



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

NEWSLETTER

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MARINA CHIEF LEADS SHIP INSPECTIONS IN BATANGAS TO ENSURE SAFE HOLY WEEK TRAVEL

Batangas City —As part of its intensified compliance monitoring efforts ahead of the Holy Week peak season, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Sonia Malaluan personally boarded a vessel in Batangas to ensure strict adherence to maritime safety regulations on 01 April 2025.

“Safety is non-negotiable. With the expected surge of passengers this Holy Week, we are doubling our efforts to ensure that vessels are compliant with safety protocols and ready to transport passengers safely and efficiently,” Administrator Malaluan emphasized.

Administrator Malaluan also met with key officials from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) District Southern Tagalog Headquarters, spearheaded by District Commander Geronimo Tuvilla (MPSA) to discuss inter-agency efforts in ensuring passenger safety and vessel compliance, reaffirming MARINA’s strong partnership with the PCG in maritime enforcement and safety initiatives.

“Our main objective is to ensure the safe and smooth operation of ships during the peak season. The safety of passengers remains our top priority, and this is why we continue to strengthen our partnership with the PCG,” said Administrator Malaluan.

During the meeting, both officials underscored the importance of a whole-of-government approach in maritime safety and environmental protection. “Hindi na bago ang inspection na ito ng mga barko. Ito po ay routinary activity ng ating ahensya para matiyak na ligtas at maayos ang biyahe ng ating mga kababayan lalo na tuwing peak season,” the MARINA Chief added.

Accompanying the Administrator during the inspection were MARINA Deputy Administrator for Planning Nenita Atienza, Chief of Staff Engr. Ronaldo Bandalaria, Planning and Policy Service (PPS) Director Luisito delos Santos, MARINA Regional Office IV (MRO4) Regional Director Rizal Victoria, Enforcement Service (ES) OIC-Director Atty. Benedicto Manlapaz, ES inspectors and personnel from MRO4.

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Dakak Park & Beach Resort

Dakak Park & Beach Resort is a beach resort located in Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte, Philippines. It's known for its white-sand private beach, adventure activities like ziplining and scuba diving, and luxury accommodations surrounded by nature. The resort also offers golf, horseback riding, multiple pools, and dining options—all in a peaceful, scenic setting ideal for both relaxation and adventure. It's about 30 minutes from Dipolog Airport and near historic sites like Rizal Shrine and Gloria's Fantasyland.

Shot by Ronald B. Dauag

Safety First: MARINA's Holy Week Initiative Reinforces Passenger Protection at Sea

Passenger Ships Inspected Nationwide; Unsafe Vessels Grounded Before Peak Travel Surge

To ensure the safety of hundreds of thousands of sea travelers during the Holy Week, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has concluded its Intensified Compliance Monitoring (ICM) drive with a total of 113 passenger ships inspected nationwide.

The ICM, conducted from 1 to 12 April 2025, aimed to verify the seaworthiness and regulatory compliance of vessels ahead of one of the busiest travel seasons in the country.

Of the vessels inspected, 10 (8.85%) were suspended due to safety-related deficiencies. Six (6) of these were



cleared to resume operations after completing corrective actions and passing reinspection.

"These inspections aren't just for compliance—they're for safe operations of ships for the benefit of our riding public," said MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan. "We owe it to our passengers to ensure they board ships that are safe, secure, and fully compliant with maritime standards."

Meanwhile, MARINA also deployed

personnel to Malasakit Help Desks at port passenger terminals nationwide to assist travelers and help address concerns during the Holy Week period.

