



PH STRENGTHENS GLOBAL MARITIME TIES WITH AGREEMENTS ON SEAFARER CERTIFICATION, MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING, DIGITAL INNOVATION

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM – The Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), has solidified its commitment to advancing seafarer welfare and international maritime standards by signing multiple agreements with key global maritime stakeholders during the 11th session of the International Maritime

Organization’s (IMO) Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training, and Watchkeeping (HTW) on 11-12 February 2025. These agreements cover the mutual recognition of seafarers’ certificates, the integration of mental health training in maritime education, and the pioneering of a digital certification pilot project.

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MARINA IN THE REGIONS

Mabua Pebble Beach, Surigao Del Norte

Located in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, is a stunning coastal destination known for its unique charm. Unlike typical sandy beaches, its shoreline is covered with smooth, white, and gray pebbles, creating a distinctive landscape. The beach is embraced by majestic mountains and striking rock formations, offering a picturesque and serene escape.

Shot by William Carlo B. Valenzuela



MARINA-led PH delegation showcases seafarer certification digitalization at IMO HTW 11

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM – The Philippine delegation, spearheaded by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), highlighted its digitalization initiatives on seafarers' certification through a presentation of the MARINA Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) system at the 11th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) on 12 February 2025 at the IMO headquarters.

STCW Office - Maritime Education and Training Standards Supervisor (METSS) and Certification Division Chief Madiline Joanna F. Galve presented the benefits of the MISMO system, emphasizing its role in streamlining seafarer certification, enhancing efficiency and transparency, and preventing fraudulent and spurious certificates. The presentation underscored MISMO system's alignment with MARINA's commitment to ensuring the integrity of seafarers' certificates and documents, reinforcing trust and confidence in the competence of the country's maritime workforce.

Further, Ms. Galve shared in the presentation the MARINA's plans on implementing systems integration with the Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA)

and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), aiming to foster greater interoperability, streamline international seafarer certification processes, and enhance the mutual recognition of maritime credentials.

The Philippine delegation is composed of MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan, STCW Office Executive Director Samuel L. Batalla, Philippine Deputy Permanent Representative to IMO Minister Raffy Hermoso, Philippine Maritime Attaché in London Atty. Sharon L. De Chavez-Aledo, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Executive Director Atty. Cinderella Filipina Benitez-Jaro, DMW Assistant Secretary Jerome Pampolina, other DMW officials, key personnel of the STCW Office, and representatives from the Philippine Association of Maritime Training Centers, Inc (PAMTCI).

By leveraging technology, the MARINA continues to improve service delivery, strengthen regulatory compliance, and contribute to the global shift toward digitalization in the maritime sector. By enhancing supply chain integration and reducing administrative burdens, digitalization underscores the importance of embracing innovative solutions for a more connected and efficient future.





MARINA and the LEPL Maritime Transport Agency (MTA) of Georgia inked a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, as amended.

Signed on 12 February 2025 during the Philippine-hosted cocktail reception, the agreement ensures compliance with global maritime training standards and facilitates employment opportunities for seafarers from both nations. MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan and MTA Director Aleksi Akhvlediani signed the MOA, which establishes guidelines for certification recognition, regulatory compliance, and technical cooperation.

The signing was witnessed by Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the IMO, Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., and Chargé d'Affaires of Georgia, Mr. George Saganelidze. This agreement reinforces the Philippines' standing as a leading supplier of maritime professionals and expands international partnerships for Filipino seafarers.

Philippines-Georgia Agreement on Mutual Recognition of STCW Certificates



MARINA, ITF Partner to Enhance Mental Health Training for Maritime Faculty

In an effort to prioritize seafarer well-being, MARINA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) to integrate mental health training into maritime education.

Signed on 12 February 2025, the MOU introduces the module "Mental Health and Stress: Understanding Early Management and Coping" for faculty members of maritime academies in the Philippines. The initiative aims to equip educators with the knowledge and tools needed to support future seafarers in managing stress and mental health challenges at sea.

Under the agreement, MARINA and ITF will collaborate on developing training materials, implementing capacity-building programs, and conducting joint research on occupational health and safety. MARINA STCW Office Executive Director Samuel L. Batalla and Maritime Education and Training Standards Supervisor (METSS) Ms. Presca Lee B. Lugo witnessed the signing of the MOU.

Administrator Malaluan emphasized the importance of mental health in the maritime profession, stating, "By empowering our educators, we take a proactive step in safeguarding the welfare of Filipino seafarers."



