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Filipino seafarers are world class

To all the men and women at sea, yours is truly a valuable and necessary profession without which the world would not function as it does today.

To the nearly 400,000 Filipinos who make up nearly one third of the world's mariners, you are an inspiration to your families and your country. You are a cornerstone to the Philippine economy, generating more than 5.5 billion dollars a year in overseas remittances.

The chosen theme for this year's campaign is "Career at Sea". The maritime industry continues to grow, and the demand for seafarers remains high. There is still a high demand for marine deck and engine officers. In focusing on seafaring as a career, we hope to attract more young people to consider a career as a seafarer. By illustrating the seafaring career as sustainable, desirable, realistic, and exciting, top candidates should consider a life at sea as they make educational and career choices.

As we focus on maritime education, I feel it appropriate to highlight the challenges we face in developing the young talent who dream of becoming a part of the maritime industry. The reality is that less than 10% of students who complete their academic requirements at maritime academies and universities in the Philippines will have the opportunity to sail as a cadet and complete the sea service requirement for graduation. It is a

shame that there is not more of a commitment from the industry to provide space for Filipino cadets on their ships.

Principals who run active cadetship programs reap the rewards of the investment.

We have shared in the successes of the cadetship and career development programs which some of our principals have established. Throughout the years, we have been committed to turning cadets into officers. Today, we have seen qualified Filipinos reach the highest ranks in both deck and engine departments in all sectors of the

industry. There could be thousands more if only more opportunities are made available to young Filipino cadets. The talent is here and only needs to be given the right conditions to develop and address the growing global need for marine officers.

I would like to join the IMO and share my sincere respect and appreciation for all the brave seafarers from around the world, and especially for my fellow countrymen from the Philippines. I wish you all smooth sailing and safe voyages until the four winds blow you safely home.

As we reach the midpoint of the year, and the summer months are upon our friends in the Northern hemisphere, the first rains of the typhoon season have fallen in the Philippines. As we have suffered more than our fair share of calamity in recent years, I do pray that this season offers a respite in order to allow our recovering communities to continue rebuilding and move forward.

Miguel A. Rocha

The Philippines is the world's manning capital

Fast facts in numbers: FILIPINO seafarers are the most in demand in the world because of their outstanding qualities: Technical knowledge, flexibility, reliability, trustworthiness, hard work, and their command of the English language.

30% Percentage of Filipino seafarers out of the more than 1.2 million of mariners in the world, making the Philippines the manning capital of the world. (Nigeria is trying to surpass this record. Already, 32,600 students have graduated from Nigeria maritime schools, this has been ongoing for four years now).

86,636 Filipino maritime officers overseas in 2013, making us the top supplier of maritime officers in the world.

100 Maritime Academies in the Philippines, which produce some 40,000 seafarers each year, according to a 2011 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) report.

421 Licensed crewing agents in the

Philippines, according to the same Unctad report.

\$1.9B The amount of remittances in dollars sent in by sea-based Filipino workers in January to April 2015, up by 5.6 percent from \$1.8 billion during the same period in 2014.

\$ 5.6B The amount of remittances in dollars sent in by sea-based Filipino workers in 2014, up from \$5.2 billion in 2013.

400 to 12,000 Range of monthly salary in dollars of Filipino seafarers, according to a study by the Institute of Labor Studies.

69, 297 Number of deployed Filipino seafarers working in Panama registered vessels, where the most number of Filipino seafarers are employed in 2013.

107,313 Number of deployed Filipino seafarers working as an Able Seaman, Oiler and Ordinary Seaman, the positions occupied by the most Filipino overseas.

Filipino seafarers deployment record:

23,000 in 1975

52,000 in 1985

165,000 in 1995

247,000 in 2005

367,166 in 2013

source: PDI News, June 25th. ■



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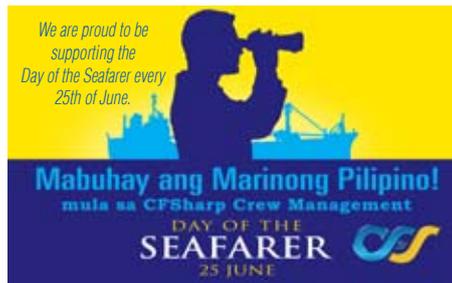
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Team Philippines continue to provide competent Filipino seafarers for safer seas and cleaner oceans.

Day of the Seafarer, 2015

IT was the Parties to the IMO Manila Amendments of 2010 that passed and approved a resolution declaring every 25th of June of every year as “The Day of the Seafarer” in recognition of contribution of seafarers to shipping industry and world economy. The 2010 Manila Amendment has become globally material to seafarers’ protection of their profession, because this is the



international document that amended and enhanced the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) for seafarers. In 2014 the Philippines enacted the law mandating MARINA as the ‘single’ maritime administration and enforcement

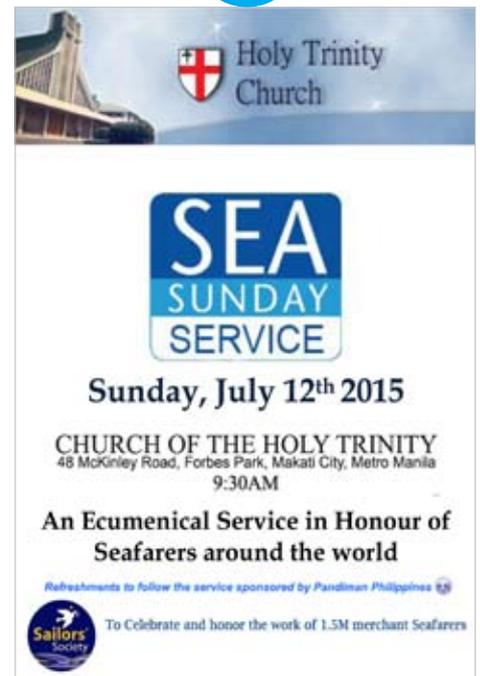
STCW convention and code.

