

## WELCOME REMARKS

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Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)

23 June 2025, 9:00 AM | MARINA Central Office, Philippines

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Professor Anne Pazaver, esteemed students of the World Maritime University specializing in Maritime Education and Training, my colleagues from MARINA, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, and mabuhay!

It is my great pleasure and privilege to welcome all of you to the Philippines and to the Maritime Industry Authority—our nation's maritime administration, and a steadfast partner in the global maritime community.

We are deeply honored that you have chosen the Philippines as one of your field study destinations as part of your MSc in Maritime Affairs program. Your presence here today is a meaningful recognition of the Philippines' significant role in global shipping, not just as a major supplier of seafarers, but also as a champion of quality maritime education and training.

Allow me to acknowledge each of our distinguished guests from the World Maritime University:

- **Ms. Yasmin Farzana** from Ethiopia;
- **Mr. Alexander Chike Melifonwu, Mr. Abusufiyan Mani Usman, and Mr. Charles Akpobome Ohwo** from Nigeria;
- **Mr. Mzwamandla Antony Sosibo** from South Africa;
- **Mr. Juan Alberto Sanchez Castañeda** from Peru;
- **Mr. Terence Tamba Quawah** from Liberia;
- **Mr. Amanuel Yohannes Zegeye** from Bangladesh;
- **Mr. Elio Renato Almeida Andrade** from Cape Verde;
- **Ms. Czarina Amante and Ms. Michelle Margallo** from our very own Philippines.

And, of course, we are honored to host **Professor Anne Pazaver**, whose academic leadership and mentorship continue to shape the future of maritime education globally.

The Philippines has a deep and abiding maritime tradition. As an archipelagic nation, our people have always been closely tied to the sea—for livelihood, for trade, and for identity. Today, this connection is reflected in the more than 400,000 Filipino seafarers deployed across the world's fleet, and in the robust system of maritime education and training that supports them.

At MARINA, we are proud to lead national efforts to uphold and continuously improve the standards of maritime education and training. During your visit today, we will share with

you what MARINA is doing to strengthen seafarer education and training in the Philippines—through policy development, strict quality assurance mechanisms, institutional monitoring, and digital transformation initiatives such as the electronic certification system.

We will also present key highlights of the recently enacted Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers, with a particular focus on its provisions related to Maritime Education and Training. This legislation reinforces our commitment to protecting the welfare of seafarers across all stages of their careers, from pre-employment, to onboard service, to reintegration. It also mandates stronger collaboration between the government, industry stakeholders, and maritime education and training institutions to ensure that our seafarers remain globally competitive.

We hope today's engagement gives you not only a technical understanding of our MET system, but also a glimpse into the heart of our work, the Filipino seafarers whose professionalism, resilience, and global service continue to make the Philippines a maritime nation of pride.

May your experience in the Philippines enrich your perspectives as future maritime leaders and educators. Let this visit be a bridge, not only between nations, but between ideas, innovation, and shared commitments to a safer, greener, and more inclusive maritime future.

Once again, welcome to MARINA. We are truly honored by your visit, and we look forward to a fruitful exchange with all of you.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay!