



THE

# MARINA NEWSLETTER

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## PHL SEEKS FOR IMO COUNCIL RE-ELECTION

MARINA Officials, led by Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A. Empedrad AFP (Ret), present the country's candidature for re-election to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the 2022 to 2023 Biennium on 05 October 2021 via video conferencing.

In pursuit of maritime excellence and sustainable shipping, the Philippines presents its candidature for re-election to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the 2022 to 2023 Biennium on 05 October 2021 via video conferencing.

The country's re-election to the IMO Council under Category C will continually advance the mission of the IMO in ensuring safety of life and property at sea, sustainable shipping, and environmentally sound maritime industry.

Membership to the IMO Council provides the following: a) privilege to contribute to policy formulation and decision making processes of the IMO; b) continuously granted voting rights to IMO Council; c) a venue to promote Filipino seafarers, Philippine ship registry, shipbuilding and ship repair

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## NEW NORMAL PROTOCOLS: LET US KEEP EVERYONE SAFE AND HEALTHY



**WEAR FACE MASK  
AND FACE SHIELD**



**PRACTICE SOCIAL  
DISTANCING**



**ALWAYS WASH  
YOUR HANDS**

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The Editorial Board welcomes contributions. Interested officials and employees are invited to submit their articles through email address [miss@marina.gov.ph](mailto:miss@marina.gov.ph).

Members of the Editorial Board assume full responsibility for all articles and contributions published in this Newsletter.

**PHL SEEKS FOR IMO COUNCIL...**

and other maritime industry in the global maritime world paving the way to more opportunities for Filipinos and the industry; and d) participation in the advancement of safer ships, welfare of the seafarers and protection of the marine environment.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Administrator, VAdm Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret), led the said launching by highlighting the benefits of being a member of the IMO as well as our commitment to uphold our position to the IMO Council.

"Our membership to the IMO paved the way to opportunities that enhanced our knowledge and skills in promoting our ship registry, the welfare of our maritime professionals, and the sustainability of our marine environment and maritime transport," VAdm Empedrad said.



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) delivers his opening remarks during the launching of Philippines' candidature for re-election to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the 2022 to 2023 Biennium on 05 October 2021 via video conferencing.

"By virtue of our re-election to the IMO Council, we are afforded with a continued opportunity to strongly participate in policy-making processes affecting our maritime interest," he added.

Moreover, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur P. Tugade underscored the country's unwavering commitment in advancing the mission of the IMO of having safe, sustainable, and environmentally sound maritime transport and industry despite the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We remain committed to improving the safety

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## PHL SEEKS FOR IMO COUNCIL...

and security at sea by promoting a green maritime environment, innovative ways to adapt to the 'new normal' through digitalization and upholding the rights and welfare of our Filipino seafarers," Secretary Tugade emphasized.



Meanwhile, collaterals for the country's candidature to the IMO Council under Category C were likewise presented during the said activity which was attended by private stakeholders, representatives from various Philippine government agencies and embassies from other countries.



The collaterals, as well as other matters and updates regarding the Philippine maritime industry, are also available in the social media platforms of the MARINA.

The IMO Council is the executive organ responsible for supervising the work of the Organization. The IMO Council has three (3) categories namely Category A, Category B, and Category C where the Philippines is a party to.

## MARINA PROVIDES UPDATES ON PRIORITY IMO CONVENTIONS

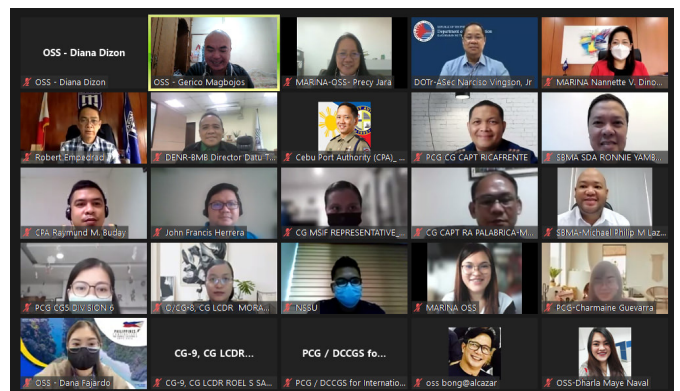
Aiming to provide updates on the status of the country's priority International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions, the Philippine maritime administration, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), convened the first Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on the Ratification and Implementation of Maritime Conventions (ICCRIMC) Meeting on 13 October 2021 via video conference.

