

WEB UPLOAD

NMP celebrates National Maritime Week

Tacloban City – The National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP) joins the celebration of the National Maritime Week from September 20-30, 2010 with the theme “*Philippine Maritime Industry: Onward to Global Competitiveness*”. The Regional Office of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) spearheads the local celebration.



NMP, in particular, has lined-up three major activities which include hosting an Open House, coastal clean-up and situationer brief.

During the Open House on September 24, guided tour was given to visiting students, officials and employees from various government and maritime-related agencies in Region 8. The Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) sent 75 senior maritime cadets while Mayorga National High School and Abuyog National High School sent 690 and 477 high school students.



NMP employees and trainees alike participated in the Coastal Clean-Up drive along the San Juanico Strait conducted in the early morning of September 25. Floating debris taken from this coastal line was put in black trash bags and was fetched by garbage trucks from Tacloban City for disposal.

The rising number of seafarers, including Filipino seafarers, involved in illegal drug smuggling and trafficking prompted the NMP to choose the theme *“Seafarers Beware! Could You be Exploited as Couriers of Illegal Drugs?”* for this year’s second Situationer Brief. Reports showed that in early 2005, three Filipino seafarers got involved in the illegal transport of drugs onboard a cargo ship from Ecuador to Spain. Another five Filipino seafarers aboard *MV Master Endeavor* were arrested and detained in Martinique on drug trafficking charges in March 2006.

The topic *“Illegal Drugs...What to Watch Out For?”* was comprehensively discussed by Ms. Liza M. Fabi-Baoy from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Region 8. She presented the various types and forms of drugs to familiarize the seafarers once they encounter such substances on board ship.



PCG CDR Allan Victor T. de la Vega, Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Maritime Services, on the other hand discussed elaborately the topic *“Maritime Trafficking: A Cautionary Guide for Seafarers”*. He called on to those seafarers present to be vigilant in detecting possible shipment of illegal drugs in their vessels and to immediately report suspicion to proper authorities and likewise to be vigilant in observing the actions or actuations of their fellow crew who may be involved in illegal drug trafficking.

Tacloban Port Manager Wilfred G. Elizalde shared that it is hard to pinpoint those seafarer-crew who are engaged in trafficking of prohibited drugs. Nevertheless, seafarers must be wary of the consequences of being couriers of illegal drugs because different countries impose stricter penalties for those found guilty of illegal drug trafficking. To end, he reminded seafarers to think of the welfare of their families back home and of their fellow Filipino seafarers.



Held on September 30 at NMP Tacloban Training Complex, the forum was attended by 130 participants comprising seafarer-trainees, heads and representatives of maritime agencies and NMP employees.

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