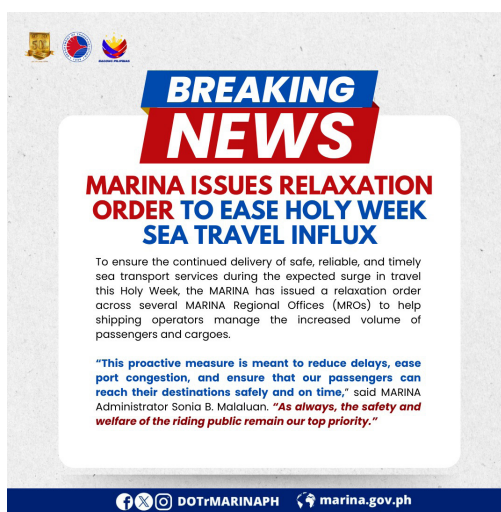
MARINA ISSUES RELAXATION ORDER TO EASE HOLY WEEK SEA TRAVEL INFLUX

Measure expected to benefit passengers and ease port congestion nationwide

To ensure the continued delivery of safe, reliable, and timely sea transport services during the expected surge in travel this Holy Week, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has issued a relaxation order across several MARINA Regional Offices (MROs) to help shipping operators manage the increased volume of passengers and cargoes.

"This proactive measure is meant to reduce delays, ease port congestion, and ensure that our passengers can reach their destinations safely and on time," said MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan. "As always, the safety and welfare of the riding public remain our top priority."

The order provides flexibility in sailing schedules, increased trip frequencies, and other operational adjustments for qualified domestic shipping companies. It applies to shipping operators with valid Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC), Provisional Authority (PA), or Special Permit (SP), operating on affected routes.



rolling cargoes, the relaxation order allows operators to depart once maximum passenger or cargo capacity is reached, even if before the scheduled departure time. Ships may also return immediately to congested ports after disembarking, with clearance from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Cebu Port Authority (CPA). Additionally, the "First-Come, First-Serve" policy will be enforced to ensure fair service despite high demand.

In cases where service remains insufficient, other qualified operators may be authorized to deploy additional vessels to ease congestion. Any changes to sailing schedules are subject to MARINA's confirmation and may be modified or canceled if needed.

To avoid port bottlenecks, affected ships are also directed to observe a reasonable "Port Time Stay," ensuring smooth berthing operations.

MARINA Administrator Calls for Cooperation of Sea Passengers in Reporting Possible Overloading



MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan called for the active cooperation of sea passengers in reporting any suspected overloading incidents, emphasizing the crucial role of the public in preventing safety risks at sea during the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Press Conference held earlier today, 25 April 2025.

“We need the cooperation of everyone — not just the authorities, but the passengers as well. Huwag na po tayong sumakay kung alam nating lampas na sa kapasidad ang bangka o barko. Kung may nakita po kayong paglabag, isumbong agad sa MARINA o Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Kasama namin kayo sa pagbabantay ng kaligtasan ng biyahe,” Administrator Malaluan said.

The Administrator stressed that while MARINA and its partner agencies are intensifying enforcement efforts, public vigilance remains essential, especially in areas

without proper passenger terminals where monitoring is more difficult. In some cases, individuals have reportedly bypassed security checks or jumped aboard vessels after being counted, posing serious risks to all on board.

To address this, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), MARINA, PCG, and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) recently signed a Joint Memorandum Circular aimed at strengthening enforcement against overloading. The Circular mandates MARINA to impose penalties on shipping companies found violating passenger capacity regulations.

MARINA also highlighted the importance of adopting online ticketing systems to ensure a more accurate and reliable passenger manifest. This digitalization effort not only supports anti-overloading measures but also enhances emergency response and rescue operations when necessary.

BEWARE OF UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS OFFERING ASSISTANCE FOR MARINA-BEST

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) warns the public against unauthorized individuals or fixers who claim to offer assistance for transactions related to the MARINA-BEST (Blockchain-Enabled Automated Certification System).

MARINA reiterates that **creating an account on MARINA-BEST Shipping (shipping-best.marina.gov.ph) and applying for a Vessel Name Clearance is completely FREE**. Some individuals may falsely offer these services for a fee, but the account registration and access process **do not require any payment**.

For accurate information and legitimate assistance, you may visit the:

- **MARINA Central Office – 9th Floor, Management Information and Systems Service (MISS)**
- **Any MARINA Regional Office**

You may also reach us through:

- Email: blockchain_support@mail.marina.gov.ph
- Viber: **MARINA-Blockchain Support Shipping – 0962-472-3847**

Do not fall for scams! Always verify that you are dealing with authorized MARINA personnel to protect your safety and interests.



MARINA Welcomes IMO and MOF for the Successful Conclusion of SMART-C Traffic Project Mission in Manila

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) welcomed the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Ministry of Ocean Fisheries (MOF) of the Republic of Korea as they successfully concluded the SMART-C Traffic Project Mission in Manila, held from 28 March to 04 April 2025.

The SMART-C Programme aims to promote sustainable maritime transport systems and marine environmental protection through knowledge-building and technical capacity development in developing countries. The programme comprises several key projects, including the SMART-C Women Project, SMART-C Traffic Project, and SMART-C GHG Project, with the Philippines as one of its beneficiary countries. This four-year programme aims to establish a web-based e-navigation service platform in the Philippines and the development and implementation of GHG emission data collection/monitoring system for the Traffic and GHG Projects, respectively.

The mission includes the Inception Workshop for the SMART-C Traffic Project which served as a platform to formally launch the project, review its objectives, and establish coordination mechanisms.

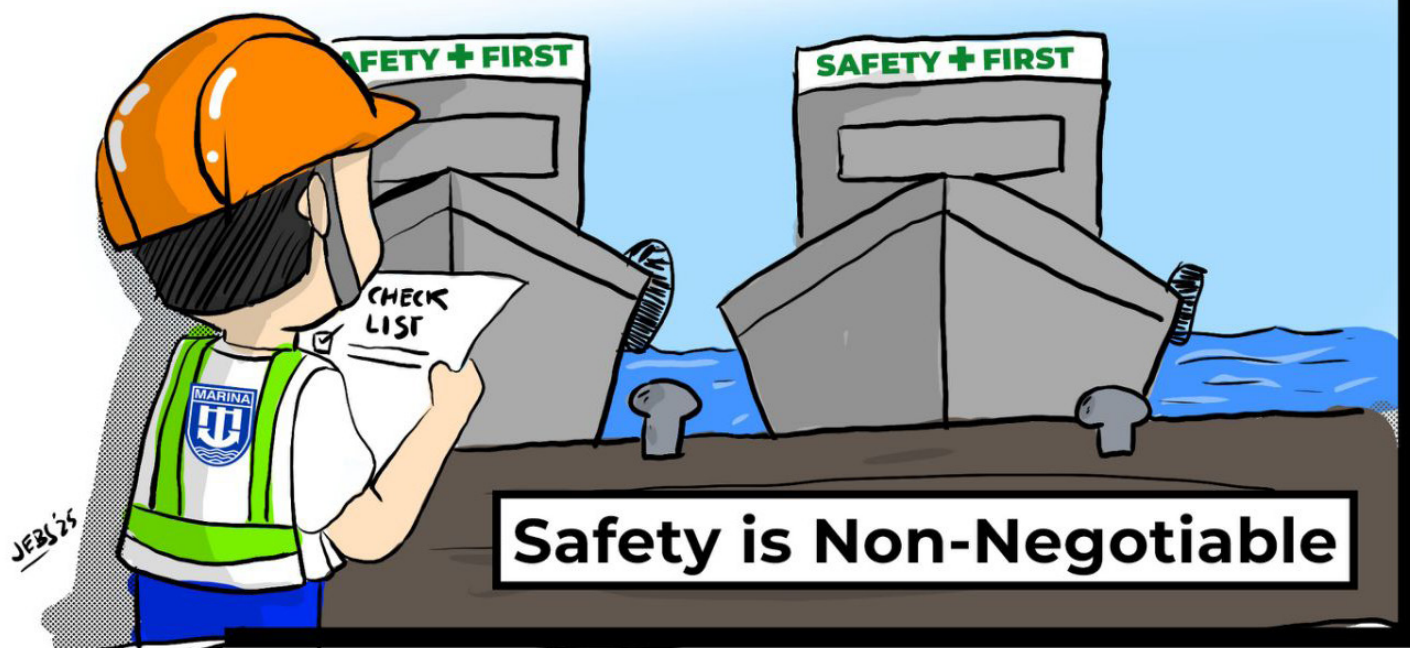
This initiative also marked a significant step forward in enhancing maritime safety and efficiency by implementing advanced vessel traffic management and e-Navigation services. The SMART-C Traffic Project, in line with the SMART-C Framework, seeks to revolutionize maritime operations by optimizing vessel traffic management and integrating cutting-edge e-Navigation technologies. The recent mission served as a vital platform for the IMO and MOF to

engage with Philippine maritime stakeholders, conduct comprehensive assessments, and lay a strong foundation for the project's successful implementation.