For this year, IMO has shifted its focus to maritime education and training.

IMO Sec-Gen Sekimizu mentioned during an IMO subcommittee meeting, “consider that among the available half a million officers of today, 150,000 might have left ships by 2030 by retiring. Just to maintain the current workforce, 10,000 new officers must be trained and provided as new workforce every year to fill the gap... if seaborne trade would expand by 70% by 2030, we need to train and produce 40,000 officers every year...the biggest asset for the Philippines for future maritime development is large number of very experienced officers, and hundreds and thousands of these people, well-trained and well-experienced...”

To the youth of today, the graduating class of 2016, we want you to consider a career at sea. Most people go to work in offices, factories and shops, but it’s a different picture for seafarers: an office can be a hundred thousand-ton oil tanker or a cargo ship navigating the world’s oceans with beautiful landscapes.

No less than the Philippine



President described the Filipino seafarers as ‘sailing ambassadors’ and ‘unsung heroes’, who have been a big help to national economy, and have been incessantly waiving up the Philippine flag, giving pride to be Filipinos wherever their voyages may bring them.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang marinong Pilipino! ■

Five ways for a seafarer to invest

IF YOU ARE a seafarer for more than ten years now and you feel this is just about the right time to think and invest for the future. Most seafarers may have, at this point, their small businesses; others have started savings accounts and allow the money they deposit to earn interest. There are others who put their hard-earned money in investments. You ask: how should I do it?

Some people find the idea of investing daunting. The most common reaction is: “don’t you have to study the stock market to get anything done?” There is a certain degree of studying that comes with investing, but there are a number of investment platforms available to the average seafarer that are tailored fit to one’s risk profile.

A risk profile determines how aggressive someone is in making an investment. The first thing anyone wanting to start an investment portfolio should do, is to answer a suitability assessment questionnaire. This will determine what kind of investment best applies to you. The kind of investment vehicle you choose depends on the amount of money you are willing to risk.

There are several ways to start your investment, and here’s five:

- **Mutual funds**

Investing in a mutual fund is the simplest of the options. This type of investment takes most of the work out of your hands and

place it in the very capable hands of fund managers. Their job will be to grow the money you invested, without you having to monitor it constantly.

- **Stocks investments**

Investing in publicly traded stocks requires a certain kind of aggression and some research. Buying stocks basically means becoming a shareholder in a publicly traded company. Being a shareholder means you own part of the company, but only so far as much stock that you own in said company. The bigger your stock, the more you can participate and more you earn, depending on the company’s performance.

- **Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF)**

This form of investment involves holding a certain amount of money in trust as part of the investment made. It shares a similar structure as that of mutual funds in the aspect that your money will be managed by fund managers. This is usually offered by banks and differs from mutual funds in the sense that it involves per unit investment, as opposed to shares in a mutual fund. You can go to your bank and inquire about UITF.

- **Bonds**

Given the propensity of seafarers to save their money in bank accounts, they may also invest in the form of bonds. This form of investment is generally offered by

large corporations and government offices (retail treasury bonds) as a means of raising funds by borrowing from the public. Here’s a few banks that also sell bonds: PNB, BDO, BPI, Metrobank.

- **Real Estate**

This type of investment isn’t necessarily unusual, but leans more toward preparing for a future home, or a place where to put up a business. This form of investment requires a higher amount of money to start with as opposed to mutual funds. The money invested in real estate generally means having enough to make the payments for the land that you have purchased, and the lower the interest rate, the better. What may eventually earn money from investing in real estate is the way land use changes over the years. Just be careful when acquiring a property. Check the local Register of Deeds to check the land title for encumbrances (mortgage, debts, and the like).

These are just some of the ways that you can invest. It takes patience and research before picking your investment vehicle. Just remember to always invest according to your investment plan, time frame and risk tolerance (how much money you are willing to invest). Make sure that you also diversify your investments.

Randell Tiongco is registered financial planner. He is speaker, columnist and author of “No Nonsense Personal Finance,” Money Manifesto and The Inquirer’s Money Matters books. ■

At the end of the day, it’s not how much you earn but how much you save. Engr. Nelson Ramirez even said, “Every seafarer should be a millionaire when he/she retires”. We can’t agree more to this.

Election of new IMO Secretary-General

MR. Lim Ki-tack has been elected the new secretary-general of United Nations' International Maritime Organization (IMO). The election took place at the IMO Council session held in London on 30 June and is to be formally confirmed by the IMO Assembly convening in November. Subsequently, Lim Ki-tack is expected to take up the post on 1 January 2016. He has been elected for a four-year period until 2020, with the possibility of a four-year extension.

To win appointment from the Council, a candidate needs a simple majority of the body's 40 member states, voting by secret ballot. If a nominee secures this majority on the first ballot, he will win the post; otherwise the lowest vote-getter will be eliminated in each successive round until one receives majority support.

Mr. Lim beat five rivals Andreas Chrysostomou – Republic of Cyprus / Vitaly Klyuev – Russian Federation / Ki-tack Lim – Republic of Korea / Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr. – Republic of the Philippines / Andreas Nordseth – Kingdom of Denmark / Juvenal Shiundu – Republic of Kenya

(This is the first time that Russia has nominated a candidate for the post.)

In his statement on his philosophy Lim said: "All the world's oceans are connected and ships sail freely between all nations. No region or nation is exceptional. Every Member State must join this common voyage." He also added that one of the objectives of "a voyage together" was to "reinforce the importance of a global approach, not a regional approach, using IMO as a focal point."

As for the Philippines, we were proud to have put forward Dr. Maximo Q. Mejia Jr. as our candidate. He has extensive qualifications in education and experience in maritime affairs spanning three decades, awareness and exposure across all the world's continents, with the same guts as the other candidates. Nevertheless, we congratulate Mr. Lim Ki-tack for emerging as the new sec-gen. We look forward to the next election in 2020, we hope to make it by then. Who knows. ■

POEA declares Yemen as war risk trading area

THE Governing Board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

(POEA) had declared Yemen as a war risk trading area for seafarers due to deteriorating political and security situation in the said country.

The war in Yemen continues with the Saudi-led air campaign against Iran-backed Houthi rebels who fired back by launching a scud missile into Saudi Arabia. The terrorist group Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is also expanding its footprint in Yemen and now controls Al Mukalla, a city and port in South East Yemen. A United Nations (UN) chartered ship due to deliver aid into Aden was shelled as it approached the port. Although the vessel was not hit, it was forced to turn back.

After consultation with POEA social partners, they determined war risk trading areas and ports under warlike operations, and the amount of premium pay to which seafarers shall be entitled when sailing in these areas and ports.

The Governing Board Resolution No. 5, series of 2015, states that Filipino seafarers sailing in Yemen ports shall now be entitled to premium pay in view of the POEA's declaration. Pursuant to the said resolution, seafarers on board ships calling on any of the ports in Yemen, shall receive the premium pay equivalent to 100 percent of the basic wage from the time the ship is berthed securely alongside up to the time the vessel departs from its berth and the last line is let go for departure on passage.

For ships covered by a collective agreement that provides for premium pay which is the same as, or higher than, the premium pay entry into Yemen, the higher rate shall apply, the resolution further provides.

Seafarers shall also be given the right to accept or decline to join the vessel if it trades exclusively in Yemen or when the vessel is expected to call on any Yemeni port. On the other hand, a seafarer who opt not to continue his service on board shall be entitled to free repatriation to his point of hire, and termination pay equivalent to one month basic wage, earned wages, and leave pay. (source: PFN). ■

Metro-wide earthquake drill on July 30

THE Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has scheduled a Metro-wide earthquake drill for all Metro Manila citizens slated on July 30, 2015. This earthquake drill comes in the wake of the recent developments in the possible 7.2 tremor to hit the Metro in the next couple

of months. The drill will cover 16 cities, home to 12 million people. The drill will increase the metro's chances of better recovery and implementation of contingencies in the event of earthquakes.

It is said that over 30,000 individuals may die and over 100,000 may be injured.

The West Valley Fault has moved four times in the past 1,400 years at an interval of 400 to 600 years. It was 357 years ago or in 1658 when the last big earthquake occurred in the country.

There will be no shutdown of power and communication lines during the metrowide earthquake drill. Metro Manila shall be divided into four quadrants, each with a different scenario. An audio recording of an earthquake sound will be played on government radio stations to signal the start of the drill at exactly 10:30 a.m. on July 30.

The MMDA earlier designated operation centers and staging areas which will also serve as evacuation camps for affected residents in case of a major earthquake.

North: Veterans Memorial Golf Course / University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman

East: LRT-2 Santolan Depot / Marikina Boys Town / Red Cross Marikina / Ultra Pasig

West : Intramuros Golf Course

South: Villamor Air Base Golf Course

Athletic fields, sport arenas and memorial parks as well as churches and gyms that will be designated by local government units (LGUs) will also be used as evacuation centers. The Pasig River will serve as an alternate route for rescue and relief personnel in the event that bridges in the metropolis are destroyed by the quake. ■

Scrabble

NEW words like sexting, lolz, emoji, thankx and twerking made it to the latest edition of "Collins Official Scrabble Words." That's kinda expected. But you know what's surprising? **People still play Scrabble these days.** ■

#LoveWins

THE US Supreme Court has ruled that the U.S. Constitution provides same-sex couples the right to marry. Gay marriage is now legal in all 50 states. Locally, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, reiterated its stance against same sex union – **totally spoiling the celebration of dozens of Catholic priests.** (source: The Heckler) ■

Grace isn't a little prayer you say before receiving a meal. It's a way to live.



No more active MERS case in the Philippines

MIDDLE East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a viral respiratory illness. MERS-CoV is the acronym for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, the virus that causes MERS. When referring to the virus and not the illness, it is referred to as MERS-CoV. When referring to the illness, it is referred to as MERS. The virus was first reported in 2012 in Saudi Arabia. It is different from any other coronaviruses that have been

found in people before.

It is not certain where the virus came from. However, it likely came from an animal source. In addition to humans, MERS-CoV (aka camel flu) has been found in camels in several countries. It is possible that some people became infected after contact with camels, although more information is needed to figure out the possible role that camels and other animals may play in the transmission of MERS-CoV.

