime industry’s future.



WIMAPHIL MARINA Sub-Chapter leads service excellence training for frontliners



MANILA - The Women in Maritime Philippines (WIMAPHIL), in partnership with its MARINA Sub-Chapter, conducted a service excellence training for Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) frontline personnel on 26 September 2024, reinforcing quality service delivery with a focus on Filipino values.

The training, held at the MARINA Central Office, aimed to equip frontline staff with essential skills to deliver efficient and compassionate service to the public, under the theme “Quality Service the Filipino Way.”

Atty. Sharon D. Aledo, President of the WIMAPHIL MARINA Sub-Chapter and Director of MARINA’s Legal Service (LS), opened the session by underscoring the importance of integrating Filipino hospitality and warmth into government service. “At the core of this approach is a commitment to serve the public with compassion and integrity,” she said, adding that public servants must ensure citizens feel respected and valued in every interaction.

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The workshop included a series of talks led by WIMAPHIL Vice President and Chairperson of the Board at FASTCAT Mary Ann I. Pastrana. She emphasized the necessity of such training to reinforce frontliners' commitment to customer service. She introduced the "Mabuhay Gesture," a signature practice highlighting Filipino hospitality, to participants attending both in-person and virtually.

The said initiative, launched by the Department of Tourism (DoT), is designed to enhance the delivery of government services with the incorporation of Filipino cultural values, and equips service providers with techniques for engaging customers and addressing their needs effectively.



MARINA, French Embassy, OCEA ink partnership on Peer Review for PH SBSR



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) entered a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the French Embassy in Manila and OCEA SA Philippines at the MARINA Central Office, Port Area, Manila on 17 October 2024, for the conduct of a peer review of the Philippine Shipbuilding and Ship Repair industry under OECD-WP6 scheduled on 21-25 October 2024.

The MOA aims to provide a framework for partnership agreement among MARINA, French Embassy and OCEA for purposes of providing an assessment of the Philippine shipbuilding and ship repair industry in terms of policies, incentives implemented and planned by the Philippines to support the sector.

During the ceremony, MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan said that the peer review is very essential and it could support various developmental projects and plans for the SBSR industry, as aligned with Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028. She also said that the outcome of the assessment will be useful for legislators and other maritime stakeholders to have a better understanding of the current situation in the country's SBSR industry. The Administrator emphasized that the Philippines needs an enabling law to harness the big potential of shipbuilding and ship repair in the country. The MARINA has been pushing for the passage of the SBSR Development Bill in Congress.

Meanwhile, French Embassy to the Philippines Chief of the Economic Service Alain Fontanel is looking forward to the different activities under the peer review while OCEA Country Director Jacques Briand mentioned that this development shows the commitment of their company to the development objectives of the Philippines.

The signing was also attended by MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Nannette Villamor-Dinopol, MARINA Shipyards Regulation Service Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez, French Maritime Expert Mr. Emeric Faure and OCEA SA Philippines Commercial and Marketing Manager Engr. Trisha Ellmarie Mateo.

PH undergoes first-ever review on SBSR industry



MANILA – The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on 21 October 2024 hosted a delegation from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Shipbuilding Committee for a comprehensive peer review of the Philippine shipbuilding and ship repair (SBSR) industry. This pioneering review, the first conducted by OECD for a non-member country, aimed to assess the current state of the Philippine SBSR sector and inform future policy recommendations under MARINA's Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028.

The OECD Peer Review Team, led by Shipbuilding Unit Head Laurent Daniel and Junior Policy Analyst Emilie Berger, began their mission with an arrival on 21 October, welcomed by MARINA officials including Deputy Administrator for Operations Nannette Villamor-Dinopol and Shipyards Regulation Service Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez. Initial meetings were held with key government bodies such as the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Board of Investments (BOI) to discuss policies and incentives supporting the shipbuilding industry.