As the first conducted Committee Meeting, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Assistant Secretary for Maritime, VAdm Narciso A Vingson Jr, graced the said meeting by providing the body with a brief background and responsibilities of ICCRIMC for the realization of the priority IMO Conventions.

"In addition to its ratification efforts, the ICCRIMC covers an array of international commitments including the Marine Environment Protection of the South-East Asian Seas (MEPSEAS) and GloFouling Partnerships Project (GloFouling)," VAdm Vingson said.

"The ICCRIMC serves as the National Task Force to ensure that the National Strategic Action Plans (NSAP) for both projects are carried out thereby promoting an integrated and sustainable maritime industry and guaranteed global competitiveness," VAdm Vingson added.

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*Participants during the first Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on the Ratification and Implementation of Maritime Conventions (ICCRIMC) Meeting.*

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# MARINA, TESDA SIGN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON SKILLS TRAINING FOR SHIPYARD WORKERS



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) TESDA Director General Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña, TESDA Deputy Director-General John Bertiz III, and MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol pose for a photo opportunity while holding the signed agreement.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) signed on 11 October 2021, the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on their partnership in the development of training programs for the shipbuilding and ship repair (SBSR) sector.

Representing their respective agencies, MARINA Administrator VADM Robert A Empedrad and TESDA Director General Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña gathered virtually to hold the signing of the MOA. The undertaking is another milestone for the country's SBSR sector, which employed almost 7,000 skilled workers and more than 2,000 semi-skilled workers in 2019.

In her welcome message, MARINA Deputy Administrator for Operations Engr. Nannette Z. Villamor-Dinopol underscored the MARINA's continuing efforts to uphold the rights of Filipino SBSR workers to safe labor practices as well as fair treatment in the workplace, with the streamlining of Gender and Development (GAD) concepts in MARINA policies particularly Memorandum Circular No. 2018-02 and Memorandum Circular No. SR-2019-01.

VADM Empedrad also extended his appreciation to Sec. Lapeña and his team for dedicating their time and effort so that the discussions between the MARINA and TESDA would materialize.



MARINA Administrator Vice Admiral Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) delivers his message during the signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on MARINA and TESDA's partnership in the development of training programs for the shipbuilding and ship repair (SBSR) sector.

Recognizing the contribution of the thousands of Filipino shipyard workers and technical professionals across the Philippine islands, the Administrator stated, "Expecting and anticipating our vibrant industry new prospective shipyards by next year and of course with our plan to expand the Philippine Flag will increase the demand for more employees for shipyards due to the demands of repairs and shipbuilding by various ships, local or foreign."

Upgrading the SBSR workforce is aligned with the objectives of Program 5 of the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), which pursues the expansion of local shipyards in terms of capacity, capability, and facility.

Aside from Program 5, the upgrading of SBSR workforce is also covered by the newly added Program 9 of the MIDP, which is "The Philippines to Advance the Development and Provision of Qualified and Competent Seafarers As Well As Human Capital Requirement for the Global Maritime Industry." This program aims to advance the competencies of the country's maritime professionals, including the investment in the quality of human capital resources that will raise the productivity and consequently, the profitability of the industry.

Also in the virtual MOA signing were Engr. Ramon C. Hernandez, Director of the Shipyards Regulation Service and the Maritime Service of the MARINA.





# THE CREW CHANGE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



## ONE-STOP SHOP FOR SEAFARERS CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CREW CHANGE OPERATIONS

The One-Stop Shop (OSS) for seafarers concluded its virtual celebration for the first year anniversary of crew change operations in the country on 07 October 2021, during a program hosted by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Maritime Sector.

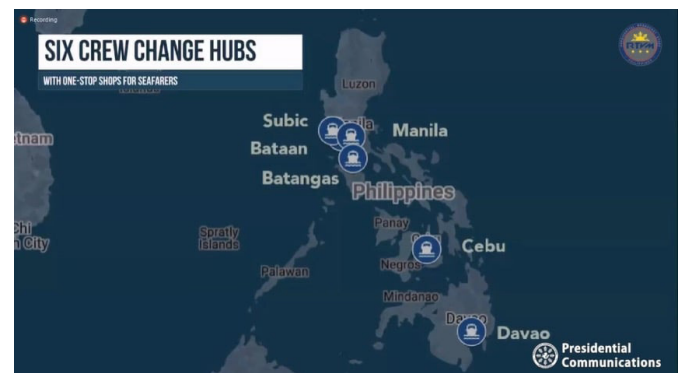
The DOTr Maritime Sector, composed of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Cebu Port Authority (CPA), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), has been at the forefront of initiating crew change operations for seafarers who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the establishment of the first crew change hub at the Port of Capinpin in September 2020, the DOTr Maritime Sector has successfully opened additional hubs in Subic, Manila, Batangas, Cebu, and Davao.

