



sharp news

Vol. 23 No. 1

MARCH 2015



Welcome to
CF SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT
CEBU OFFICE

Extending our reach

Milestones mark the progress of an organization.

We have reached another for CF Sharp as we continue to write our own history. In demonstrating our commitment to meeting the demands of our principals, we further and strengthen our cooperation and partnership.

The opening of CFS Crew Management- Cebu Office opens the gateway for seafarers from the region through recruitment, deployment, and other services. This region has always been a top choice with many seafarers choosing to settle and buy homes. Cebu has become a bustling hub for seafarers and we are looking forward to capitalize on recruitment reach, and more efficient operations.

Greetings to all from the Philippines! With 2015 well under way, the year is shaping up to be an exciting one in shipping. While some ship owners continue to reduce, others are on the move toward growth.



Ribbon cutting. Mr. Miguel A. Rocha, CFSCMI EVP & COO and Mr. Jon B. Rocha, SVP & COO of CFSharp Holdings.

Having principals in virtually all sectors of the industry, we have been able to realise slight overall growth in 2014, and I expect to see this trend continue throughout the year. This positive outlook is bolstered by the continuing demands being placed on our recruitment department to source more manpower to meet the needs of our principals.

On March 6, we officially opened the CF Sharp Crew Management, Inc. satellite office in Cebu. This move places CF Sharp in the heart of the Visayas region, home to a significant number of Filipino seafarers, and the second largest metro area in the

Philippines. Initially, the office will stretch our recruitment reach. We expect to tap into the hospitality market as well as source for deck and engine officers. We are targeting mid year 2015 to make the office fully functional, allowing for deployment directly from Cebu, thus minimising the need for crew travel to Manila. This will be of tremendous benefit for the crew living in the region, as well as for our principals. Win win!

Here in Manila, we have already hosted several visits from principals' representatives in order to conduct annual audits, trainings, and work on strategic planning. In all cases, we

have appreciated the opportunity to work hand in hand toward continued improvement of our operations and strengthening in cooperation. In this day of email and video conferencing, face to face meetings remain the most effective mode of work and communication. In this regard, we are fortunate to be working with principals so committed to the Philippine market that regular visits to Casa Rocha is a valued practice.

The global economy is also in a state of flux. With big changes in the oil and gas industry, we are seeing patterns shift in terms of production, consumption, and movement. Certainly, with the United States now self sufficient and becoming an energy supplier, we have seen the price of fuel plummet. This has heavily impacted the offshore industry, and also strengthened the US Dollar against the Philippine Peso and the Euro alike. This is good news for all the businesses and Filipino seafarers who earn in USD. It seems to me that the long term benefit of a healthy United States economy and subsequent strengthening of arguably the most significant consumer market can only brighten the outlook for world trade. Shipping is cyclical, and things do eventually turn around. Could this be the shift which will finally push the shipping industry upward and swing the pendulum in the other direction?

I do hope so.

MIGUEL A. ROCHA ■



CFS Crew Management Inc. in full force.

Think Big and Live Large! – Donald Trump

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the **Battle for the Liberation of Manila**

by Amb. Juan Jose P. Rocha
Chairman & President/CEO, CF Sharp Group

In February 3, 1945, three American First Cavalry flying columns of about 300 men each entered Japanese occupied Manila. One column liberated 3,000 plus civilian internees in Santo Tomas Internment Camp. The second column captured Malacañang Palace. The third column was assigned to take the Legislative Building but was prevented from doing so by fierce Japanese resistance.

In the morning of the next day, all bridges crossing the Pasig River were blown up thus separating the Northern part of the City from the South. From that moment on, all hell literally burst forth in the Southern portion of our City with the Japanese going berserk, killing civilians, all the homes including Churches in Intramuros, Malate, Ermita and part of Pasay were put to the torch by Imperial Japanese Marines. I lived through those days of living hell. My mother was killed by shelling and thirteen other close relatives were massacred in the German Club.

I quote William Manchester, author who wrote in his 'American Caesar' the following:

"The destruction of Manila was one of the greatest tragedies of World War II. Of Allied capitals in those war years, only Warsaw suffered more. Seventy percent of the utilities, 75 percent of the factories, 80 percent of the southern residential district, and 100 percent of the business district were razed."