MARINA, ICS, and LROO Collaborate on Digital Seafarer Certification Pilot Project

MARINA also signed a groundbreaking MOU with the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and Lloyd's Register OneOcean (LROO) to launch a digital certification pilot project. The initiative aims to integrate MARINA's Integrated Seafarers Management Online (MISMO) System with a global digital certification framework, enhancing efficiency and compliance in the maritime industry.

Signed on 12 February 2025, the agreement lays the foundation for a secure system allowing real-time

access to seafarer certificates for shipping companies, Port State Control, and flag Administrations. The pilot project will evaluate the feasibility of API integration and regulatory requirements for a seamless global certification process.

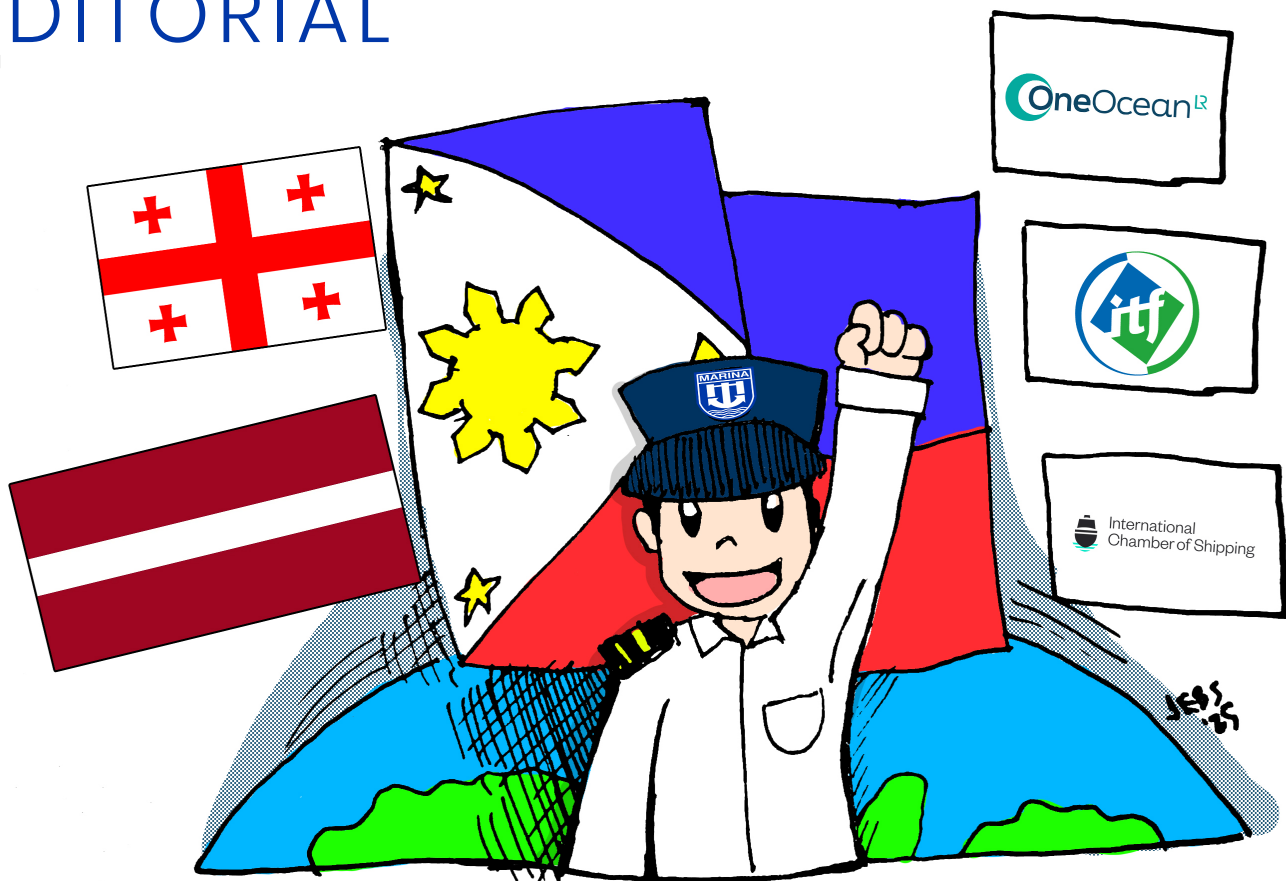
Administrator Malaluan, along with ICS Secretary General Guy Platten and LROO Co-CEO & CPTO Nicholas Goubert, signed the agreement, emphasizing the Philippines' commitment to digital transformation in seafarer documentation.

Philippines-Latvia Agreement on Recognition of STCW Certificates

On 11 February 2025, MARINA signed an MOU with the Maritime Administration of Latvia for the recognition of Filipino seafarers' STCW certificates. Under this agreement, the Maritime Administration of Latvia will issue an Endorsement of Recognition for certificates granted by MARINA, ensuring compliance with STCW training and assessment standards.



The agreement mandates continuous monitoring of maritime education and training through a quality standards system, reinforcing international maritime safety and certification integrity. MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan and Maritime Administration of Latvia Director Jānis Krastiņš signed the MOU, further strengthening maritime cooperation between the two nations.



Strengthening Maritime Ties: A Win for Filipino Seafarers

As the world's top provider of seafarers, the Philippines has once again reinforced its maritime legacy through a series of strategic agreements. The recent partnerships forged by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) with Georgia, Latvia, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and Lloyd's Register OneOcean (LROO) mark significant milestones in securing opportunities and well-being for our seafarers.

Breaking Barriers, Earning Recognition

For years, Filipino seafarers have had to prove themselves over and over again. Their skills unquestionable, their resilience unmatched—yet their qualifications were still met with scrutiny in many parts of the world. The mutual recognition agreements with Georgia and Latvia finally put an end to that injustice. This isn't just about expanding job opportunities; it's about telling every Filipino seafarer that their expertise is valued, that their hard work is enough, and that they no longer have to fight just to be acknowledged.

A Digital Lifeline for Seafarers

Ask any seafarer, and they'll tell you—the endless paperwork, the renewals, the bureaucratic headaches are battles they shouldn't have to fight. The partnership between MARINA, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and Lloyd's Register OneOcean (LROO) for digital seafarer certification is long overdue. This isn't just a technological upgrade; it's a statement that the Philippines refuses to let its seafarers be shackled by inefficiency. This is about making their lives easier, ensuring they can focus on their careers without drowning in red tape.

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Mental Health: The Most Urgent Battle

But modernization and recognition are not enough if we ignore the biggest storm our seafarers face—mental health struggles. The months spent away from loved ones, the loneliness, the pressure—it all takes a toll. Finally, MARINA’s memorandum of understanding with the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) puts mental health at the forefront. Training educators to equip future seafarers with the tools to cope emotionally is not just necessary; it is an act of justice. Our seafarers are strong, but strength should never mean suffering in silence.

A Future That Seafarers Deserve

These agreements are not just pieces of paper; they are proof that change is happening. They are the beginning of a maritime industry that not only demands excellence but ensures that excellence is recognized, facilitated, and protected. To every Filipino seafarer—this is for you. May your journey be smoother, your credentials respected, and your well-being prioritized. The world may rely on your hands to keep global trade afloat, but it’s time that your industry and your nation ensure that you, too, stay steady and strong, no matter where the tides take you.

Photo by
HAROLD P. MELENDEZ

MARINA leads PHL delegation to IMO HTW 11 in London as three PHL-submitted papers on STCW review set for discussion

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM – The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) led the Philippine delegation at the 11th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW), which commenced on 10 February 2025 at the IMO headquarters. During this session, the Sub-Committee is set to discuss three (3) key papers previously submitted by the Philippines as part of the ongoing comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code.



The HTW Sub-Committee addresses critical aspects of maritime operations, focusing on the human element, including training, certification, and the revision of IMO model courses. The MARINA will engage discussions on its submitted key papers under Agenda Item 6, which focus on identified gaps and provisions related to Regulations I/2 and I/10 of the specific areas for the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code, violence and harassment, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault, and digitalization of seafarers' documentation and implementation of electronic certification.

Other agenda items in which the Philippine delegation will actively participate throughout the weeklong session include the development of a safety regulatory framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships through new technologies and alternative fuels, as well as the validation of IMO model courses. Discussions will also cover the role of the human element in maritime operations, reports on unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency, the biennial status

report and provisional agenda for HTW 12, and the report to the Maritime Safety Committee.

MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan is joined by STCW Office Executive Director Samuel L. Batalla, Philippine Deputy Permanent Representative to IMO Minister Raffy Hermoso, Philippine Maritime Attaché in London Atty. Sharon L. De Chavez-Aledo, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Executive Director Atty. Cinderella Filipina Benitez-Jaro, DMW Directors August B. San Diego and Vincent Peneyra, key personnel of the STCW Office, and representatives from the Philippine Association of Maritime Training Centers, Inc (PAMTCI).

