



WEB UPLOAD
May 15, 2009

Seminar on maritime labor convention held

Tacloban City – A series of seminars on Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006 was organized and spearheaded by the National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP) on a national scale in celebration of the NMP 31st Founding Anniversary on May 1 and as part of its advocacy program on the rights of Filipino seafarers, NMP's main clients, Ms. Grace Marie T. Ayaso said.

Ayaso further informed that the seminar intends to disseminate information as to the stakeholders rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities as well as accountabilities and at the same time surface issues and concerns that would serve as vital inputs in the formulation of a national legislation.

The one-day seminar which was first held in January 15 this year at the Heritage Hotel in Manila was attended by officials from various shipping/manning companies, maritime professionals, representatives of maritime associations and officials of maritime related government agencies.

The second leg was conducted in the Visayas at Rajah Park Hotel in Cebu last April 28. The participants comprised mostly of representatives from shipping companies with local office in Cebu, the domestic shipping, maritime schools and government officials from maritime and labor related agencies and legal practitioners.

The forthcoming venue will be in Cagayan de Oro with prospective participants from the Mindanao regions. It is tentatively scheduled on June 4, 2009. Interested parties may contact Ms. Presca Lee B. Lugo, Head of the Maritime Training Division or Engr. Ronnie D. Gernato at (053) 321-0759 or e-mail us at info@nmp.gov.ph.

The NMP Tacloban Training Complex will be the venue for the final leg of the seminar in September. The specific date will be announced later.

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Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL MARITIME POLYTECHNIC



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Aside from drawing inputs in aid of a national legislation, the NMP is also expected to come up with a publication on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) culled from the discussions of issues and concerns raised during the open forum.

MLC 2006 is a new international maritime Labour Convention that was adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in February 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland. It sets out seafarers' right to decent conditions of work and helps to create conditions of fair competition for shipowners. Once ratified by at least 30 member countries and 33% of the worldwide gross tonnage of ships, the Convention will come into force and becomes a global reference on maritime labor issues.

As the biggest supplier of maritime labor in the global shipping, the Philippines plans to ratify the convention to protect the interest of the Filipino seafarers. (**MariaSandra Merin- Gallardo**)

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