The famed "Pearl of the Orient" was no more. After the smoke had cleared, the toll of dead was as follows: 100,000 non-combatant civilians (more than in Nagasaki and initially in Hiroshima), 1,010 American troops and 16,000 Japanese Imperial Marines.

The vast majority of the civilian casualties were Filipinos, but there were also nationals from neutral or friendly countries, as well as citizens from a country supposedly an ally of Japan - Spaniards, Chinese, Americans, Australians, Germans, Britons, Irish, Portuguese, French, Dutch, Russians, Hungarians, Jews, Czechoslovakians, Indians, Pakistanis, Venezuelans, Chileans and Swiss, whose non-

belligerent status was ignored by the brutal Japanese soldiers.

I had a group titled 'MEMORARE-MANILA 1945 FOUNDATION, INC.', a private non-profit organization founded by civilian survivors of the Battle of Manila in February 1945 and by descendants of non-combatant victims of that battle. It was created in 1993 and has dedicated itself in commemorating the civilian dead of that tragic battle every February with a special ceremony at our monument site in Intramuros. This year it was held on February 14th and former President Fidel V. Ramos was our guest speaker.

MEMORARE also hold seminars in different Universities hoping to create awareness among the Filipino youth of that sad part of our history, the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines from December 1944 through August

1945 including of course, the so-called, Rape of Manila.

MEMORARE aims to honor the victims of the Battle of Manila by keeping alive their memories by collecting eye-witness accounts and depositing them in archives, by encouraging the publication of books and articles which are housed in the Filipinas Heritage Library.

I pray that no one ever has to live through such a living hell experience as I did, nor witness the horrible scenes of ugly death of women, men, children, elderly, infants, mutilated, beheaded, machine gunned, bayonated and/or raped. The infirmed in hospitals burned alive. The stench of burnt flesh could still be smelt in July 1945. Such an experience justifies the words of former President Fidel V. Ramos, "War is not an option". ■



Old soldiers never die; they just fade away. - Gen Douglas MacArthur

CFS opens Cebu office

The inauguration of CF Sharp Crew Management in Cebu was held on March 6, 2015. Ribbon cutting was the first programme of the day, with Mr Miguel A. Rocha, CFS EVP & COO and Mr. Jon B. Rocha, SVP & COO of CFSharp

also be able to realize the benefits of the Cebu Office. Submitting applications, and eventually, the processing of crew contracts will be much easier for those residing in the Visayas region. We have



Mr Rocha introduces Amor Sosmena, Edgar Poca.

Holdings. Fr. Art led the blessing of the office, then there was the traditional throwing of coins.

Mr. Rocha introduced Mr Edgar Allan Poca as the Cebu Branch Manager, and he will assisted by Ms. Amor P. Sosmena, as the Branch Officer. "...both Edgar and Amor have a long history with CF Sharp, and we wish them success in their new capacities. Getting the office running at full capability will require a coordinated effort between the Cebu and Manila offices..we shall do whatever is necessary to ensure a smooth and trouble free ramp up period... applicants and ex-crew alike will

also established a network of accredited clinics and training centers that will assist us in the process of facilitating crew deployment requirements..."

We thank all those who attended: representatives from medical clinics and training centers, seafarers and their spouses, RCPO cadets, members of the RCPO Officers' Wives -Cebu chapter, and loving friends of CF Sharp.

Thank you very much.
Aurie



RCPO Officers' Wives - Cebu Chapter members



Seafarers, spouses, guests.



Wacky shot of RCPO (UC) cadets

In keeping with tradition.



Place *MANILA*
Date *2015-03-16*
Signed *A.C. LEOSALA*
DNV Lead Auditor

The DNVGL audit once again, confirms our continuous compliance. Our score card : Zero non-conformity for recertification of CFS MLC-2006. It was no less than DNVGL Country Manager, Mr Tony Leosala, who conducted the audit.

Mr Miguel Rocha thanked everyone for "doing the right thing...let us all continue the good work."

This is in keeping with tradition since we first got our MLC-2006 Certificate in May 2010.