Through its active participation in HTW 11, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to strengthening maritime regulations, enhancing seafarer training and certification to ensure compliance to international standards. The MARINA continues to work with IMO Member States to uphold high standards in maritime education and training, reinforcing the country's role in the global maritime industry.



Philippines explores best practices with UK MCA

Other significant presentations from the UK MCA included updates from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a discussion on remote operator training and certification, and the review of short course approvals, including the integration of additional training modules on cybersecurity and the Internet of Things (IoT). Specific focus was also placed on the certification of seafarers, including Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch - II/4, Able Seafarer Deck - II/5, Restricted COCs, and Officer-in-Charge of a Navigational Watch under Regulation II/3 of the STCW Convention.

SOUTHAMPTON, UNITED KINGDOM – The Philippine delegation, led by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), recently conducted a benchmarking visit to the United Kingdom (UK) Maritime and Coast Guard Agency (MCA) to further enhance the country's maritime education and training policies and practices.

The two-day engagement, held on 05-06 February 2025, focused on key areas such as onboard training, the implementation of the electronic Training Record Book (e-TRB), and the development of a simulator equivalency for mandatory sea service.

On the first day of discussions, the two countries compared their implementation of the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW), exploring areas of mutual improvement. The UK MCA highlighted the introduction of the Cadet Training and Modernization (CT&M) Project, the modernization of the deck syllabus to align with prevailing and evolving standards, and shared insights on the emerging Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) and its implications on the role of seafarers.

The second day centered on the modernization of the engineering syllabus, particularly for Officer-in-Charge of Engineering Watch - III/1 and Chief Engineer - III/2, as presented by the UK MCA. The Philippine delegation also received a comprehensive presentation on the e-TRB, followed by workshop skills, changes to the Electro-Technical Officer (ETO) course, and the proposal for senior ETO training. Discussions on small vessel engineering and operation of vessels using alternative fuels added a practical aspect to the collaboration.

STCW Office Executive Director Samuel L. Batalla and Philippine Maritime Attaché in London Atty. Sharon L. De Chavez-Aledo led the delegation, along with key personnel of the STCW Office.

The successful exchange underscored the commitment of both countries to continually enhance maritime education and training, ensuring that policies are aligned with global standards and responsive to the future needs of the industry. The Philippines, through the MARINA, strives to explore innovative solutions to better equip Filipino seafarers for the challenges of tomorrow's maritime landscape.





PH Maritime Administration Enhances Compliance with the IMO Instruments Implementation Code through the PH Maritime Strategy



MANILA – In line with the whole-of-government approach and the country’s commitment to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Instruments Implementation (III) Code, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) convened the Inter-agency Writeshop on the Review and Finalization of the Philippine Maritime Strategy (PMS) from 18–21 February 2025.

The writeshop aims to review, revise, and finalize the PMS—a strategic framework ensuring that Philippine maritime agencies align with international maritime standards and best practices. The strategy will serve as a roadmap for the country’s fulfillment of its obligations as a flag, port, and coastal state.

In her opening remarks, MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan underscored the importance of cross-agency collaboration in enhancing maritime policies and strategies. She emphasized the need to update the PMS to establish a new plan that will

guide the implementation and enforcement of mandatory IMO instruments while addressing corrective actions identified in the recently concluded IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS).

Malaluan further highlighted that the strategy will define key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess and ensure the maritime administration’s compliance with the III Code.

The writeshop brought together representatives from IMSAS member agencies, including the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), MARINA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Cebu Port Authority (CPA), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)



MARINA Presents Highlights of 2024 Performance, Seeks Support for Priority Programs at the DOTr-MARINA SOM for Q1

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) presented the highlights of its 2024 Performance and sought the Transportation Department's support for the implementation of priority programs during the first quarter DOTr-MARINA Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on 07 February 2025, in San Juan City.

Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista congratulated MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan for propelling the Agency in achieving such sterling performance given the level of resources made available in 2024.

Major performance indicators of the MARINA confirm that the Agency has thus far exceeded its targets for its promotional and developmental as well as regulatory activities. Meanwhile, the Agency recorded a total of 99.66% budget utilization rate in 2024.

"I commend everyone in the MARINA for the hard work,



dedication and commitment to faithfully discharge their duties and responsibilities. Ituloy natin ang mga magandang gawain para sa ating mga stakeholders, at mga seafarers", said Transportation Secretary during the meeting.

The MARINA Administrator also emphasized the Agency's commitment to embracing digital innovations that enhance efficiency and security in seafarer certification.

"Project Verify marks a significant step in providing a global platform for a streamlined and seamless certification process for the Filipino seafarers. This collaboration reinforces the Philippines' commitment to aligning with global maritime standards and moving towards digital transformation in the maritime industry."

Providing updates on MARINA's preparation for its assumption and discharge of its role in the regulation of maritime education in the country, Administrator Malaluan sought necessary support from the Secretary of Transportation for appropriate representation with partner-agencies for the approval of additional plantilla positions and the provision for funding.

Administrator Malaluan also briefly discussed current and ongoing efforts to prepare our Philippine bid for re-election under Category "C) of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The conduct of the quarterly DOTr-MARINA SOM was institutionalized to serve as a platform for regular exchange of developments within the maritime industry and as a forum for the MARINA to seek guidance on issues and policy concerns requiring immediate consideration from the Secretary of Transportation.



MARINA, BMARINA Ink Agreement to Strengthen Maritime Safety and Boost Economic Growth in Bangsamoro

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines extended its collaboration with the Bangsamoro Maritime Industry Authority (BMARINA) on 28 February 2025, through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) aimed at improving maritime safety, security, and operational efficiency in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

The expanded partnership is expected to enhance maritime governance in BARMM through joint initiatives focused on regulatory oversight, policy implementation, and capacity-building programs. These efforts are intended to improve local

shipping operations, elevate vessel safety standards, and support the professional development of maritime personnel.

During her message, MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan emphasized the significance of the agreement stating the expanded MOA “also stands as a testament to the trust and collaboration that exists between our agency and the Bangsamoro Maritime Industry Authority. Through this agreement, we reaffirm our commitment to the realization of the vision of a prosperous, peaceful, and self-sufficient Bangsamoro region.”

Under the agreement, MARINA and BMARINA will work together to ensure that maritime operations in the region align with the national laws and adhere to applicable international maritime standards. The MOA is also expected to contribute in the economic development in BARMM by enhancing maritime connectivity, facilitating trade and transport, and creating employment opportunities for the local workforce.

The collaboration aims to contribute to the region’s overall growth, ensuring that maritime affairs are effectively managed in alignment with both national and global maritime objectives.



Maritime Leaders Convene for Bangsamoro Maritime Transportation Summit 2025



Key maritime industry leaders, government officials, and stakeholders gathered for the Bangsamoro Maritime Transportation Summit 2025, a pivotal event aimed at strengthening maritime safety and sustainability in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Held from 11-12 February, the summit served as a crucial platform for addressing pressing issues in the maritime sector.

With the theme “Ensuring Safe and Sustainable Maritime Transportation in BARMM,” the summit focused on enhancing safety measures, improving infrastructure, and bolstering regional connectivity. Discussions highlighted collaborative efforts to address challenges and implement strategic solutions for a more resilient maritime transport system.

The event brought together officials from key maritime and transportation agencies, including DOTr Assistant Secretary Atty. Julius A. Yano, MOTC-BARMM Minister Atty.

Paisalin P. Tago, CPA, MOTC-BARMM Director-General Atty. Roslaine L. Macao-Manir, CSEE, MARINA Chief of Staff Dir. Ronaldo P. Bandalaria, Philippine Coast Guard District-BARMM Commander CG Commodore Marco Antonio Gines, and BEZA Minister Atty. Sukarno Abas. Representatives from BMARINA and other BARMM agencies were also in attendance.

During the discussions, Dir. Bandalaria emphasized the enforcement of Republic Act 9295, the Domestic Shipping Development Act of 2004, and raised concerns over deceptive vessels and the increase in maritime casualties from 2018 to 2024.

Industry leaders underscored the need for strengthened collaboration between MARINA and BMARINA to enhance maritime safety and economic growth. MARINA Regional Office IV Director, Engr. Rizal J. Victoria advocated for joint safety exercises, policy reforms, and infrastructure investments. MARINA Regional Office OIC-Director Dr. Farida T. Cunanan

highlighted the importance of improving the business environment, investing in human capital, and leveraging technological advancements. Meanwhile, MARINA Regional Office XII Regional Director Engr. Bernardo A. Pollo called for upgraded port facilities, standardized safety regulations, and stricter enforcement to facilitate regional trade and connectivity.

Other notable attendees included MARINA Legal Service Director Atty. Eusebia A. Cadlum-Boco, MRO4 Atty. Ivy Audrey T. Fampo, MRO9 Senior SOS Engr. Bevin M. Bibi, and MRO12 Engineer II Engr. Raul R. Firmacion.