MERS was first identified in humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and the majority of cases have been in the Middle East. Isolated cases cropped up in Asia before an outbreak erupted in South Korea in May 2015 and became the largest outside of Saudi Arabia. A total of 186 people have been infected in South Korea, and 33 have died. The country's health authorities said on Monday that the outbreak may have turned the corner, with only four new cases reported in the past week.

The first case discovered in the Philippines was in January, a Filipino nurse working in Saudi Arabia who

survived. Typical symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and sometimes pneumonia and diarrhea. About 36 percent of reported patients have died, according to WHO. South Korea's outbreak was described as a "wake-up call" but said it did not constitute a global emergency.

A second case of the deadly MERS CoV in the Philippines was confirmed on July 6th in a man who showed symptoms after arriving in Manila last month from Dubai and Saudi Arabia. The 36-year-old was admitted to a hospital and was under observation. On July 12th, he was discharged from the RITM (Research Institute for Tropical Medicine) after he was cleared of the deadly virus, the Department of Health announced. The World Health Organization (WHO) announced in their statement that the Philippines' response to the case of Middle East respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) was impressive. **With the diligence and vigilance of everyone, we can keep our status as MERS-free.** ■



CFS Continuing Education Series Risk Assessment and Management

Resource Person : Rey Macaro from ECCI

RISK is not entirely bad. Every major work effort involves risks. However, with risk comes knowledge and opportunity – the opportunity for planning to overcome potential threats. Every aspect of our work is at risk to fail. The opportunity comes with our knowledge, our experience and understanding of the risk factors and the preparations we have for these risks that would mitigate the risk? Confused? Naaah.

Things happen. We may not like it, we may even consider it unfair, but it is a fact of life. In the nature of our business, there is always uncertainty. Will the applicant report for interview today? Will we be able to comply with the client's request for crew? Are we gonna pass the audit? and so on...

CFS management, being sensitive to the needs of its personnel, arranged

for a Risk Assessment Seminar as part of its Continuing Education Series.

The seminar discussed the concept of risks -- that the notion of risk is basically a combination of two concepts: probability and severity. That is, we decide how risky something is by asking two questions: How likely is this to happen? (probability) / How bad would it be if this did happen? (severity).

A hazard is anything potentially costly, harmful, or undesirable. Hazards lead to risks. The connection between hazard and risk is an event or a situation in which something is exposed to the hazard. It was defined that assessing risks is not always in a straight line. The probability or severity of an event may not be known. Many risks may be associated with a given hazard. Risks

associated with a complex system, may involve long chains of events. For all these reasons, deciding exactly what to include, and how to treat it, can be difficult.

We were able to identify different types of risks. More prominently identified were: safety, financial, resources, schedule technical, operational and communications.

It was a one day seminar but we covered several topics: definition of enterprise risk management, principles, framework, mandate and commitment of management, implementing risk management, monitoring & review, continuous improvement.

As they say, tomorrow's problems are today's risks. We should be able to anticipate and eliminate risks. The goal of risk management is to facilitate activities to be on time, within budget, full-function, and quality outputs or deliverables. Every organization is different. That is why it is important to evaluate risk culture and make necessary adjustments to shape it over time in response to change. ■

Choose to be kind over being right and you'll be right every time.



In celebration of the Day of the

Seafarer

What's going on?

In celebration of the Day of the Seafarer we thought of doing a random interview of our seafarers and have a brief chat on how their lives have been all these years as seafarers. It would be nice to listen to them and share their experiences. All of them are successful in their chosen career. A career at sea.



GLENN AYAYO. Electrician.

HIS service history says that he has been an electrician since 1996. He previously worked on a dredger in the 80s and as an electrician with the Phil Ports Authority from 1980–1987. He has 8 siblings, he, being the eldest. He is responsible for everybody in the household. He should have been a lawyer or a doctor but he had to finish school fast so he can work and help the family. He was right. Working as an Electrician onboard the ships was the better option. Right now, his pay check is in six figures (pesos). He is now married, happily with Doray. They have 2 sons, Fritz (23 y/o) currently under a cadetship program with OSTE Shipmanagement and Franz (21) who recently graduated with a degree in Psychology and he is 7th among in their school's graduating class. The family resides in Cavite. He drives a Crosswind and his sons share a Toyota Corolla. His wife loves

Poison and Estee. His short term project right now is to be able to purchase another parcel of land in Cavite and when he retires, he is thinking of putting up a piggery in his hometown, Iloilo. What is your advice to the new generation of seafarers, new hires? you have to be diligent, adjust and work well with other nationalities onboard and be patient. ■

OSVALDO LUMELAY, 1st Bosun.



10 years now with Prestige Cruises. His last sign off was on April 26th. He came from a family of seafarers. He enrolled in BS Marine Transportation graduated in 1988. He first joined onboard as a Utility personnel. He is such a hardworking person, that he is now 1st Bosun. He is more than happy with his pay. His son, Kyle Joshua is 19 and a scholar at MAAP. His wife manages their family businesses, a water station and as a taxi operator, they have 3 units of taxi cabs. During our interview he mentioned that he was onboard the MS Riviera during its inauguration. He was asked to go up on deck and he was wondering, why? He was so proud to be called upon to assist in hoisting the vessel's flag. You will see Mr. Lumelay in the picture standing side by side with (L–R) Capt Luka Manzi, Prestige President, Mr. Frank Del Rio (in dark glasses) and other ship Officers. His advice to all: love your work. ■

ROMEO VILLACAMPA. 2nd Engineer.

