



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



THE HONORABLE ENRIQUE A. MANALO
Secretary for Foreign Affairs

On the commemoration of the
Day of the Seafarers 2023
25 June 2023



The Department of Foreign Affairs, expresses its appreciation for the important contributions of seafarers, in particular our Filipino seafarers, to the continuing flow of commerce and trade in our globalized economy and to sustainable development, on this the Day of the Seafarers 2023.

Since the declaration of the 25th of June as the Day of the Seafarer, done in Manila in 2010, the Philippine Government has consistently given recognition and honor to the seafarers for their invaluable contributions to the maritime industry and for their strong commitment to protecting the marine environment.





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Under the theme "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on," we highlight the crucial role of seafarers in safeguarding our oceans and marine ecosystems. This theme resonates with the Philippines' dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable development. As a maritime nation, we value a clean and healthy marine environment for our economic prosperity and the well-being of future generations.

We embrace technological innovations that shape the future of shipping, such as the advancement of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) and use of alternative low-carbon and zero-carbon fuels in international shipping. In this regard, we recognize the need to prepare and equip our seafarers with new skills and knowledge to navigate this evolving industry. The upskilling and reskilling of seafarers will remain at the forefront of our agenda as we ensure their continuous professional development and maintain our competitive edge in the global maritime industry.

We have pursued this initiative with partners, including with the government of Denmark, which co-hosted the regional forum on "Seizing Opportunities for Green Shipping in Asia and the Pacific" held in Manila on 16-17 May 2023. This allowed maritime stakeholders across the region to discuss sustainable practices, decarbonization, and environmental stewardship in the maritime sector. This also reaffirmed our commitment to a greener future, and we stand ready to collaborate with our international partners for a more sustainable and resilient maritime industry. Our seafarers are a key consideration in this endeavor.





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We also celebrate the invaluable contributions of women seafarers who have excelled in different maritime professions, demonstrating their competence, dedication, and resilience. We are committed to fostering an environment that empowers and supports women's participation in all areas of the maritime industry, ensuring equal opportunities for everyone.

As we commemorate the Day of the Seafarers 2023, let us salute the seafarers worldwide for their vital role in global trade and marine environmental protection. The Philippines remains committed to the goals of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) towards ensuring the welfare and prosperity of seafarers worldwide, promotion of sustainable practices, and advancing the global maritime agenda.

Mabuhay ang mga mandaragat!