The summit concluded with a unified commitment to advancing policy frameworks, improving maritime infrastructure, and ensuring the safety and efficiency of BARMM's maritime transport system. The agreements reached during the event are expected to drive economic growth, sustainability, and enhanced regional maritime connectivity in the years ahead.

MARINA IN THE REGIONS

MARINA Continues to Strengthen Maritime Safety Culture Through Nationwide Caravan

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) continues to expand its Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan, reaching various regions nationwide. This initiative, a key component of

MARINA's ten-year Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP2028), aims to enhance maritime safety awareness through partnerships, town hall meetings, information dissemination, and community engagement.



MARINA-Legazpi Hosts Maritime Safety Caravan, One-Stop-Shop in Camarines Norte

DAET, CAMARINES NORTE – The MARINA Regional Office V (MRO5), led by Regional Director Atty. Maximo I. Bañares Jr., held a Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan alongside a Mobile Registration and One-Stop-Shop at the Camarines Norte Agro Sports Complex on 12 February 2025.

MARINA-Caraga Brings Maritime Safety Campaign to Dinagat Islands

LIBJO, DINAGAT ISLANDS – The MARINA Regional Office XIII (MARINA Caraga), led by Regional Director Ninfa Dominguez-Martinez, conducted the second leg of its Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan on 11 February 2025.

The event kicked off with a motorcade through the municipality, joined by local government officials, the Philippine Coast Guard, and maritime stakeholders. A key highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MARINA and the Local Government of Libjo, reinforcing their shared commitment to maritime safety and regulatory compliance.

(FVSC) and Minimum Safe Manning Certificates (MSMC); 13 applications for the renewal of Certificate of Maritime Personnel Identification Documents (CMP IDs) and Seafarer Identification Books (SIBs); and 15 Blockchain Registration applications, ensuring compliance with updated maritime technology standards.

This initiative underscores MRO 7's dedication to modernizing and decentralizing its services, making them more accessible and convenient for maritime stakeholders in the region.

The event commenced with a motorcade from Jose Panganiban Gym, passing through Paracale and Vinzons before reaching Daet, symbolizing a unified commitment to maritime safety. Key agencies, including the Philippine Coast Guard - Coast Guard District Bicol (PCG CGDB) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region V, actively participated.

A major highlight was the signing of an MOU between MARINA and the municipalities of Vinzons, Jose Panganiban, Paracale, and Mercedes, solidifying efforts to strengthen maritime safety education, capacity building, and awareness initiatives. The afternoon session featured a mobile registration and one-stop-shop, providing seafarers and stakeholders access to MARINA's online services.





MARINA-Gensan Advances Maritime Safety in Sultan Kudarat

KALAMANSIG, SULTAN KUDARAT – The MARINA Regional Office XII (MRO12), led by Regional Director Engr. Bernardo A. Pollo successfully concluded the fourth leg of its Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan at the Poblacion Covered Court in Kalamansig on 18 February 2025.

The event brought together local government units (LGUs), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coastal fishing associations, boat operators, and other maritime stakeholders. A significant milestone was the signing of an MOU between MARINA and the LGU of Kalamansig, reinforcing their partnership in maritime safety and environmental protection.

MARINA-Batangas Holds Maritime Safety Awareness Event in Puerto Galera

PUERTO GALERA, ORIENTAL MINDORO – The MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO4), led by Engr. Rizal J. Victoria, conducted the third leg of its Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan at Muelle Cultural Heritage Park, Poblacion, on 20 February 2025.

The event, themed “Ligtas Byaheng Dagat,” was organized in partnership with the Local Government of Puerto Galera, the Philippine Coast Guard, and local maritime stakeholders. Discussions focused on maritime safety, preparedness, and collaborative efforts to enhance safety measures for coastal communities.



MARINA-La Union Conducts Maritime Safety Awareness Caravan in Cagayan

STA. ANA, CAGAYAN – The MARINA Regional Office I and II (MRO I&II), led by Regional Director Engr. Jedini Nur A. Sibal, hosted the third leg of its Maritime Safety Culture Campaign Caravan, in collaboration with maritime organizations and local authorities on 18 February 2025.

The campaign featured a Modified Basic Safety Training (MBST) program, equipping coastal communities with essential maritime safety knowledge and skills. Additionally, Regional Director Sibal met with Sta. Ana Mayor Nelson Robinio to discuss potential collaborations on maritime safety initiatives.



MARINA-Zamboanga Strengthens Maritime Safety and Environmental Sustainability

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The MARINA Regional Office IX (MRO9), led by OIC-Director Farida Cunanan, PhD, successfully conducted the second leg of its Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan in Zamboanga City on 25 February 2025.



A key highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between MARINA and the Zamboanga City Local Government Unit (LGU) to enhance maritime safety and environmental sustainability.

The event included a motorcade from Paseo del Mar to Mayor Vitaliano Agan Coliseum in Barangay Tetuan, followed by a town hall meeting with key maritime officials, local leaders, and industry stakeholders. Discussions covered passenger rights, maritime safety standards, and inclusive sea travel for persons with disabilities.

The campaign also reached the International Port of Zamboanga City, where MARINA distributed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to passengers and placed safety reminder posters on passenger vessels.



MARINA-Caraga Expands Maritime Safety Campaign to Claver, Surigao del Norte

CLAYER, SURIGAO DEL NORTE - The MARINA Regional Office XIII (MRO13), led by Regional Director Ninfa Dominguez-Martinez, PhD, extended the Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan to Claver, Surigao del Norte on 26 February 2025.



The event featured a motorcade through the Municipality of Claver, followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MARINA and the Local Government of Claver, further strengthening their collaboration on maritime safety initiatives.

MARINA continues to roll out this campaign nationwide, ensuring that maritime safety and environmental sustainability remain a top priority for all stakeholders.

57 Seafarers Complete MARINA's Mobile Basic Safety Training in Batangas

A total of 57 seafarers participated in the Mobile Basic Safety Training (MBST) with Typhoon Awareness and Preparedness, conducted by the MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO 4) from 26-28 February 2025.

The training, initiated by MRO 4 Regional Director Engr. Rizal J. Victoria, and facilitated by MRO 4's Seafarers Documentation Section in collaboration with the Manpower Development Service and the Maritime Training Program Development Division, aimed to equip seafarers with essential safety skills and knowledge in handling extreme weather conditions, particularly typhoons.

Participants underwent comprehensive sessions on basic safety protocols, emergency response measures, and best practices for maritime survival. The training also covered procedures to mitigate risks posed by typhoons, ensuring that seafarers are well-prepared to navigate hazardous weather conditions while at sea.

Maritime experts and trainers provided hands-on instruction, reinforcing the importance of compliance with safety standards. The initiative is part of MARINA's ongoing efforts to enhance the capabilities of the maritime workforce and promote a culture of safety in the industry.

The successful completion of the MBST underscores MARINA RO IV's commitment to ensuring that seafarers are not only technically competent but also resilient in the face of natural disasters. More training sessions are expected in the coming months to further strengthen maritime safety preparedness in the region.



MARINA-Tacloban Inaugurates New Office in Maasin

In a bid to bring its services closer to its stakeholders, the MARINA Regional Office VIII (MRO 8) formally inaugurated its extension office in Maasin on 25 February 2025.

The inauguration was led by Regional Director Cheryl Pascua, along with Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) First District Engineer Engr. Manolo A. Rojas, and Congresswoman Luz V. Mercado of the First District of Southern Leyte.

During the ceremony, MRO 8 Regional Director Pascua emphasized the significance of opening MARINA services to industry stakeholders in Maasin, improving accessibility and boosting support for local seafarers and fisherfolk.

The inauguration was attended by officials and representatives from the Local Government Unit of Maasin, Coast Guard District Eastern Visayas, Philippine Ports Authority, shipowners and operators, as well as personnel from DPWH and MRO 8.





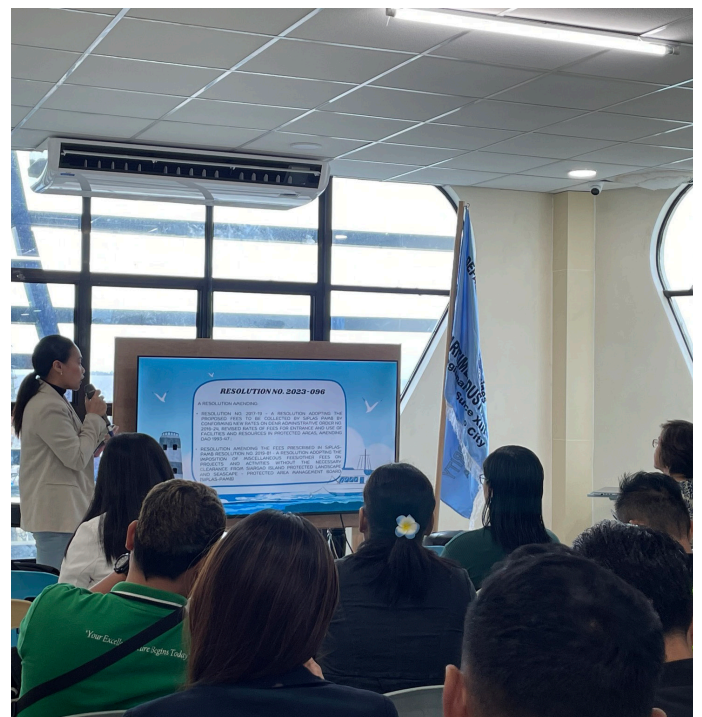
MARINA-CARAGA Holds 1st Quarter Multi-Sectoral Advisory Board Meeting