The operation of the crew change hubs, however, would not have been possible without the 24 agencies in charge of the OSS. With the presence of the OSS for Seafarers at each of the six (6) crew change hubs, seafarers are guaranteed safe and seamless repatriation and deployment.

Assistant Secretary for Maritime VADM Narciso A

Vingson Jr acknowledged the importance of the support of national government agencies, local and provincial government units, shipowners, and shipping associations.



"Together, the OSS thrived and is remaining to thrive. It is our pledge to continue to serve and assist thousands of seafarers to embark their vessels in their best state during deployment, and safely bring them home during repatriation," Asec Vingson said in his opening address.

The primary highlight of the Crew Change Anniversary Celebration was the recognition of key OSS members and partners nationwide who have provided outstanding contributions in the conduct of crew change operations amidst the COVID-19

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## ONE-STOP SHOP FOR SEAFARERS CELEBRATES...

pandemic. It was also an opportunity to launch the Filipino Seafarers COVID-19 Vaccination Portal and the Crew Change Website.

The Filipino Seafarers COVID-19 Vaccination Portal was created to streamline the process for seafarers who wish to avail themselves of the national government's vaccination program. Meanwhile, the Crew Change Website serves as a reliable source of information for seafarers and shipping companies who would like to know the latest crew change protocols in the country.



Capturing the spirit of the Crew Change Anniversary Celebration, Secretary of Transportation Art Tugade imparted words of inspiration during his address.

"The DOTr Maritime Sector engages in a whole maritime approach to make crew change possible in the country. It is for this reason, that today, as we celebrate the anniversary of the crew change hub operations in the Philippines, we wish to show our gratitude to the various government agencies and stakeholders, whose strong and active participation have not wavered to ensure the continuous operation of the crew change hubs, for our maritime industry champions: our Filipino seafarers," he says, citing how the Philippines provided a swift response to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) call to action concerning the global crew change crisis sparked by the ongoing public health crisis.

As the country continues to stand its ground as the Crew Change Capital of the World, the DOTr Maritime Sector remains committed to providing

the necessary quarantine and testing requirements to ensure the continued employment of Filipino seafarers on domestic and international vessels.

## PHL SHARES COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEST PRACTICES IN 41ST ASEAN MTWG

As the COVID-19 pandemic continuously affect the economies of the world, including the maritime sector, the Philippines, together with the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), exchanged best practices during this challenging time at the 41st ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) Meeting held on 04 October 2021 via video conferencing.



*The Philippine Delegation, headed by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Overseas Shipping Service Officer-In-Charge, Ms. Precila C. Jara, shares the country's best practices in ensuring continuity of port terminal operations and facilitation of crew change as well as repatriation of seafarers, in response to the health crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

The Philippines presented its regulatory interventions for the continuity of port operations which include staggered payment of rental fees, extension of validity of permits/approvals, extension of rental and concession fee payments, provision of cargo space for produce, food and discount on shipping rates for agricultural and food products, collection of ship-generated wastes from cruise and passenger ships, management of backlog of cargo/container build-up in ports, facilitation of permits even during Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), unhampered movement of cargoes within, to and from the entire Luzon, and the movement of accompanying crew of personnel of transiting cargoes.

Moreover, the Philippines also reported the country's

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## PHL SHARES COVID-19 PANDEMIC BEST PRACTICES...

human and social interventions including full support to the Hatid-Tulong Program, Balik-Probinsya Program for returning seafarers, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and Locally Stranded Individuals (LSI), Balik-Probinsya Program for the employees of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Hatid-Estudyante Para Makabalik sa Probinsya Program, prevention, control and mitigation of the spread of the coronavirus in PPA offices and facilities, conversion of passenger ships into temporary quarantine facility for returning seafarers and OFWs, conversion of port facility into a medical facility, and launching of Emergency Operations Center (EOC).