SEAFARER with CFS since 1986. His first ship was with UPL in 1981, then he moved on to another manning agent from 1983–1986 before he was employed by CFS. He has four children: Romina Joyce (24) a medical technician who works in a hospital, Hans Irvin (22) ECE graduate and taking up review classes in preparation for his board exam, Angelique (21) a pharmacist and the youngest, Dave Marco (15) in grade 9. His wife works with the Batayan Electric Cooperative in Cebu. His children's requests: tablets and notebooks.

Your advice? First in your mind must be safety, ask for guidance, and "read the book before overhauling!" ■



Noriel Garcia and daughter, Noelle Julienne.

Bosun.

He is from Puerto Galera, Mindoro. His wife, Violeta is a dentist. They have a daughter, Noelle Julienne, 12 y/o and is in Grade 6. He just bought her a Baby G. Seafaring is his life. He started working onboard when he was 23 years old as a deck cadet for a bulk carrier. Then moved on to work with other ships before joining CFS in 2000 and the rest is history.

Life has been good to him. Never been a medical repat. He keeps his BP at 120/80. His health is his wealth. He does regular exercise and jogs along the shoreline. He drives a Ford Wildtrack and his wife a Vios. He is also helping his father develop a resort in their hometown. Retirement has not crossed his mind. His advice to newbies: be patient, if there is a problem, call for help, do not act as if you know everything – that would be dangerous. ■



LEO GARCIA. Executive Sous Chef.

HE was a working student. While working in Jolibe as a dishwasher 1990, he was attending evening classes at PMI.

He graduated after two years and he applied for a job as a seaman. He was lucky to get hired by Orient Lines in 1996 as a Utility. It was a long wait for his promotion as a First Cook, but easy climb thereafter — Chef Tournant, then Exec Sous Chef. Life is good.

He has his own house in Dasmarias, Cavite. He and wife Ruth are blessed with three children: Leonard (15), Ryan (12) and Cristine (11) all of them are enrolled in private schools. He connects with them thru his iPhone6 via skype, fb and texting. All he could say was, "nothing is impossible." (if you work hard). ■



People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing that's why we recommend it daily. – Zig Ziglar



ALLENER MACUHA. Electrical Engineer.

He graduated from Batangas State University. Prior to working onboard, he worked at Pilipinas Shell Refinery for 6 months. Life was slow in Shell so he left and moved on – to work onboard the Norwegian Wind as an Engine Boy. His salary was at US\$ 179 per month. After this contract, he became Asst Elect., then 2nd Elect, then

finally, joined as an Electl Engineer in 2006. Is he attached? Yes, he is married. They have two young boys, King and Ace and wife is (Queen) Leah. I cannot divulge his \$alary per month but I assure you this can feed one barangay. Any lesson you wish to share : “when I joined as Engine Boy, I was mocked by some oldtimers onboard – what can your license do? here you have to work hard just like everyone of us.” Which he did. Very well. After 4 years, he was already a full–pledged Electrical Engineer onboard. Any advice? You have to sacrifice, work hard and everything will fall into place. What’s the next big thing for him? To be promoted as Automation Technician ... Oh by the way, wife Leah is also an Electrical Engineer. ■



BENITO ODENA JR. Bosun

HE started his career in 1995 as an Ordinary Seaman and from then on, there has been no stopping him. 21 contracts, no gaps in between. He lived in an urban settlers’ area in E. Rod back in the late 80s. He did odd jobs : a carpenter today, a mason tomorrow, a tinsmith the next . His luck turned when a friend asked him to apply for a job onboard the ship. He got the job that started his career. He’s been on and off the ship. He is now married to Rosita, and they have three grown up children with good jobs. The youngest is on her 2nd year taking up an IT course. “God is great. I may not be a rich man but at least now I have my own house (in Marikina), I was able to send my children to good schools and we can buy the basic things we need, all because of my job as a seaman .” He actually just arrived yesterday and today, he reported to Willie.

What did you bring as pasalubong ? “\$170 worth of assorted chocolates and candies from the duty free shop.” ■

GILBERT DERECHO. Restaurant Manager / Maitre D’.



HE came home on May 15th and tentative departure for his next tour of duty on July 25th. That’s how it has been. On/Off. In the early 90s, Mr. Derecho worked as a Waiter at the Makati Sports Club, then became part of the opening team of Shangri–la Makati in 2001. After a few years, he decided to try working onboard the ship. His first assignment was with Norwegian Sun, they were the first to launch NCL’s Freestyle Cruising. This first contract was a good start. He was immediately promoted to Waiter position, then as Supervisor. On his second contract, he was promoted as Maitre D’. Out of the 13 NCL ships, he was part of the opening team of the 8 new ships; supervised as many as 385 dining personnel; in charge of 25 dining stations. Being part of the opening makes one proud, very fulfilling, and boosts one’s career. However, there is the tremendous work that need to be done, ie, training, familiarizing with the menu. He was Maitre D’ for the Norwegian Getaway. Very tiring, but you have to keep your composure. As for his family life, his wife works in Dubai. They have a 9–year old daughter who stays with his parents in Batangas. Whenever he departs, his heart melts knowing he will not see his daughter for the next six months.