CF Sharp is the first manning agent in Asia and in the country to receive MLC-2006 from DNV.

The new DNVGL MLC-2006 Certificate is to be issued before August 2015. ■

It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent but the one most responsive to change - Charles Darwin

CF Sharp receives recognition for being loyal and dedicated member of FAME

The Filipino Association for Mariners' Employment Inc. (FAME) is the first and largest organization of manning and shipping companies in the Philippines with 120 regular members and seven (7) associate members. As a fitting culminating event in the celebration of FAME's four (4) decades of excellence in the maritime manning business, FAME held an "Appreciation and Recognition Night" on Thursday March 19, 2015 at the Manila Hotel.

CFS Sharp Crew Management was one of the recipients of this award, for its

active support and loyal affiliation for 31 years. Our very own, Mr. Miguel A. Rocha, received the award.

FAME gave recognition to those who have given loyal, exemplary and extraordinary contribution to the industry's success for the past 40 years. It is hoped that that this recognition will further promote goodwill and inspire everyone to continue supporting the Philippine seafaring industry. (more on p.6)

To FAME, thank you. ■



CF Sharp receives two more certifications, this time, from the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment

Compliance is good business.

Certificate of Compliance on General Labor Standards

Compliance to labor standards refers to the minimum requirements that an employer like CFS has to provide to its employees, i.e. wages, hours of work and other non-monetary benefits, as well as the general occupational safety and health standards that provide protection to all workers in the workplaces, worksites or establishments including the provision of welfare and health services. DOLE labor inspectors went to CFSharp to check on our compliance, where they noted deficiencies. We were given the chance to correct these deficiencies and came back for another set of inspection, to close these concerns.

Certificate of Compliance on Occupational Safety and Health Standards

We believe this is our crowning glory. The certificate was given after completing a list of requirements (3 pages) and then underwent thorough inspection of DOLE inspectors. It was not easy as we had to organize a Central Safety Committee (CSC) which is tasked to develop, implement, and administer all aspects of accident prevention, fire protection, fire aid policies and procedures and safety / health programs for all projects, offices and facilities. CFS representatives were sent to attend the National Occupational Safety and Health Congress to better understand OSHS. CSC continues to do monthly inspections of all work areas in CFS premises.

CFS employees had to be re-oriented on the importance of safe workstations. Everyone was called on to do their own housekeeping, inculcating voluntary compliance as a corporate culture and a way of life. ■



When a team outgrows individual performance and learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality. - Joe Paterno

FAME Appreciation and Recognition Night

“...in grateful acknowledgement and appreciation for their trust and confidence in the competence of the Filipino seafarers by providing them with gainful and meaningful employment and for their vital role in the growth and development of the Philippine seafaring and maritime industry...”



Beaming : NCL Chief Engr. Jose Elwyn Lecciones, Roberto Davantes, Jikie Ilagan, Capt Albert Alde.

FAME celebrated its 40th Anniversary and hosted an Appreciation and Recognition Night for all of FAME members and their foreign principals. CF Sharp delegation was headed by Miguel A. Rocha, Capt. Albert Alde, VP for Training and Development, Roberto Davantes and Jikie Ilagan, Fleet Managers for RCPO and NCL, respectively.

It was a big event as the entire Fiesta Pavilion of Manila Hotel was filled with guests. Aside from the good food that night, another important event was about to happen. Two of our most esteemed principals will receive “recognition for exemplary contribution to the growth and development of the Philippine seafaring and maritime industry”.

Out of FAME’s 120 members who submitted nominations, the Board of Jurors chose just 14 foreign principals (best of the best) to be bestowed with this recognition; out of the 14 recipients, two are CF Sharp’s principals.

Brief history: RCPO and NCL has been providing employment to Filipino seafarers for so many years. RCPO for twenty years and NCL for almost thirty years. Both principals offer competitive wages, fringe benefits and family welfare programmes. Onboard, they have established system of grievance handling/communication programs and instituted health and safety measures. Both principals have their own CSR projects that strengthen their relationship with their Filipino seafarers. They further demonstrated this commitment when they provided overwhelming support to the victims of typhoon Yolanda in 2013. NCL continues to support Marco Polo Children’s Center for fifteen years now. **Jikie Ilagan/Aurie** ■

Congratulations!