In addition to the SMART-C Traffic Project, the Philippines has participated in the SMART-C Women Project, which promotes gender equality by expanding employment opportunities for women in the maritime sector and providing career-advancing training. Meanwhile, the SMART-C GHG Project aims to support developing countries in decarbonizing the shipping sector by establishing a management and analysis system for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission data from ships. The SMART-C Traffic Project specifically focuses on developing, operating, and piloting an e-Navigation service to efficiently analyze and manage maritime safety information in an internet-based environment.

IMO's Head of Operational Safety, Mr. Javier Yasnikouski, expressed his gratitude to MARINA for hosting the mission and emphasized the importance of inter-agency collaboration in achieving the project's objectives. He encouraged stakeholders to share insights on challenges and existing traffic management systems, reaffirming IMO's commitment to supporting the initiative.

This collaborative effort marks a major milestone in the Philippines' pursuit of modernizing its maritime infrastructure while ensuring the safety and efficiency of its waterways. The successful conclusion of the SMART-C Traffic Project Mission will pave the way for future advancements in maritime technology and international cooperation.



“Safety is Non-Negotiable: Why MARINA’s Proactive Holy Week Maritime Drive Deserves Public Support”

Each year, as Holy Week draws near, millions of Filipino travelers set off on journeys home to provinces or to vacation destinations—many by sea. It’s a season steeped in reflection, tradition, and family reunions. But for our maritime authorities, it’s also a period of intense vigilance, preparation, and responsibility.

This year, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), under the decisive leadership of Administrator Sonia Malaluan, has shown us what public service should look like: present, hands-on, and unapologetically focused on protecting lives. Her personal inspection of passenger ships in Batangas isn’t just symbolic—it’s a statement. Safety is not a checkbox; it’s a commitment.

With 113 passenger ships inspected and 10 suspended due to safety deficiencies, MARINA has sent a clear message to operators: the time for shortcuts is over. Lives are on the line, and any vessel found to be lacking in safety compliance will be held accountable. And this isn’t just about the Holy Week—it’s about cultivating a culture of safety year-round.

Some may see the term “Intensified Compliance Monitoring” and scroll past, but behind those words lies a deeply human goal: ensuring that a mother bringing her child home, an OFW catching a connecting bus, or a senior citizen visiting loved ones will make it safely to their destination. That is what Administrator Malaluan and the MARINA team

are fighting for.

It would have been easy for the agency to conduct business as usual—issue memos, check reports from a distance, and trust that everything will run smoothly. But they did more. They went to the frontlines. They collaborated tightly with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). They activated Malasakit Help Desks in passenger terminals nationwide. They relaxed certain shipping protocols strategically—not to cut corners, but to ease bottlenecks, shorten waiting times, and ensure faster vessel turnaround, all while upholding maritime standards.

This is what responsive governance looks like. This is what leadership with conviction sounds like.

Still, even the most robust systems can only do so much without the public’s cooperation. Administrator Malaluan’s appeal to sea passengers to report suspected overloading isn’t a passing plea—it is a call to shared responsibility.

Let’s be clear: we cannot build a truly safe and reliable maritime sector without bold reforms, inter-agency coordination, and a whole-of-government approach. But perhaps even more importantly, we cannot do it without a whole-of-society mindset—where passengers, ship operators, crew members, port authorities, and the general public are all active participants in maritime safety.

Let’s make safety not just a seasonal effort, but a national standard.

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MARINA Joins Forces with Philippine Red Cross, DOTr, and other Agencies



MANDALUYONG CITY — The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has joined the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) in a landmark initiative enhancing access to emergency support services to sea passengers and shipping operators.

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.

Through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on 21 April 2025, between PRC, DOTr, and its attached agencies—including the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)—the partnership aims to promote the PRC Safe Card as a tool for enhancing passenger protection across all modes of transport.

PRC Chairman and CEO Senator Richard J. Gordon said, “We want to save lives. We cannot take for granted the lives of our passengers. Transport operators must exercise extraordinary diligence—this partnership reminds them of that responsibility.”