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On 22 October, the OECD team began field visits with stops at the Philippine Port Authority (PPA), MARINA, and the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD). PPA officials presented the agency's accomplishments in 2023, port enhancement efforts, and marine environmental protection initiatives. During the MARINA meetings, Planning and Policy Service Director Luisito delos Santos outlined the MIDP's goals, while MARINA officials discussed the state of domestic shipping and SBSR operations in the Philippines. PCIEERD also shared updates on research and development projects relevant to SBSR, which the OECD team explored as potential avenues for industry growth.

The review moved to field inspections of shipyard facilities in Cebu and Subic on 24-25 October 2024, where the OECD team observed operations at Tsuneishi Heavy Industries, Austal Philippines, Seatrium, and Subic Drydock. Split into two groups, MARINA officials joined OECD representatives to tour these facilities and conduct stakeholders' forums in both locations, where shipyard owners and local officials discussed regional industry conditions and potential international collaborations. With the review concluding on 25 October 2024, MARINA expressed optimism that the OECD's assessment would bolster the SBSR sector's development and inform legislative priorities. The findings from this peer review will contribute to the MIDP 2028's framework, which aims to modernize and expand the Philippine shipbuilding industry.

The OECD's peer review mission underscores the Philippines' growing role in the global shipbuilding arena and its commitment to aligning industry practices with international standards for sustainable development and competitiveness.



MARINA recognizes hard work, dedication at Milestone Service Award Ceremony



On 11 October 2024, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) held its Milestone Service Award Ceremony, recognizing the unwavering dedication and hard work of its personnel from various regional offices. The ceremony, a key part of MARINA's Rewards and Recognition Program, underscores the agency's commitment to honoring the contributions of its employees to the maritime sector.

During the ceremony, MARINA Administrator Sonia B Malaluan expressed to awardees, "Through your example, you've inspired us to strive for excellence and make a positive impact in our work. I encourage everyone to stay inspired and remember that all efforts, big or small, can make a difference."

The awards, based on years of government service, were presented as follows:

- Four (4) personnel received Certificates of Honorable Service for 15 years of service.
- Twelve (12) personnel were awarded Plaques of Honorable Service for 20, 25, and 30 years of service.
- Thirteen (13) personnel were honored with Silver Service Rings for 35 and 40 years of service namely:

40 years in service

1. Cantos, Maria Edna F., Senior Maritime Industry Development Specialist, MRO 4

35 years in service

1. Lagas, Annabell P., Director II, MRO 7
2. Martinez, Ninfa D., Director II, MRO 13
3. Orongan, Felisa N., Director II, MRO 11
4. Aquino, Rufina A., Supervising Maritime Industry Development Specialist, MRO 6
5. Baterna, Ma. Cynthia E., Administrative Officer IV MRO 6
6. Cabato, Adelaida O., Administrative Officer IV MRO 9
7. Estrella, Margaret B., Senior Maritime Industry Development Specialist, MRO 11
8. Garcelazo, Asuncion M., Senior Maritime Industry Development Specialist, MRO 6
9. Gestopa, Imelda A., Senior Maritime Industry Development Specialist, MRO 11
10. Monarca, Jose Bernardo R., Senior Shipbuilding Specialist MRO 11
11. Pelayo, Maria Victoria E., Maritime Industry Development Specialist II, MRO 6
12. Sobrevega, Jose Nelson G., Supervising Maritime Industry Development Specialist, MRO 4

For Deputy Administrator for Planning Ms. Nenita S. Atienza, "This award represents not just years of service but also countless contributions, stories, and memories that have enriched our workplace."

As the Agency celebrates these milestones, MARINA acknowledges the tireless efforts of its workforce, whose passion and commitment have played a pivotal role in the achievements and the growth of the maritime industry. The ceremony not only recognized past accomplishments but also served as inspiration for future endeavors.

MARINA, AFAB discuss MIP and possible collab in the SBSR sector

As the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) continues to look for possible location of the Maritime Industrial Park (MIP) – a project under the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028 – the Agency met with Authority of the Freeport of Bataan (AFAB) Administrator Mohammed Hussein Pangandaman to discuss and explore possible collaboration with latter.

MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan highlighted the importance of MIP, which aims to have a one-stop-shop for shipbuilding and ship repair services to reduce the importation of materials from other countries.

In addition, the MARINA chief said that the Agency aims to establish an industrial park in Bataan or other strategic locations, as it will further the expertise in shipbuilding and ship repair among Filipino maritime professionals who are in demand in foreign countries such as Korea and Japan due to their skill set. She also emphasized the intention to enhance the SBSR capacity of the Philippine maritime industry to be self-sufficient in terms of shipping.



On the other hand, AFAB Administrator Pangandaman committed to providing the relevant data to MARINA's initiative in improving the SBSR industry. The MARINA and AFAB intend to conduct a series of meetings to discuss possible collaborations and projects for the maritime sector.

MARINA takes part in 1st Inter-Agency Meeting on drafting of IRR on Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), led by MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan and STCW Office Executive Director Samuel L. Batalla, joined the first Inter-Agency Meeting on the drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers on 11 October 2024, at the AMOSUP Convention Hall, Convention Center in Intramuros, Manila.

Spearheaded by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), the meeting gathered representatives from various government agencies to align their efforts toward establishing a comprehensive framework for the protection and welfare of Filipino seafarers.

Administrator Malaluan delivered her welcoming remarks, emphasizing the importance of unity and shared common goals, as she expressed her hope for collaborative efforts among all concerned agencies in coming up with the IRR. Her message set the tone for the meeting, highlighting the need for collective action to develop regulations that would effectively serve the

Filipino seafarers and the maritime sector.

The Technical Working Group for the IRR is chaired by DMW Assistant Secretary for Sea-Based OFW Concerns Jerome T. Pampolina while MARINA Administrator Malaluan serves as the Vice Chair, underscoring the collaborative leadership between DMW and MARINA in steering the development of the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The meeting agreed in principle the calendar of activities for drafting the IRR, aimed at setting clear timelines and milestones to ensure a timely and efficient process, as well as the guidelines and the identified concerned government agencies responsible for contributing to the IRR's development.

The collaboration between MARINA, DMW, and other key government partners and stakeholders aims to create a well-defined set of rules that will guide the implementation of the Magna Carta, ultimately benefiting the country's seafaring community.



PH steps up efforts to combat invasive marine species



The Philippines has intensified its efforts to protect its marine environment from invasive aquatic species (IAS) by conducting a two-day training on biofouling prevention and management in dry-dock operations held last 16-17 October 2024.

The training, organized by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) was conducted in coordination with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA).

MARINA's Chief of Staff, Engr. Ramon Hernandez, welcomed international expert Dr. Ralitsa Mihaylova from the IMO, as well as participants from government and private sectors.

Engr. Hernandez emphasized that safeguarding the country's waters from IAS is important, saying, "Through collaboration with international and local partners, we are furthering our commitment to a sustainable marine environment."

Dr. Mihaylova, a consultant with the Safinah Group, introduced the participants to the risks posed by IAS and biofouling, which can cause biological invasions via ships.

She discussed dry-dock operations, anti-fouling coatings, and how to safely manage biofouling materials during these procedures. As part of the program, participants visited dry-docking facilities in Navotas City, gaining insight into real-world operations and biofouling prevention measures.

The MARINA Administrator, Ms. Sonia B. Malaluan, concluded the training course by expressing the country's steadfast commitment towards marine environment protection, preservation and sustainability. "I call for your support to the maritime industry as we continue to move forward for the successful and full implementation of the 2023 Guidelines for the control and management of ships biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species", Administrator Malaluan highlighted.

The training was attended by representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MARINA, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), maritime associations, and shipping companies.

MARINA concludes GAD FGD, charts path for a more gender-inclusive industry

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) concluded its inaugural Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Gender and Development (GAD) to address gender-related issues and formulate strategies for fostering a more inclusive and equitable maritime sector, held from 21 to 25 October 2024.

