

# AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES

As one of the most active sectors in the Philippine Maritime Industry, WE, the stakeholders of the Philippine Seafaring Industry, feel compelled to issue this open letter to all the other stakeholders, in our sincere desire to sustain or improve the well-being of the industry.

It is with the best of intentions that WE see the urgent need for all stakeholders to unite, forge cohesive action and direction, and prevent enmity amongst its members. Otherwise, we face a very dim future of losing our premier position in the international shipping community. Please consider the following facts:

- This industry was developed and nurtured for more than 40 years by all stakeholders;
- This industry gives continuous employment to over half a million Filipino seafarers, not to mention the thousands employed in the ancillary services that support the industry;
- This industry continues to generate and contribute over US\$5.2 billion annually to the country's foreign exchange remittance; and
- This industry had continuously served as a pillar of economic stability to our country essentially at the height of the many financial crises that had beset the world.

In consideration of the above, WE, declare the following:


1. WE commend our Philippine government for the timely passage of R.A. 10635 an Act that established the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the Single Maritime Administration in the country responsible for ensuring the full implementation and compliance of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, As Amended.
2. WE recognize the efforts of ANGKLA Partylist represented by the Honorable Congressman Jesulito A. Manalo who championed R.A. 10635 and worked for its successful enactment.
3. WE recognize the efforts of MARINA under the leadership of Administrator Maximo Q. Mejia Jr. for promptly crafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations for R.A. 10635, as well as other initiatives to harmonize efforts to put in place all the necessary organizational structures to implement R.A. 10635 in order to pave the way for the country's full compliance with the International Conventions.
4. WE recognize the efforts of CHED, TESDA, PRC, NTC, and DOH in supporting DOTC, MARINA and DOLE in the implementation of R.A. 10635.


In support to all of the above efforts, WE strongly enjoin and request the following:


1. To the Honorable Members of CONGRESS,
  - To urgently allocate the necessary full budget which will serve as the lifeblood for the implementation of the new organizational structure, systems and regulations under R.A. 10635.
  - To take notice of the peculiar nature of the Philippine Maritime and Seafaring Industry in considering the many pending legislations and in this regard, WE strongly request that the private sector who are signatories to this open letter be consulted in the deliberations of these proposed laws.
2. To all the GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (DOTC, DOLE, DFA, DOH, CHED, MARINA, POEA, PRC, NLRC, TESDA, OWWA, PCG, PPA) involved in the Philippine Maritime and Seafaring Industry,
  - Together with the private and labor sectors, to come up with a comprehensive and sustainable "roadmap" that will sustain, enhance, and further develop the Philippine Maritime and Seafaring Industry covering both the Domestic and International Shipping Sectors.
  - In the light of His Excellency President Benigno Aquino's pronounced policy that the public are the "Bosses" of the government, WE claim our vested privilege not only to be heard, but more importantly, be listened to. We also ask that the practice of tripartism be adopted in all policy and other important deliberations affecting the industry.
  - Considering the number of seafarers who will require recertification and considering the time constraints, WE ask in particular MARINA, PRC and TESDA, to immediately put in place all systems, processes and accreditation of Training Centers and Training Programs in the issuance of the Certificate of Competency (COC), Certificate of Endorsement (COE), Certificate of Proficiency (COP) as well as NCI and NCII which will ensure that all our Filipino Officers and Ratings will be compliant with MLC 2006 and 2010 STCW Manila Amendments by December 31, 2016.
3. To the FILIPINO SEAFARERS and their FAMILIES,
  - Being the most benefitted but also the most easily affected sector of the industry, WE enjoin all of you to maintain your professionalism while serving on board your vessels and give pride and honor to the country as the role model of an Overseas Filipino Worker.
  - To continue to enhance your ability and competence through continuous and timely training to meet the global standards and comply with the international requirements that the country has committed to.
  - To give meaning to the Filipinos' sense of gratitude by demonstrating loyalty to the people who have given you employment opportunities and lifetime livelihood.
  - To continue the hard work and excellent service that you are providing to your Principals and refraining from doing any untoward act that will tarnish the good image of the Filipino Seafarer.
4. To our colleagues in the PRIVATE SECTOR (Shipping and Manning Associations, Seafarers' Unions, Maritime Institutions, Training Centers and Professional Organizations),
  - To refrain from doing any act detrimental to the industry especially in the eyes of the international shipping community and maritime organizations. Instead, WE encourage all private sector stakeholders to support initiatives that will lead to the improvement of the lives of our Filipino Seafarers and the further development of the Philippine Maritime and Seafaring Industry.
  - To continue our commitment to assist and support all initiatives of government agencies towards improvement of the industry.
  - For all manning companies to monitor and encourage their pool of seafarers to prioritize their training requirements necessary for recertification in compliance with MLC 2006 and 2010 STCW Manila Amendments.


We make this appeal to all the stakeholders in the industry, Government, Labor and the Private Sector to unite and give our continuing support to an industry that has brought pride to our country and helped sustain our economy. Let us remain to be one strong cohesive team in our journey towards greater success as the country of choice for maritime manpower in the world.

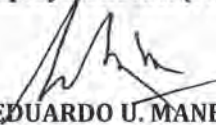
ALL OF US ARE IN ONE BOAT. LET US SAIL TOGETHER TOWARDS ONE DIRECTION.


  
CAPT. EMMANUEL L. REGIO  
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President, Filipino Association for Mariners'  
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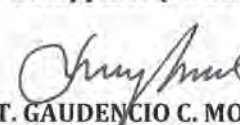
  
DR. CONRADO F. OCA  
President,  
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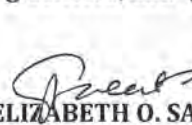
  
CAPT. RODOLFO A. ASPILLAGA  
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C/E ALFREDO G. HABOC  
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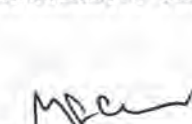
  
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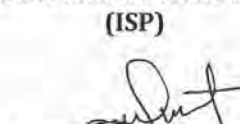
  
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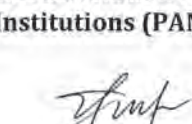
  
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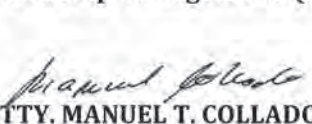
  
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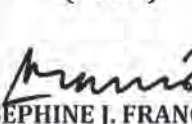
  
C/E GUIBERTO B. LLAMADO  
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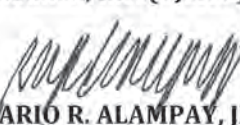
  
VICE ADMIRAL EDUARDO MA. SANTOS  
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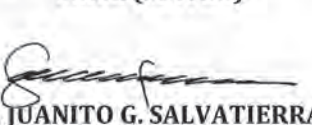
  
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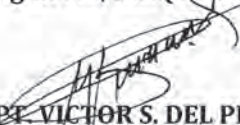
  
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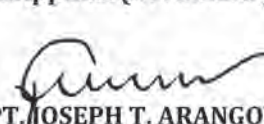
  
ENGR. SAMUEL T. LIM  
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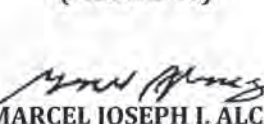
  
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