For DOTr Secretary Vivencio B. Dizon, “Isa sa pinakamalaking problema na kinakaharap ng ating sektor ay ang kaligtasan ng mga pasahero—sa lupa, himpapawid, at karagatan. Lahat po ng babiyahe ay dapat may proteksyon.”

Meanwhile, MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan emphasized the importance of strengthening safety mechanisms at sea:

“Safety at sea requires coordination, commitment, and care. By working with the Philippine Red Cross to extend immediate emergency support to maritime stakeholders, we are taking a concrete step toward a safer and more accountable shipping environment.”

Under the PRC Safe Card program, passengers and operators gain access to critical emergency services, including ambulance response, first aid, blood support and other benefits like daily hospital allowance for a maximum of 60 days.

The PRC currently operates 178 ambulances, 108 blood banks, and a vast volunteer network nationwide.



GOOD NEWS: MARINA ILOILO EXTENDS TRIPS ON GOOD FRIDAY

GUIMARAS, PHILIPPINES – THE MARINA Regional Office VI (MRO6) extends trips on Good Friday, 18 April 2025 extending operations from Guimaras Province to Iloilo City and vice versa. This is in anticipation of the surge of travelers, especially pilgrims traveling for the Holy Week.

This is due to the request of the local government unit (LGU) Jordan to accommodate all passengers travelling on fiber boats and roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) who wishes to witness the “Ang Pagtatal Sa Bala-an Bukid 2025”



MARINA Chief urges seafarers: Read the process, complete the requirements

Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator Sonia Malaluan appealed to Filipino seafarers to thoroughly read and understand the requirements and procedures for processing their documents, as the agency continues to face challenges due to incomplete or unqualified applications.

Speaking during a Philippine Information Agency (PIA) press conference on 25 April 2025, Administrator Malaluan addressed the thousands of applications received by MARINA daily, many of which, she said are either lacking in necessary documents or do not meet qualifications.

“Aapila po ako sa ating mga seafarers na basahin po nating mabuti kung ano ang mga kinakailangan ninyong mga dokumento at proseso. Sa libo-libong applications na natatanggap namin, marami po roon ang kulang ang dokumento o hindi sila qualified kaya tumatagal ang proseso,” Administrator Malaluan said.

Administrator Malaluan also emphasized that many assume submission alone guarantees approval, when in reality, it slows down the process if requirements are incomplete.

To address the issue, the MARINA has been continuously enhancing its digital platforms and resources, including the development of new portals and information materials aimed at guiding seafarers step-by-step through the application process. “It’s a big help if everything is read and understood first,” she pointed out.

The MARINA chief assured the public that the agency remains committed to streamlining processes, but stressed that seafarers’ cooperation is crucial to avoid unnecessary delays in securing their documents.



MARINA Chief Joins PIA Press Conference, Highlights Maritime Reforms



MARINA Administrator Sonia B. Malaluan served as one of the resource speakers during the PIA Press Conference held earlier today, 25 April 2025, at the PIA Auditorium, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

Joining her on the panel was DOLE-Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) Executive Director Atty. Kaima Via B. Velasquez.

During the conference, Administrator Malaluan shared updates on key maritime initiatives, including the Magna Carta of Seafarers (RA 12021), and discussed various digitalization efforts spearheaded by MARINA, such as the implementation of the MARINA-BEST, MISMO System, among others. She also highlighted measures to enhance maritime safety, developments within the shipbuilding and ship repair sector, and priority administration bills of the Agency.

MARINA-Legazpi Supports Orientation on MISMO and OAS Systems for Maritime Students

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) extends its congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Philippine Association of Maritime Training Centers, Inc. (PAMTCI) for the term 2025–2026.

MARINA Administrator Sonia Malaluan led the oath-taking of PAMTCI's incoming officers during their Induction Ceremony and 2nd General Membership Meeting held in Manila City.