SURIGAO CITY – The MARINA Regional Office XIII (MRO 13), led by Regional Director Dr. Ninfa Dominguez-Martinez, convened its 1st Quarter Multi-Sectoral Advisory Board (MSAB) meeting on 20 February 2025, to discuss key maritime policies and regulations.

During the meeting, various Section Heads presented updates on MARINA Memorandum Circulars, including those related to vessel registration, Annual Report on Finances and Operations (ARFO) compliance, vessel documentation, crew certification, and licensing requirements.

Engr. Limpangog provided an overview of MARINA Advisory 2025-01, which suspends the acquisition of LCT-type cargo ships and outlines operational guidelines for existing LCT-type RORO cargo vessels in domestic trade. He also discussed MARINA Circular No. SR 2021-05, which mandates compliance with the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) Parts I and II.

Stakeholders actively participated in discussions, providing comments, recommendations, and suggestions. The meeting successfully fostered collaboration among maritime agencies and industry players, ensuring compliance with national and international maritime standards.



MARINA-Legazpi Conducts Mobile Registration, One-Stop-Shop in Vinzons

VINZONS, Camarines Norte—The MARINA Regional Office V (MRO5) conducted a Mobile Registration and One-Stop-Shop on February 13, 2025, bringing key maritime services closer to stakeholders in the region.

Led by Regional Director Atty. Maximo I. Bañares, Jr., the initiative was held in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Vinzons through its Tourism Office and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The event provided vessel registration, licensing, MARINA BEST application processing, vessel inspections, and consultations on regulatory compliance.

The program aimed to streamline maritime transactions and reduce the need for stakeholders to travel to MARINA's regional office in Legazpi City. Participants welcomed the initiative, citing its convenience and efficiency.

223 Boat Captains, Motormen take Oath in Panglao



The MARINA Regional Office (MRO7) administered the oath-taking of 223 newly certified boat captains and motormen in a ceremony held in Panglao, Bohol on 14 February 2025.

Led by MRO7 Regional Director Anabell P. Lagas, the event underscored the agency's commitment to enhancing maritime safety and professionalism in Central Visayas. Panglao Mayor Edgardo "Boy" Arcay, a Master Mariner and Harbor Pilot, served as the Guest of Honor, emphasizing the importance of safe and responsible boating practices.

As part of the ceremony, MRO7 also released various certificates and licenses, including the Certificate of Marine Profession ID, Seafarer's Identification Booklet, and Modified Basic Safety Training Certificate. These credentials reinforce compliance with maritime regulations and professional standards among local boat operators.

The initiative aims to strengthen maritime operations in Panglao and ensure the safety and efficiency of water transport in the region.



MARINA-GenSan Holds Public Consultation on Fees and Penalties in Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), through its Legal Service (LS) and Management, Financial, and Administrative Service (MFAS), successfully conducted the Mindanao leg of its Public Consultation on the Rationalization of Fees and Charges and the Revision of Fines and Penalties on 05 February 2025.

Hosted by MARINA Regional Office XII (MRO 12), led by Regional Director Engr. Bernardo A. Pollo, the event gathered regional directors, representatives from MARINA Regional Offices 9, 10, 11, and 13, and key maritime stakeholders. Participants, including shipping and fishing companies, fisherfolk groups, and maritime institutions, discussed proposed adjustments aimed at aligning fees and penalties with industry needs and government cost-recovery efforts.

RD Pollo highlighted the importance of stakeholder engagement in shaping maritime policies. The consultation featured presentations on the proposed revisions and an open forum where participants shared concerns and suggestions. MARINA assured stakeholders that their feedback would be considered in finalizing the reforms.

This consultation is part of a nationwide initiative to ensure inclusive participation in MARINA's policy development. The next session is scheduled for 07 February 2025, in Batangas.