Reederei Claus-Peter Offen .
 Capt Albert Alde received the award on behalf of RCPO, assisted by Roberto Davantes, RCPO Fleet Manager.



Norwegian Cruise Line.
 NCL Chief Engr. Jose Elwyn Lecciones (First Filipino Staff Chief Engr. of NCL), together with Jikie Ilagan, received the award for NCL. Mrs. Jennifer Lecciones was also present during this momentous event.

Leadership by design.



March 18 is the graduation day of 27 RCPO Cadets from the University of Cebu. These cadets belong to Batch 7. Miguel A. Rocha and Capt Albert Alde represented RCPO on this big event, together with Edgar Poca (L) and Amor Sosmena (R), from CFS-Cebu office.



D/C Denmark Collo (L) and E/C Jomari Dhele entice, express their gratitude to RCPO.

We take this opportunity to thank RCPO for their generosity in helping deserving students like us to pursue our dreams. Now that we have graduated under the RCPO cadet scholarship programme, there is no turning back. Our dreams will finally become a reality. Thank you!



On behalf of the other parents, we thank RCPO for supporting our children's education. Our sons are now assured of a bright future. God bless you.

Happy to see you again.

Roberto Davantes,
Miguel A. Rocha,
Jens C. Ketels/RCPO
Personnel Director,
Vic Bernardo,
Michael Schmidt/
Superintendent,
and Capt. Alde.



Happy Christmas at the Marco Polo Children's Center (MPCC).

What a fun day. The children were just happy with the program we prepared.

There was a magician who did magic tricks and a ventriloquist and of course, there were parlor games.

When it was the children's turn to show off, they sang and danced.

We wanted to make their Christmas wish come true by giving them this modest party and gifts, so that they will feel special and

loved.

As we leave the Home, the children were waving and shouting "Merry Christmas" after us.

Maraming salamat, NCL! for the blessing of giving. As Jesus said, "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of your brethren, you have done it to Me." Let's make certain we do not leave Him off of our gift list. ■



Be so good, they can't ignore you. – Steve Martin



Pope Francis, in Intramuros, January 16 / 1115h

This picture was taken from the 3rd floor of Casa Rocha. Throngs of people patiently waited for long hours—since Thursday evening— there are those who camped out on the lawn fronting the cathedral and others around Casa Rocha building. I was in the vicinity around 0700h but there is no way I can pass through them. I had to take the back street. Several CFS employees stayed overnight in the office just to get a good location the next day. Then finally at 1115h, Pope Francis arrived, and was greeted with loud cheers. It was less exciting for those of us inside the building, we could have cheered but we should not open the glass windows or else...we cited at least two snipers on the cathedral's belfry and one on Comelec Building's rooftop.

Pope Francis waved at the crowd from the popemobile, accompanied by Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle. After waiting long hours, it only took him less than 2 minutes to pass through and get inside the cathedral. One could only get a glimpse of him. Then we waited again, this time, after he celebrates the mass, which is for another 2 hours. It's worth the wait. We have been blessed. **Aurie Milano** ■

Welcome. Claus-Peter Offen Tankschiffreederei (GmbH & Co.) Niels Christian Meyers, Fleet Manager and Dr. Stephan Polomsky, Managing Director. Together in the picture are Roberto Davantes, Vic Bernardo, Capt Albert Alde, our guests, Miguel A. Rocha and Manny Perez.



2015 GEM Officers Seminar, with the theme “Operational Integrity”.

16-18 March, Hyderabad, India.

Rafael Santiago, Sr Fleet Manager, attended this seminar organized by Gulf Energy Maritime (GEM). The first two days of the seminar discussed various issues of the industry : safety and security, chartering, engineering, quality and the environment, inspections onboard, teamwork, crewing matters, among others. The third day was an outdoor teambuilding activity, with the officers, families and staff. ■

Rafael Santiago is fortunate to have met GEM CEO, Mr. Ahmed Hareb Al Falahi.