Among the officers sworn in were Ms. Katherine Avelino of PHILCAMSAT, who retained her position as President of the Association, and Chief Engineer Antonio R. Gascon Jr. of PROTECT, who will now serve as Vice President. The PAMTCI currently has a total of 48 member training centers across the country. In her message, Administrator Malaluan expressed her appreciation for PAMTCI's steadfast collaboration with MARINA in enhancing the quality of maritime education and training in the country. She also called on the newly inducted officers to continue supporting initiatives that address the evolving challenges in the maritime industry.



“The maritime training sector plays a crucial role in upholding the global competitiveness of Filipino seafarers. We count on PAMTCI's continued partnership in pursuing excellence and integrity in maritime training,” Administrator Malaluan emphasized.

The event served as an avenue to strengthen public-private sector cooperation in support of the country's maritime workforce development goals.



MARINA Chief Administers Oath to New PAMTCI Officers for 2025–2026

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The SeafarHER Award 2025 is now open for nominations!

This prestigious award recognizes outstanding women who have made remarkable contributions to the maritime industry through leadership, resilience and innovation. If you know a trailblazer who has shattered barriers and championed inclusivity at sea, now is the time to honor her achievements!

Qualifications for Nominees:

For LEADERSHIP IN SEAFARING AWARD

- Must be a Filipino citizen;
- Open to all female;
- With at least five (5) years of sea going service;
- Must currently be an active seafarer;
- Have proven history of excellence in seafaring operations, with documented accomplishments or recognition in the field;
- Actively contributes to the mentorship of women and gender-diverse individuals, fostering inclusion within the industry; and,
- Have a direct or lasting impact on the maritime sector through their leadership.

For ADVOCACY FOR WOMEN IN MARITIME AWARD

- Must be a Filipino citizen;
- Open to all genders, with a focus on those who have worked to support and advance women

and gender-diverse individuals in the maritime industry;

- With at least 5 years of active involvement in the maritime industry, including involvement in the maritime industry in advocacy, leadership, or strategic decision-making related to gender equality and inclusivity.
- Must have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to promoting gender equality within the maritime sector. This could include but is not limited to efforts in policy development, public campaigns, or creating supporting programs for women and organizational policy reforms.
- Must have held or currently hold leadership position in organizations focused on advancing women's representation and opportunities; and,
- Have contributed to measurable changes in the maritime industry that support and enhance gender equality, or advocating for policy changes that benefit women and gender-diverse individuals.

Who may nominate?

- Licensed Manning Agencies - Maritime recruitment and staffing agencies that play a vital role in the placement of seafarers.
- Shipping Companies - Companies involved in

HOW TO VERIFY STCW CERTIFICATES

- Option 1: Go to the MISMO Verification Page Open your browser and go to:

<http://online-appointment.marina.gov.ph/verify-id...>

Option 2: Scan the QR Code on the Certificate

Check your printed or digital STCW certificate. The QR code is usually printed somewhere on the

front (often bottom-right or top-right corner).

- Select Certificate Type
On the verification page, you'll see a dropdown menu.
Select "COP/COC/COE (MISMO ISSUED)" as the verification type.

- Enter the Certificate Serial Number
Locate the serial number on the STCW certificate (usually found on

the operation of maritime transport in international and domestic water.

- Maritime Academic Institutions/Universities - Educational institutions in the Philippines that offer maritime studies or programs and recognize the achievement of women in the academe or the maritime profession.
- Maritime Organizations - Industry associations, advocacy groups, and unions that support advancement of women and gender diversity within the maritime industry.

Awardees will be honored with a plaque and a cash incentive of Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos for each category—Leadership in Seafaring Award and Advocacy for Women in Maritime Award. The awarding of the SeafarHER Award 2025 will take place on 25 June 2025, during the Day of the Filipino Seafarer celebration.

Check this link for the criteria for selection:
<https://drive.google.com/.../1s.../view...>

Submit the nominee's achievements and supporting documents via email to dotfs06252025@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is on 05 June 2025, and late nominations will automatically be disqualified.

Let's celebrate the women shaping the future of maritime!



SeafarHER Award 2025
Honoring Women and Gender-Diverse Leaders in the Maritime Industry

Award Categories : Leadership in Seafaring
Advocacy for Women in Maritime

The Criteria for the nominated awardees are as follows :

Leadership in Seafaring	Advocacy for Women in Maritime
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Must be a Filipino citizen✓ Open to all female✓ With at least five (5) years of sea going service✓ Must currently be an active seafarer;✓ Have proven history of excellence in seafaring operations, with documented accomplishments or recognition in the field✓ Actively contributes to the mentorship of women and gender-diverse individuals, fostering inclusion within the industry✓ Have a direct or lasting impact on the maritime sector through their leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Must be a Filipino citizen✓ Open to all genders with a focus on those who have worked to support and advance women and gender-diverse individuals in the maritime industry✓ With at least five (5) years of active involvement in the maritime industry, including involvement in the maritime industry in advocacy, leadership, or strategic decision-making related to gender equality and inclusivity✓ Must have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to promoting gender equality within the maritime sector. This could include but not limited to efforts in policy development, public campaigns, or creating supporting programs for women and organizational policy reforms✓ Must have held or currently hold leadership position in organizations focused on advancing women's representation and opportunities✓ Have contributed to measurable changes in the maritime industry that support and enhance gender equality, or advocating for policy changes that benefit women and gender-diverse individuals

Who may Nominate :
Nominations are open to licensed manning agencies, shipping companies, maritime academic institutions/universities, and maritime organizations.

Recognition and Award :  **Plaque and ₱25,000.00 for Leadership in Seafaring**
Plaque and ₱25,000.00 for Advocacy for Women in Maritime

Awarding Ceremony: 25 June 2025 (during the Day of the Filipino Seafarer)

The nominations of candidates for the SeafarHER Award 2025 shall be sent through dotfs06252025@gmail.com with subject **NOMINATION FOR SeafarHER AWARD 2025**, not later than **05 June 2025**

For any inquiries, you may contact (02) 8536-5182 & look for **NICA**

   [DOTMARINAPH](#)  [marina.gov.ph](#)  [stcw.marina.gov.ph](#)

IN THE MISMO SYSTEM?

the bottom part or top-right corner).

Enter it in the provided field (e.g., SN 61234567).

4. Click the “Search” button

The system will check its records and display the details if the certificate is valid.

Select “COP/COC/COE (MISMO ISSUED)” as the verification type.

5. Review Certificate Details

If certificate is valid, you should see:

5. Review Certificate Details

If certificate is valid, you should see:

Full name of the certificate holder,

Type of certificate,

Certificate number, Date of issue, Expiry date, and Status (valid/expired).

However, in the case of expired certificates, the system will indicate that the certificate is no longer valid.

MARINA WRAPS UP FINAL LEG OF MARITIME SAFETY CARAVAN

MOUs signed with LGUs across the PH

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) successfully concluded the final leg of its nationwide Maritime Safety Culture Awareness Campaign Caravan across the Philippines. The caravan, which traveled across key regions, focused on strengthening maritime safety and fostering collaboration with local government units (LGUs). A total of 38 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were signed throughout the campaign, reinforcing the commitment to improving maritime safety and security across the Philippines.



MRO 4 (Infanta, Quezon) - March 22, 2025

The caravan's second stop was in Quezon, where maritime officials, local government representatives, and industry leaders gathered to discuss the pressing issues surrounding maritime safety. The Luzon region, known for its heavy maritime traffic, was the focal point of discussions aimed at reducing safety risks and improving operational efficiency.

An MOU was signed with the Quezon LGU to enhance safety regulations and implement best practices to ensure secure sea transport in the area.

MRO 5 (Sorsogon) - March 29, 2025

The caravan continued in Sorsogon, a crucial point for maritime transport in the Bicol region. The event held in Sorsogon City emphasized the importance of adopting innovative maritime safety measures, including MARINA's blockchain-enabled automated certification system.

During the event, MARINA and the Sorsogon LGU signed an MOU aimed at strengthening local maritime safety regulations and improving enforcement across the region.



MRO 6 (Cadiz, Western Visayas) - April 5, 2025

In Iloilo City, the caravan made its fourth stop, where it received a warm welcome from regional maritime professionals and local officials. The event featured discussions on integrated maritime safety systems, highlighting MARINA's role in providing regulatory guidance and fostering partnerships with other maritime agencies.

The Western Visayas event concluded with the signing of an MOU between MARINA and local LGUs, promising continued collaboration in enhancing maritime safety protocols in the region.