So what advice can you share with colleagues onboard ? “Save...spend your money wisely. Do not go to casino as you will lose your hard earned bucks. It is habit forming and you wouldn’t know when to stop.” ■

SERGIO VILLANERA Engine Storekeeper



HE worked as a Warehouse Supervisor at Century Containers (not Tuna). He wasa daily wage earner. One day–off, he went to apply as a Utility personnel with a manning agent. The next day–offs were spent reporting to the agency to follow up on the status of his application. After a year, he got the job. The first contract was challenging

---the ship was moving up and down (read: big waves), long hours of work, and worse, he feels so homesick. A few contracts after, his sacrifices paid off, his superior learned about his background as a Warehouseman, he was given the chance to train as a storekeeper, the company arranged for his training with AMOS–D software and when he passed! He was then assigned as Engine Storekeeper. This was the break he has been waiting for! ... He now has a house in Laguna. Wife Marilou looks after their 3 children. Jansen (21) is taking up BS Psychology at San Beda, Jake (20) is enrolled at Technological Univ of the Phils, Associate Powerplant Engineering Techonology and daughter Joyce (18) is taking up Dentistry at CEU. ■



NOEL ALCANTARA. Asst. Engineer.

MR. Alcantara studied in the Polytechnic Univ of the Phils. and took up a degree in Business Administration. He felt uneasy. This is not what he dreamed of --- an office employee? nah! He shifted his course and enrolled in Associate Marine Engineering. He graduated after 2 years. He joined the Marco Polo in 1999 as an Engine Utility, then became a Motorman after 2 contracts. Fast forward. In 2011, he was promoted to Asst Engineer. Life is good. He is now married to JoAnne and they have a house in Batangas and Laguna. They are blessed with 3 children, Jaden, Jonelle, Jaira. They are used to their father’s work schedule, he goes away and comes back after nine months. They are very spoiled children, he said. “...but I like spoiling them; i love them”. He already asked them to make their wish list. So , what’s first in the list : X–Box. Mr. Alcantara leaves for his next contract on August 7th. ■

LEONARDO BAUTISTA. Chief Cook.

HE worked with Le Souffle in the late 90s. This restaurant was very famous at that time, located in Ft Bonifacio, now better known as The Fort. In 2005, he was recruited to join the ship as 2nd Cook. He said this is the answer to his dreams. So he completed all requirements and all set to go, actually, he was already at the airport waiting for his flight, when he felt homesick already and wanted to back out and go back home. Did he? He didn’t. He is now on his 11th and he never looked back. He joined last July 2nd.

Mr Bautista has two children both of whom are now in college, Karen and Ariel. He may be away, but it’s worth it. He is happy to provide his loved ones needs with all their needs. He is never sad nor homesick. He could see them via Skype and talk to them via viber as often as they want. He enjoys the sights in New York, Spain, Italy, the Caribbean. ■



ELSA MANANSALA. Waitress.

AILEEN LOTERIA. Asst Maitre D’.

THEY are just so happy to see each other again after two years. It was fun interviewing them.. They enjoy the good life that their jobs offer them; good pay, working with good people, travelling in cruise destinations, unlimited perks. Both started their careers in 2006. Elsa is married now and has three children while Aileen has a 7–year old son; they both drive their own cars. ■

Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it. – Michael Jordan



Star Cruises.

Le Ching, Wong/Senior Executive, Marine - Quality Assurance (3rd from left) and David Pan, Asst Superintendent, Environment and Quality Assurance from Star Cruises; with their SC team : JeiCris, Jenny, and Jikie.



Gulf Energy Maritime.

Gulf Energy Maritime. Just concluded the closing meeting. (from L-R) Willie, Noel, Susan, Aurie, Lovella Macapanas, Administrative Officer, Capt Robert Pike, Head of Fleet Personnel and Miguel Rocha.



Sharp Crewing Services.

Joan Lee, Business Executive (4th from L), together with the offshore team, Ronald, Madz, Jeremy, Liezl and Aireen. Joan was here not only to meet her counterpart team in CFS but to also attend the MAAP Class 2020 cadet scholars of IMEC -- young men and women aspiring to become future world-class maritime officers.



Norstar Shipmanagement Pte Ltd

Andrew Russ, Senior Technical Superintendent with Lawrence, Susan and Jamie.

and **ncl** recruitment

and join us to cheer for Norwegian Cruise Lines representatives for conducting yet another successful interview of culinary and hotel personnel, headed by Ms Mina Yi/Recruitment Manager for Hotel and Global Talent Management, with Fleet Regional Recruiters Ms Luisa Andrei and Mr I Kadek, and Chef Collin Hudson.



IN Manila with the Recruitment Team : Jocelle, Mercie, Andrei, Chef Collins, Kadek, Jessica, Kim, Mina Yi and Mike.



AND with the same warm welcome in Cebu with Edgar Poca, Mercie, Mina, Kadek, Amor and Renan.

You don't get paid by the hour. You get paid for the value you bring to the hour. – Jim Rohn

and guests from Global Marine Systems (GMS)

Tim Hurst: Fleet Human Resource Manager visited MAAP. (L-R) with C/E Cleto Del Rosario, Grace Munoz GMS-Admin Staff in Manila, Ms. Ella/IMEC representative, and another MAAP Officer. Tim and Grace were escorted by C/E Del Rosario and showed them MAAP facilities, among others, Automation Laboratory, Chart/ECDIS room, Electro Mechanical System Laboratory, ElectroTech Laboratory, Global Maritime Distress Safety System, Integrated Bridge System, Navigation Simulator Complex, VTC Engine Control Room, machine shop.



Paul Rose: Head of Human Resource (with his team, Ryan, Grace, Boyet, and Job). We're happy to see you again.