*The Philippines, through DOTr-MARINA, during the the 41st ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) Meeting.*

In terms of information and communications technology (ICT) and machinery interventions, the Philippines shared about the digitized health declaration and entry protocol forms for all PPA personnel nationwide as well as the launching of E-Payment Portal (EPP) for port-related charges. Further, the Philippine delegation likewise informed the group about the Automated Passenger Ticketing System, deployment of ambulance at COVID-19 quarantine facility located at the Manila South Harbor and the "Palamigan ng Bayan" which is a refrigerated container van/storage facility intended to help the agriculture sector to preserve the quality of their farm produce and gain better market access.

Aside from ensuring the seamless operations of ports, the Philippines also recognized the critical and vital role of the Filipino seafarers during the pandemic as the country implemented several initiatives and guidelines that will facilitate their employment while

prioritizing their health and safety.

Moreover, the Philippines also issued the necessary protocol which covers the detailed procedures as well as the health and safety protocols for repatriation. It also includes the conduct of crew change, both in domestic and international ports. The said protocol helped facilitate the speedy and safe travels of seafarers, including their disembarkation and crew change during the pandemic.

Lastly, the country reiterated in the said meeting the six (6) ports that have been designated as international maritime hub and gateway ports for crew change operations. These include the Port of Manila, Port of Cebu, Port of Batangas, Port of Subic, Port of Bataan, and the Davao Sasa Port.

The Philippine delegation concluded the 41st ASEAN MTWG Meeting through the manifestation of support for its candidature to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council under Category C for the 2022 to 2023 Biennium.

## MARINA PROVIDES UPDATES ON PRIORITY...

Aside from the updates on the status of the priority IMO Conventions, the Committee also discussed about the Draft Executive Order (EO) Constituting the Inter-agency Coordinating Committee to Facilitate the Ratification/Accession and Implementation of the IMO Conventions.

The said EO intends to provide policy directions and technical guidance as well as to ensure a systematic and integrated approach to the ratification of/ accession to and implementation of priority maritime Conventions.

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## MARINA PROVIDES UPDATES ON PRIORITY...

Further, the Committee likewise talked about the draft ICCRIMC Resolution No. 1, series of 2020 which seeks to adopt a formal document of member-agencies' commitment to lead in the efforts toward ratification of/accession to identified priority Conventions.

The ICCRIMC was established through the DOTr Department Order No. 2015-2016. As indicated in the said Department Order, ICCRIMC aims to develop and adopt a National Work Programme. It is also responsible to formulate a National Maritime Policy and Strategy to support its implementation as well as to organize and implement information campaigns. Moreover, ICCRIMC likewise intends to develop a monitoring mechanism to assess progress as well as to propose, for a government approval, primary and supporting legislations.

The ICCRIMC is composed of representatives from 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), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource, Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR), Environmental Management Bureau, DENR (EMB-DENR), University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), UP – Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology (UP-IESM), and other agencies, stakeholders and/or experts deemed relevant and necessary.

ship's existing CPC is issued.

The implementation of this Circular is one step towards the Agency's efforts in upholding the Maritime Industry Development Plan (MIDP), specifically addressing Program 1 or the "Upgrading of Domestic Shipping in Support of the Philippine Nautical Highway Development." In line with this, the MARINA assures stakeholders and the riding public that it will continue to explore more avenues for the modernization and upgrading of the existing domestic merchant fleet.

## MARINA PUBLISHES REVISED RULES, REGULATIONS FOR GRANTING OF PIONEER STATUS, ITS INCENTIVES FOR DOMESTIC SHIPOWNERS/ OPERATORS



In line with its continued pursuit of providing safer sea transport and improved shipping services, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has published Memorandum Circular No. DS-2021-03, which discusses the "Revised Rules and Regulations in the Grant of Pioneer Status Under EO 909."

With the publication of MC No. DS-2021-03, new and existing domestic shipowners/operators who will introduce IACS-classed brand new or newly-constructed ships in their respective authorized or applied routes will be granted "Pioneer Status." The abovementioned Circular also applies to all domestic shipowners or operators that intend to invest in RoPax, RORO, cargo, and other ships that have been designed and constructed/maintained by the International Associations of Classification Societies (IACS).

For a ship to be granted Pioneer Status, it must be IACS class maintained for the entire duration of its six (6) years of route protection and must possess an existing Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC). Furthermore, domestic shipowners/operators can file their applications for the "Pioneer Status" at any of the MARINA Regional Offices (MROs) where the