People are definitely a company’s greatest asset. It doesn’t make any difference whether the product is cars or cosmetics. A company is only as good as the people it keeps – **Mary Kay Ash**

Internal Quality Audit Seminar

by Mr. Rey Macaro, ECCI Trainor

CFS Senior Managers were required to attend Internal Quality Training seminar to better understand the processes of ISO audit management thus, acquiring the knowledge and skills of conducting internal audit.

Together with the QMR dept, Senior Managers will assist in internal audits to ensure that the requirements of the organization in terms of policy objectives and supporting procedures, are implemented, complied to and maintained. ■



Digesting Relevant Laws and Acts Constituting Illegal Recruitment

conducted by Atty Carmela Magpantay, CFS Legal Counsel

The purpose of this seminar is to make everyone aware on the laws on illegal recruitment which will serve as our guide as we perform our duties.

This was a very interesting seminar for CFS Managers which discussed the following:

- Declaration of principles and state policies
 - Ignorance of the law excuses no one (this topic gained many reactions)
 - Definition of Illegal Recruitment with a list of acts of recruitment and explained each (more reactions)
 - Acts of Illegal recruitment : publication of false notification or information in relation to employment; misrepresentation; pirating; blacklisting, contract alteration, withholding of personal documents, failure to deploy. (this part was interesting and fun because questions were raised and participants would cite actual experiences...)
 - Atty Carmela clarified the grey areas)
 - Penalty for illegal recruitment. (everyone is quiet now)
- After the seminar, all we can say is, now we know better. ■



Practicing leadership in today's work setting requires a working understanding of ourselves, of people around us, and an understanding of how our upbringing, training, expertise and knowledge influence our thinking and the practice of leadership. Leadership in the complex settings that we operate in involves engaging the heart, the head and the hands: motivation, strategy and action.

This is something not taught in business schools, this is behavioral and therefore experiential. It is about creating high performance teams through Enlightened Leadership skills that can only be experienced for one to learn.

What if your ability to lead could determine not only your success but also



Calibrating the senses. Yes, yes, yes. I am relaxed.

Everything starts with me

Enlightened Leadership: New Thoughts equals Sustained Success

Workshop Facilitator: Lia S. Bernardo



the success of those around you?

What if the answer was so simple that the entire mindset of a division or a team could shift by leaps and bounds and in turn generate not only profit but also job satisfaction and fulfillment?

The process can easily be taught and the outcome immediately experienced. It is called Enlightened Leadership. Enlightened Leadership is about learning

how to be successful, how to become abundant centered and how to be success-driven without limit. It goes beyond motivation, incentives and rewards. It goes beyond transformational leadership skills. It centers on attitude. It is about changing limiting beliefs that block people from achieving success. **All your beliefs serve you. Your happiness is the choice you make.** ■

Management is nothing more than motivating other people. - Lee Iacocca

NLRC Rules amended to allow Petition to question issuance of writ of execution

The NLRC has recently amended Section 1, Rule XIII of the NLRC Rules of Procedure on the application of a Petition for Extraordinary Remedies.

Previously, the rule provides that what can be questioned through a Petition for Extraordinary Remedies is any order or resolution of the Labor Arbiter including those issued in execution proceedings. In the amendment, the petition is now also available to question a writ of execution issued by the Labor Arbiter as it now reads:

SECTION 1. VERIFIED PETITION. – A party aggrieved by any order or resolution of the Labor Arbiter, including a writ of execution and others issued during execution proceedings, may file a verified petition to annul or modify the same. The petition may be accompanied by an application for the issuance of a temporary restraining order and/or writ of preliminary or permanent injunction to enjoin the Labor Arbiter, or any person acting under his/her authority, to desist from enforcing said resolution, order or writ. (underlining represents the amendments). Del Rosario & Del Rosario. ■

Anti-Ambulance Chasing Bill should be a priority

The proposed Anti-Ambulance Chasing Act should be included in the list of priority measures that Congress will pass before the adjournment of the second regular session in June, the United Filipino Seafarers (UFS) said. This developed as Senator Juan Edgardo “Sonny” M. Angara has filed Senate Bill No. 2627 entitled An Act Protecting Seafarers and Other Workers Against Ambulance Chasing and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof, a long-awaited counterpart measure of House Bill No. 2643 by ANGKLA Party-List Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo filed two years ago.