In her speech, Deputy Administrator for Planning, Ms. Nenita S. Atienza, emphasized the importance of addressing gender equality in the maritime industry. "Our goal is to create a safe and inclusive work environment for all, regardless of their gender. By understanding the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women in the maritime sector, we can develop effective policies and programs to promote gender equality and empower women," Atienza said.

During the discussions, the group collaboratively consolidated and prioritized the most urgent gender-related issues in the industry, creating a clear roadmap for addressing these challenges.

The discussions concluded with a shared vision for a gender-inclusive maritime sector and the development of a strategic framework aimed at promoting equity and inclusivity within the industry.

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The insights and recommendations gathered from the FGD will be instrumental in developing the MARINA's FY 2025 Gender and Development Plans and Budget (GPB), in compliance with the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710).

Various industry stakeholders attended the FGD, including members of the maritime media and representatives from manning and shipping agencies, as well as delegates from notable maritime organizations such as the Women in Maritime Philippines Association (WIMAPHIL), the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP), the Philippine Association of Maritime Training Centers, Inc. (PAMTCI), the Philippine Association of Maritime Institutions (PAMI), the Integrated Seafarers of the Philippines, Inc. (ISP), the International Maritime Association of the Philippines, Inc. (INTERMAP), the Association of Licensed Manning Agencies (ALMA), and MARINO Ph. Partner agencies such as the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP-MG), along with MARINA representatives, were also present.

A number of active seafarers campaigning for gender equality



also attended the FGD sessions, providing substantial input to the GAD Agenda.

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MARINA empowers personnel in Data Privacy; aligns practices with industry standards



MANILA - The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) held a five-day workshop focused on aligning the agency's practices with the Data Privacy Act of 2012, or Republic Act No. 10173. Conducted from 21-25 October 2024, the workshop underscored MARINA's commitment to safeguarding personal information and promoting a responsible, privacy-conscious culture within the maritime sector.

Facilitated by Data Privacy Consultant Dr. Rolando R. Lansigan, the sessions were designed to familiarize key MARINA personnel with the complexities and critical importance of data privacy. Lansigan's lectures provided participants with a deep understanding of data privacy fundamentals, covering legal frameworks, risk management, and MARINA's responsibilities to protect personal information.

Aside from lectures, participants engaged in writeshop to collaboratively draft a comprehensive data privacy manual, outlining policies and procedures to standardize data privacy practices within the MARINA. This writeshop enabled the Agency's key personnel to draft critical elements for privacy protocols and practical guidelines, essential for compliance and operational efficiency. Case presentations and examinations were also part of the workshop, allowing participants to apply learned concepts to real-life scenarios.

In his remarks, MARINA Management Information Systems Service

(MISS) Director Dr. Joseph Victor Generato expressed confidence that the agency's efforts in this training would yield positive results, viewing the workshop as the beginning of MARINA's ongoing journey toward full and sustained compliance. He assured that Dr. Lansigan's valuable suggestions, along with his support in MARINA's registration with the National Privacy Commission (NPC), would be put into action.

The workshop marked an essential step in the MARINA's ongoing efforts to meet global privacy standards, mitigate data risks, and foster a culture of responsibility within the organization. Through the program, the MARINA aims to build public trust, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure that data privacy remains one of its top priorities.



MARINA Writeshop Produces Strategic Project Proposals for MIDP 2028 Implementation



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) concluded a four-day writeshop from 01-04 October 2024, resulting in 12 comprehensive project proposals developed by its Service Units (SUs). These proposals are directly aligned with the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028 and form part of MARINA's Tier 2 Budget Proposals for fiscal year 2026. The initiatives identified focus on key areas such as maritime safety, shipbuilding and repair, and capacity-building programs, aimed at accelerating the growth and modernization of the Philippine maritime industry.

The outputs from the writeshop underscore the importance of advancing the MIDP 2028's strategic goals. "This writeshop serves as a pivotal moment for MARINA, as the project proposals generated here will form the foundation of our budget requests, ensuring that we have the resources needed to strengthen the maritime sector," emphasized by Planning and Policy Service (PPS) Director Luisito U. Delos Santos.