TCPO Safety, Health and Environmental Conference

May 20-21, 2015 at Sofitel Philippine Plaza



Tankers Group in their wacky moment.



Bulkers Group. Formal and proper in this photo.

TCPO held their annual Safety, Health and Environmental Conference on May 20-21 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza. This yearly conference was initiated by Offen Tankers/Bulkers to constantly update the seafarers with the necessary knowledge and skills for efficient vessel operations.

The first day was attended by tanker officers and ratings, while the second day was allotted for officers

and crew members of the bulker fleet. Company executives and technical experts served as resource persons and facilitators in this conference.

Mr. Miguel Rocha was the first to speak as he welcomed the speakers, participants and guests, for their attendance in the conference, emphasizing the importance of the said activity and encouraged everyone's active participation in the

discussions.

The session was then opened by Mr. Bjorn Salecker, Environmental/QHSE Manager of Offen Tankers, who presented a safety update and reported on recent accidents/incidents and improvements for the safer standard. Mr. Salecker's colleague, Mr. Oliver Rauschenberger, Head of Technical Department discussed the safety, maintenance and



Bjorn Salecker



Oliver Rauschesberger

environmental aspects from technical point of view.

Other resource persons in the conference were : Chief Mate Nahan Tumbocon of lectured safety onboard tanker and bulker. Mr Paul NG, Area Technical Performance Manager of South Asia Llyods Register updated the participants on the latest legislation in view of environment protection and personal safety on board. Capt Dean Menezes discussed environmental compliance awareness together with Mr Tomislac Bazzara of the Environmental Compliance Scorpio Group. ■

Know what you are talking about. - John Paul II

11th FAME Golf Invitational Tournament

14 May 2015 at the Palmer Course of The Orchard Golf & Country Club, Dasmarinas City, Cavite.



We CONGRATULATE Lawrence Francia for being the Champion in Class C; Kjell Hjartnes as 2nd Runner Up in the International Team . **FAME Golf Hall of Famers** : are Miguel Rocha, Vic Bernardo, Ronnie Caidic (for joining the tournament each year) and last but not least, the most important of all awards, Raffle Winner : Jikie Ilagan who won a trip for two to Bagiuo. Congratulations to all of you!

There were 88 players representing 55 FAME member and non-member manning companies, maritime associations, marine golf clubs, sponsors and guests competed in the tournament. This year's tournament was overflowing with support, enthusiasm, camaraderie and friendship both on and off the golf course, with determination and best scores. **Lawrence Francia** ■

Insignia... A Delightful Experience



ON 25 April 2015 at 9:00 am, "M/S Insignia" berthed at PIER 15. CF Sharp Crew Management staff had the privilege of experiencing its charm amidst the streak of heat in the metropolis. We were cordially welcomed by Ms. Diane Grace from HR and our 1st Bosun Osvaldo Lumelay. Staff Captain Stjepan Zuzic gave us a tour onboard assisted by AB Juan Sorne – we had the chance to go from deck to the pool side, lounges, fitness center, terrace grill, grand dining, entertainment hall and the game room. The "bridge" was a sight, it has a sophisticated platform. 2nd Officer JC Downer allowed us to explore the command and control room of the ship. Even for a short time, we felt Insignia's grandeur delightfully... **Ronnie Caidic**. ■

RUN United Trilogy 32k held at Mall of Asia on June 7, 2015. The race started at 3am. The starting line was at the Mall of Asia (MOA) grounds to Macapagal Avenue, down to PICC then left to Rizal monument going to Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), then back to Buendia, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. The final phase was from Paseo de Roxas all the way again to PICC then Macapagal Avenue and back to MOA. whewwww furios sweat :)

Team CF Sharp finished the run. The runner would like to thank CFS top management for their unwavering support to this event. Our next run will be on October 4, 2015 42k Philippine Marathon. **Melv Sulit**. ■



CFS 32K Finishers: (L-R) Leo Reyes, Robert Pinca, Melvin Sulit, Ryan Ibunes, Rey Danganan, Michael Pacursa, Noel Mison, and John Daguno.



KRYSTEL D. ANG
Admin, January 2015



ALISTAIR P. SALVADOR
CABD, February 2015



RUBY E. IGNACIO
CAD, March 2015

If you want money, don't go into politics. The moment you take a bribe, you sell your fate. – Lee Kuan Yew

Jokes

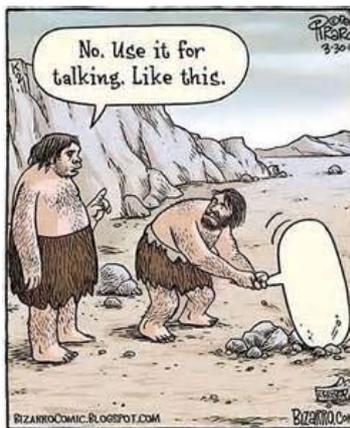
A boy asks his granny, "Have you seen my pills, they were labelled 'LSD'?" His granny replies, "F_ck the pills, have you seen the dragon in the kitchen?"

I tried mugging an old woman yesterday. I said, "Give me all your money now, bitch, or you're geography."

"Don't you mean history?" she replied.

I said, "Don't try to change the subject."

I used to hate weddings. All the old dears would poke me and say, "you're next." They soon stopped when I started saying the same to them at funerals.



A man bought a Lie detector robot that slaps people who lie. He decided to test it at dinner:

DAD : Son where were you today during school hours?
SON : At school (robot slaps the Son and he immediately changes his mind)
Okay I went to the movies! DAD : Which one?