“This is a very positive development for all Filipino seafarers, legitimate manning agencies operating in the Philippines and the maritime industry in general as a bill is closer to passing into a law that will protect the shipping industry against so-called ambulance chasers,” Engr. Nelson Ramirez, UFS president.

Dr. Maximo Mejia nominated as IMO Secretary General

The number of those seeking to occupy the seat of the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has increased to six candidates, nominated by their governments for the position. The present incumbent, Mr. Koji Sekimizu, ends his four-year term as Secretary-General on 31 December 2015. Election for the post will be held at the 114th session of the 40-Member strong IMO Council, which meets from 29 June to 3 July 2015.

According to the IMO, the nominations received included that of Mr. Andreas Chrysostomou of Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Vitaly Klyuev of Russian Federation, and Mr. Ki-tack Lim of Republic of Korea, Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia Jr. of the Republic of the Philippines, Mr. Andreas Nordseth of Kingdom of Denmark and Mr. Juvenal Shiundu of Republic of Kenya.

There are speculations that the sudden emergence of Russian's candidate may scuttle the edge earlier had by Danish Andreas Nordseth. Nordseth's stewardship of the Danish strategy has reputedly won him many allies among other IMO member states. Another name being mentioned is US Coast Guard (USCG) director of commercial regulation Jeffrey Lantz, who stood against Sekimizu in the 2011 election, but his name is missing on the list released by the IMO yesterday.

There is also some speculation over whether some of the IMO's larger member states may feel it is time they were represented at the head of the secretariat given the large financial contribution they make to the organization. There is also a feeling politically that with representatives from Canada, Greece and Japan holding the position since 1990; it might be time

for a developing country to take the role. Panama and the Bahamas are two flag states that could potentially put candidates forward. Both are Council members and among the highest payers into the IMO's coffers. excerpts from The Shipping Post.

Hmmm so who do you think will be elected? is he someone who has the clout, or the one who brings the bacon home? or maybe someone who has the political will to run a bureaucracy? we all look forward in July. ■

Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia Jr.

The Philippines is proud to put forward Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia Jr. as its candidate for election to the post of Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). With education and experience in maritime affairs spanning three decades, awareness and exposure across all the world's continents, and an inclusive and results-oriented leadership style, Dr. Mejia possesses the qualities necessary to build on the work of past Secretaries-General and lead the Organization to further success: streamlined administration, effective implementation of standards, and a positive image of the maritime sector.

In Dr. Mejia we can expect a competent leader adept at mediating between the interests of states and stakeholders, while at the same time taking a determined stance on maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. ■

“Some lawyers have taken advantage of the plight of our seafarers who met an accident, illness or death in the course of their service. To exploit the compensation system, these law practitioners have purposely sought excessive labor claims not commensurate to their actual entitlement, if not at all bogus,” Senator Angara said. “Unwittingly, our seafarers have fallen prey to this scheme enticed by the promise of huge monetary award. Apparently, these ambulance chasers do not only resort to this unacceptable practice but also charge exorbitant legal fees and seek up to 40% of the total money claims granted.”

Any lawyer who appears as counsel for

the seafarer, in any case before the National Labor Relations Commission or any labor arbiter, etc, shall be entitled to an attorney's fees not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the compensation or benefit awarded to the seafarer. This fee shall not be payable before the actual payment of the compensation or benefit. Any stipulation to the contrary shall be null and void. Fines ranging from P50,000 to P100,000, imprisonment of up to two years or both penalties at the discretion of the court will be imposed to any person in violation of the proposal. excerpts from Tinig ng Marino. see full story <http://unitedfilipinoseafarers.com.ph/include-anti-ambulance-chasing-bill-in-priority-lawmakers-told> ■

Automation of P550 terminal fee an Affront to Seafarer Rights

In the interests of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), including seafarers, a coalition has been formed, #Noto550 Coalition, which refuse to concede defeat in connection with the airport terminal fee integration scheme, at least until the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) finds a way to implement it without causing undue burden to seafarers and OFWs.