Guided by experts from the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) — including Sustainable Human Development Program Director Dorothea Boy Navarro, Ms. Marites Solomon, and Mr. Rey Macalindong — participants worked intensively to ensure the proposals were well-crafted and in line with national priorities.

Deputy Administrator for Planning, Ms. Nenita S. Atienza, highlighted the broader significance of the proposals in her closing remarks. "The project proposals produced during this writeshop are key to unlocking the full potential of the MIDP 2028. These initiatives will lay the groundwork for a more resilient and progressive maritime sector, from enhanced safety measures to increased shipbuilding capacity and the upskilling of our workforce," Atienza said.

The 12 proposals generated during the writeshop represent MARINA's dedication to securing government support for its MIDP 2028 objectives. By focusing on strategic and actionable projects, MARINA aims to ensure that the maritime sector remains a key driver of economic growth and development in the Philippines.

This initiative builds on earlier efforts to enhance project development capabilities, including the Basic Course on Project Development and Management in October 2023 and the Basic Course on Monitoring and Evaluation in July 2024, ensuring that MARINA stays on course in achieving its long-term goals under the MIDP 2028.



MARINA joins in IORIS 2nd Steering Committee Session



SRI LANKA — The Maritime Industry Authority-Enforcement Service (MARINA-ES) participated in the Indo-Pacific Regional Information Sharing (IORIS) 2nd Steering Committee Session, facilitated by the invitation and sponsorship of the EU CRIMARIO program.

Throughout the two-day event, attendees engaged in plenary sessions and working groups, tackling significant issues such as the future ownership of the IORIS platform, strategic priorities, regional cooperation on information sharing, and the importance of engaging external stakeholders.

A key focus of the event was the announcement of the development of IORIS Version 4 and a new "lite" version for merchant ships. Martin Cauchi Inglott, Project Director of CRIMARIO II, reiterated the program's commitment to enhancing

the platform with valuable new features.

Discussions also included the formalization of IORIS Regional Community Areas as part of the Regional Standard Operating Procedure and the introduction of a signing process for the Memorandum of Agreement on regional information sharing.

The next IORIS Steering Committee Meeting will take place in the Philippines, signaling ongoing collaboration in maritime governance.

The Philippine delegation included MARINA representatives Dr. Jinky M. Mendoza and Mr. Dalmacio Gonzales, along with inter-agency representatives from the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

MARINA welcomes new French Maritime Expert



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) welcomed a new French Maritime Expert at their Central Office in Port Area, Manila on 28 October 2024.

During the turnover ceremony, the MARINA welcomed Ms. Geraldine Foregard as the new French Maritime Expert through the renewal of Memorandum of Agreement between MARINA and the French Embassy to the Philippines. She was assigned as the new FME, as Mr. Emeric Faure ended his two-year term in MARINA.

The renewed MOA aims to provide a framework for partnership between involved parties in providing technical assistance, training and consultancy services which will promote, develop and foster sustainable and progressive maritime industry of the country, through the placement of a French Maritime Expert (FME).

MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan expressed her gratitude to Mr. Faure for sharing his expertise which has been instrumental in enhancing maritime safety protocols. She said that the partnership between two countries has been proven effective. Malaluan mentioned that the said collaboration is more than just an exchange of expertise but it is a symbol of shared commitment to ensure safer seas and brighter future for the maritime industry. The Administrator looks forward

to continuing work and building new success together with the new FME.

Mr. Faure served as FME from November 2022-October 2024. He focused on the enhancement of the safety level of the Philippine RORO Passenger Ship Fleet and crafting of a progressive upgrading plan in reducing the number of maritime accidents / incidents and casualties. He also facilitated various trainings and provided valuable inputs in the updating of the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP) 2028. Mr. Faure thanked MARINA for supporting him and he also reminded that the mission continues with the new FME.