SON : Harry Potter (robot slaps Son again!)
Okay I was watching porno.

DAD : What? When I was your age I didn't even know porno! (robot slaps dad)

MUM : hahahahaha! After all he is your Son! (robot gives Mum a hot dirty slap)

Two old ladies were outside their nursing home, having a smoke when it started to rain. One of the ladies pulled out a condom, cut off the end, put it over her cigarette and continued smoking.

Lady 1: What's that?

Lady 2: A condom. This way my cigarette doesn't get wet.

Lady 1: Where did you get it?

Lady 2: You can get them at any drugstore.

The next day...Lady 1 hobbles herself into the local drugstore and announces to the pharmacist that she wants a box of condoms. The guy looks at her kind of strangely (she is, after all, over 80 years of age), but politely asks what brand she prefers.

Lady 1: It doesn't matter as long as it fits a Camel. (The pharmacist fainted. ■)

Commercial Freight in Hundred Islands, Pangasinan.

ON the northern part of the Philippines, 4-5 hours away from Manila is the Hundred Islands situated in Alaminos City, Pangasinan. There are 124 islands and islets during low-tide with one islet that sinks during high-tide, cover an area of 18.44 square kilometers. These are scattered along the Gulf of Lingayen. Believed to be over 2 million years old, the Hundred Islands also known as "Kapulo-puloan or Taytay-Bakes" is one of the highlights of Philippines' ecotourism. Anyone can still enjoy and tour around the other 121 islands any time of the day. Comfreight Team went to one of the 3 developed islands – the Governor Island. This is one of the most amazing wonders of the Philippines. Employees and staff enjoyed their weekend island-hopping, swimming, kayaking, spelunking (exploring natural caves), and snorkelling. Gina ■



Welcome to Subic, Olongapo: Offshore team at iCove Spa and Resort.

RONALD and his team went to Subic and stayed for two days at iCove Resort. Exactly the perfect place for them to stay. There is a restaurant and infinity pool. It is near the Zoobic Safari, Tree Top Adventure, duty free shopping and explored the night life in Barretto Street. restaurant and am infinity pool. The resort also has an outdoor pool and a private beach to relax, frolick in the sand and forget about crewing deadlines, for at least two days. Subic Bay is 110 kilometers north of Manila or just about 2 hours drive (at 100 kph). Liezl! ■

Recruitment Department went to Los Banos, Laguna.

THE place is called Villa Lucia. Very homey. Actually, you wouldn't think it's a resort. It is situated in a quiet subdivision in Los Baños where there are only a few houses, one would think that it's just a house but when you enter the gate, you'd immediately see a big swimming pool with a pool slide in the corner, a cabana, a barbecue grill, videoke machine. What's nice with this private house are the interiors of the house nice furnishing, perfectly lit and ventilated rooms. No, it was not haunted. Mercie. ■



People take different roads seeking fulfilment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost. - Dalai Lama

I know what you did last summer

SUMMER outings are a fun break — we get to know each one better and it is often in these relaxed and open moments that we get some creative ideas and feedback from our colleagues. Imagine, we spend a solid 40 (or more) hours at work each week — are we willing to spend any more time than we already have to with our co-workers? Yes, we should. It will be fun. So this summer, CFS management encouraged all departments to go out and enjoy the sun. With the high pressure at work, it is important to give our minds a rest and to enable it recover. Even better if we can have some fun during the recovery period. Thank you, CFSsharp!

Accounting Department's journey -- 558 kms up north



PAGUDPUD Welcome Arch. Finally, we arrived in the Philippines' last frontier.

FINALLY, CAD goes to Vigan, Laoag and Pagudpud in Ilocos! This trip has been long planned since January 2015. We were able to finalize the date when everyone can join and so the set date was last June 12 to 14, 2015. There were 35 of us, in three-vehicle convoys. We departed from Manila at 2100 on June 11 and we were all ready for this 10-hour trip. We arrived in Vigan, Ilocos just in time for breakfast.

We visited famous places : Marcos Mausoleum, Malacanang of the North, Bangui Windmills, Baluarte, Hidden Garden, Baluarte, Bantay Bell Tower, Paoay Church, Paoay Sandunes, Kapurpurawan Rock Formation, Cape Bojeador Light House, Patapat Viaduct, Bantay Abot Cave, Blue Lagoon, St. William's Cathedral, Sinking Bell Tower, Calle Crisologo, Plaza Burgos and Plaza Salcedo.

Nevermind the intense heat of the sun. We were just so happy that we came, we saw, we conquered. **ANJ SAYCO** ■



Administration and Business Devt Department in Pansol, Laguna

IT was the first weekend of July when the entire CABD tea : admin, documentation, legal, family center and business development, went to Pansol, to relax and unwind. We rented a house with a private pool. with five air conditioned rooms, kitchen area with stove, a fridge, barbeque grill, videoke, billiard table. It was raining the whole day of Saturday, which made it more fun because the rain added thrill to our activities. We played cards; unlimited videoke singing, oh yes, until 3am the next day. Everyone helped in cooking. We had good food and a lot of drinks. Pansol, Laguna is about an hour's drive from Manila. We were all back home on Sunday afternoon, happy and invigorated. **Aurie.** ■



Operations Department Sta Rita Island Resort, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur

THE Operations Department went to spend the weekend here at Sta. Rita Island Resort which has the longest infinity pool here in the bicol region, located in Brgy. Sta Rita Beach, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur, South of Luzon. ■