MRO 8 (Sogod, Southern Leyte) - March 15, 2025

The caravan began in Southern Leyte, where it drew significant participation from local maritime stakeholders and officials. Held in Maasin City, the event included a motorcade and informative sessions on maritime safety measures. The region's role as a hub for sea transport made it an ideal location to initiate the campaign.

During the event, MARINA signed an MOU with the local LGU, marking the beginning of a collaborative effort to enhance maritime safety protocols in the region.



MRO 9 (Isabela City, Basilan) - April 21, 2025

The final stop of the caravan took place in Isabela City, Basilan. Over 100 local participants gathered at the City Gymnasium for discussions on maritime safety regulations, emergency preparedness, and port security. The region's strategic position as a key transit point for shipping made this event particularly important.

An MOU was signed between MARINA's Regional Office IX and the Isabela City LGU, reinforcing a commitment to improving maritime safety measures in Basilan and nearby regions.

MRO 10 (Plaridel, Misamis Occidental) - April 21, 2025

MARINA Region X (MRO10) wrapped up its Maritime Safety Campaign at the Plaridel Port Passenger Terminal. The event featured a motorcade, a town hall with maritime stakeholders, and the signing of an MOU between MRO10 and the LGU. MRO10 OIC-Regional Director Juliet S. Nacion and Plaridel Mayor Gadwin E. Handumon highlighted the shared responsibility for maritime safety. Over 100 participants attended the final caravan.



HUMANS OF MARITIME: Brewing Dreams Beyond Borders



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Since I was a child, we've always rented. I've always wanted a house I could truly call ours. If I didn't leave my comfort zone—if I had stayed where things were safe—that dream wouldn't be possible. The difference in salary, the opportunity, the growth... it's life-changing.

Patuloy lang tayo sa pangarap natin. Huwag na huwag nating kalimutan kung bakit tayo sumasampa—para sa pamilya, para sa kinabukasan. Sa kabila ng pagod at sakripisyo, unti-unting natutupad ang pangarap. Mabuhay ang mga marinong bayani.

Juan Carlos “JC” Buenconsejo
Bar Waiter Seafarer

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Neale Donald Walsch once said, “Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.” For Juan Carlos “JC” Buenconsejo, 30, those words became a guiding light in his journey from the familiar smell of brewed coffee to the vast, unpredictable ocean.

Once a barista at Starbucks, JC was used to the rhythm of city life—the hum of coffee machines, the warmth of regular customers, the comfort of routine. But deep inside, he carried a dream that brewed stronger than any cup he served: a dream of a better life for his family. And so, he took a leap.

From land to sea, JC began a new life as a bar waiter aboard a cruise ship. The work was harder than anything he imagined—10 to 13-hour shifts, demanding schedules, and the constant pull of homesickness. But the purpose behind every long day kept him

grounded.

“It was really hard at first,” JC admits. “You wake up early, work long hours, and if your assigned bar is busy, you stay until it's manageable or someone can replace you. Rest hours are short, and you just keep pushing.”

Behind the physical exhaustion and emotional toll, JC's eyes remained set on one thing: his dream of owning a home for his family.

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There are still days when the weight of responsibility feels heavy. JC balances not only his duties on board, but also the unspoken promise he made to the people waiting for him back home.

“It's not always easy to provide,

especially when you also have personal bills and commitments. But I thank God I'm able to give my family what they need. That's what keeps me going.”

On board, JC found more than just a job. He found camaraderie. He found people who understood—who were also far from home, chasing dreams, making sacrifices.

To fellow seafarers and those considering a life at sea, JC shares his heart: “Patuloy lang tayo sa pangarap natin. Huwag na huwag nating kalimutan kung bakit tayo sumasampa—para sa pamilya, para sa kinabukasan. Sa kabila ng pagod at sakripisyo, unti-unting natutupad ang pangarap. Mabuhay ang mga marinong bayani.”

And to the new generation—those sipping lattes in between shifts, wondering if there's more to life—he says: “If you're dreaming of a different path, and you feel ready, take that first step. Working onboard isn't easy, but if you know your ‘why,’ you'll make it through.”