Meanwhile, Ms. Foregard said that she fully understands the importance of continuity in international cooperation projects. She is also determined to contribute in enhancing domestic fleet safety level and improvement of the Philippine maritime industry.

The turnover ceremony was also attended by the French Embassy to the Philippines Economic Service Head Alain Fontanel, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Nenita Atienza, Shipyards Regulation Service Director Engr. Ramon Hernandez, Legal Service Director Atty. Sharon de Chavez-Aledo and MSS OIC Chief Engr. Maria Sarena Casas.



MARINA welcomes Carnival Panorama Maiden visit to the PH



Manila, Philippines — The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) welcomed the maiden voyage of Carnival Panorama, a cruise ship managed and operated by Carnival Cruise Lines, for the Philippine leg of her itinerary, docking at the South Harbor's Eva Macapagal Super Terminal on Friday, 18 October 2024.

MARINA Administrator Sonia B Malaluan who attended the commemorative program personally witnessed the grandeur and luxury of the vessel and took the opportunity to speak to some Filipinos working on-board as part of the hospitality crew of the ship.

Capt. Luca Lazzarino who introduced key officials of the ship mentioned that the visit of Carnival Panorama to the Philippines is a fitting tribute to the more than 400 Filipinos working on-board, where their family members can enter the ship to see where their loved ones work away from home for many months.



"This is a potential market for the Philippines. We need to develop more merchant marine officers and prepare them to command this kind of big ships in the future," Malaluan said when all key officers of the ship were introduced.

Launched in 2019, Carnival Panorama is CCL's third Vista-class ship, with a capacity of 4,000 guests and 1,450 crew members. Some of the Carnival Panorama's crew members are Filipinos. The cruise ship entered drydock in Singapore for refurbishments before it started the 25-night Transpacific Carnival journey, with stops in Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Guam and Hawaii before returning to its homeport in Long Beach, California.

Other government officials who attended this commemoration activity included Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac and Assistant Secretary for Maritime, Atty. Julius Yano.

MARINA joins Shipboard Energy Efficiency Management Plan Calculations Seminar



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) personnel participated in the Shipboard Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) Calculations Seminar, hosted by the Marine and Technical Superintendent Association of the Philippines Inc. - Ship Managers Association of the Philippines Inc. (MTSAP-SMAP), during the Blue Economy Annual Trade and Conference (BEACON) Exposition 2024 at the SMX Convention, Mall of Asia.

Engr. Rey C. Eustaquio, MTSAP Chairman and President, led insightful

discussions on sustainable maritime practices. The event also featured an Oath-Taking Ceremony for 26 graduates of the 5-day Ship Superintendent Course, attended by participants from both private and government sectors.

Dr. Jinky M. Mendoza of the Enforcement Service (ES) and Engr. Rizalyn Pilotin of the Maritime Safety Service (MSS) were recognized as topnotchers and awarded Certificates of Recognition. Additionally, Engr. Adriane Joshua De Castro Bacolcol and Mary Margareth Bandalaria successfully completed the course.

VOICES OF MARITIME SAFETY



LIGTAS BYAHENG DAGAT: Voices of Maritime Safety

“

Safe sea is not the absence of danger but the presence of preparedness. In the vastness of our nation's waters. It is our commitment to safety that keeps every voyage safe and secure.

”

Atty. Rey Gealon
Cebu City Councilor

*At the Launch of the Nationwide Maritime Safety
Culture Awareness Caravan - Cebu City Leg*



LIGTAS BYAHENG DAGAT:

Voices of Maritime Safety

“

Maritime safety is not just a priority. It is a shared responsibility that demands vigilance, collaboration and commitment.

”

Commo Weniel Azcuna

Commander, Coast Guard District Central Visayas

At the Launch of the Nationwide Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Caravan - Cebu City Leg



REGIONAL NEWS



MARINA-Bicol held a dialogue with Tourist Boat Operators in Matnog, Sorsogon. The meeting aimed to familiarize operators with the renewal processes and requirements for the Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) and the licensing of Boat Captains and Motormen. Participants included officers and members of the Tourism Operators and Boatmen Association of Matnog (TOPBAM), Matnog's Tourism Officer and the Municipal Administrator.