The Coalition has found support in a recent resolution initiated by four senators and they have proposed Senate Resolution No. 1179 which strongly urges MIAA to recall the integration scheme “until after the appropriate computer system that will automatically exempt OFWs

as well as other locally-recognized exempt passengers from paying the IPSC or airport terminal fee” can be put in place. Sixteen more senators signed the resolution.

An information technology expert from Microsoft Philippines testified that it is possible to design a software program that will allow for online verification of international passenger service charge (IPSC)-exempt status. POEA Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac also reiterated that his administration is very willing to share their database with airlines to facilitate the creation of such automated program.

The MIAA Memorandum Circular No. 8 contains the implementing guidelines for

the integration of IPSC into airline tickets at point of sale, directing airline carriers and their agents to collect the current fee of P550 from all departing passengers, regardless of IPSC-exemption status. This means that everyone who purchases an international plane ticket that enplanes from Manila will be automatically paying the terminal fee on top of the price of their airfare. Seafarers and other locally-exempt passengers can apply for a reimbursement of the IPSC at refund counters located after immigration counters at the airports. excerpts from Tinig ng Marino- see more at: <http://unitedfilipinoseafarers.com.ph/noto550-coalition-automation-of-p550-terminal-fee-an-affront-to-seafarer-ofw-rights/#sthash.Ms71nvAF.dpuf> ■

Don't become a wandering generality. Be a meaningful specific. - Zig Ziglar

RCPO Officers' Wives Post-Valentine's party

February 20, 2015 / 6 pm – onwards



Oathtaking of new set of officers: (L-R) Bobby Davantes, Miguel Rocha, Team Coordinators Meena Cadevida, Ana Mamon, and Jenny Reyes, VP Glo Albarico, Josie Serneo/Presidnet, Cory Guela/Treasurer, and Vic Bernardo.

It was another opportunity for the Family Center Seafarers' Wives Association members (SWA) to meet and be together again. First and foremost is to celebrate Valentine's Day, in all its glitz and glam, dancing lights, non-stop sounds and dance instructors (DIs). Cory Guela led the invocation and Mr Miguel Rocha welcomed everybody. This was followed by a brief presentation of the association's activities for the past year and then election of new set of SWA officers.

We congratulate the new set of officers : Josie Serneo/President, Gloria Albarico/Vice-President, Jill Custodio/Secretary, Cory Guela/Treasurer, Team Coordinators : Meena Cadevida, Ana Mamon, Jenny Reyes. ■



L to R: Cony Gufla, Josie Serneo, Jill Custodio
Glo Albarico, Janssen Albarico



L to R: Olive Salamat, Ana Marmon, Ali & Maya
Allan Capulong



Commitment is not an emotion it is a character quality that enables us to reach our goals. Keep up the good work.



ROMEO M. PLATA
Documentation Staff
November 2014



ELIZABETH A. SY
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December 2014

sharpnews

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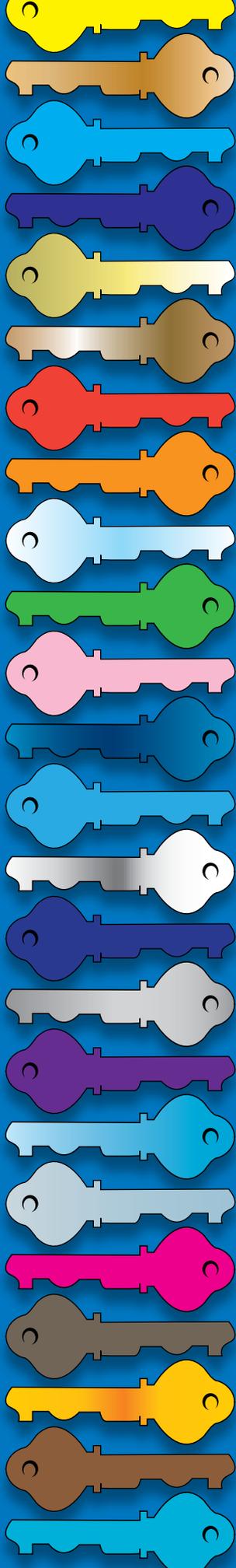
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Hire character. Train skill – Peter Schutz



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