The MARINA-Zamboanga conducted Modified Basic Safety Training (MBST) at Gulangan, Brgy. Panubigan, Zamboanga City, on 26-27 October 2024.



DOTMARINAPH



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MARINA Maritime Safety Awareness Culture Campaign Caravan





WHAT'S NEW IN THE REVISED MANAGEMENT LEVEL COURSE (MLC)?

What is the Management Level Course (MLC), and why is it important?

The Management Level Course (MLC) is a training program developed by the MARINA in compliance with the STCW Convention, specifically Regulation II/2 and III/2, requiring every candidate for certification as Master and Chief mate, and Chief Engineer and Second Engineer, respectively, to complete approved education and training, and meet the standards of competence specified in Sections A-II/2 and A-III/2 of the STCW Code.

Implemented by accredited Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs), the MLC is essential for meeting international maritime standards and advancing professional qualifications in the maritime industry.

What is the purpose of the revision of MLC?

The revision aims to address stakeholders' concerns regarding the redundancy of course contents of MLC with the contents of the BSMT and BSMarE programs, as well as the lengthy training duration.

Additionally, the revisions seek to ensure that training requirements are updated and responsive to the needs of the industry and the contents are adequate to attain the course outcomes.

What are the standout features that define the revised MLC?



The training duration: shortened training duration without compromising the objective to address the KUPs and competences required under Table A-II/2 and A-III/2 of the STCW Code.



The Intended Learning Outcomes: formulated towards the attainment of the required competences using higher level of thinking skills and focusing on the required management level skills such as managing, supervising, decision making, analysis, and other managerial responsibilities.



The methods of the delivery: the teaching and learning activities were suited to the level of responsibility of the trainee.

What are the differences in training hours between the existing and revised MLC Engine course?

Existing MLC Engine

Function 1 - 166 hours
Function 2 - 188 hours
Function 3 - 66 hours
Function 4 - 145 hours

Total - 565 hours
≈ 70 days



Revised MLC Engine

Function 1 - 116 hours
Function 2 - 72 hours
Function 3 - 32 hours
Function 4 - 91 hours

Total - 311 hours
≈ 38 days

What should seafarers do if they have already completed one function under the existing MLC?

Seafarers who hold training certificates for a specific function under the existing MLC may complete the remaining function(s) under the revised MLC.

A combination of these training certificates will be accepted for certification purposes.

What are the differences in training hours between the existing and revised MLC Deck course?

Existing MLC Deck

Function 1 - 239 hours
Function 2 - 74 hours
Function 3 - 112 hours

Total - 425 hours
≈ 53 days



Revised MLC Deck

Function 1 - 110 hours
Function 2 - 28 hours
Function 3 - 55 hours

Total - 193 hours
≈ 24 days

Who needs to take the revised MLC, and are seafarers with the existing MLC required to take it again?

The MLC is required for Operational Level Officers (OIC Navigational Watch and OIC Engineering Watch) seeking to upgrade their licenses or COCs to the Management Level (Master, Chief Mate, Chief Engineer, and Second Engineer).

Holders of Management Level COCs are not required to take the revised MLC. If their COC has expired or they lack the minimum seagoing service experience, only the Practical Assessment is required for revalidation.

Additionally, if seafarers have already completed the existing MLC, they are not required to take the revised version.

How will the revised MLC be implemented?



Implementation will be through the issuance of a Supplemental Technical Guidance in accordance with Section 9 of the MARINA Circular SC No. 2022-05.



The MTIs with valid course approval for existing MLC shall immediately revise and submit their course packages consisting of the Course Plan (Parts A to E), timetable, instructional materials, and assessment tools to the Accreditation Division, STCW Office on or before 31 December 2024, for evaluation, inspection, and approval.



The revised MLC shall be fully implemented by 01 January 2025.