

MARCH 11, 2022

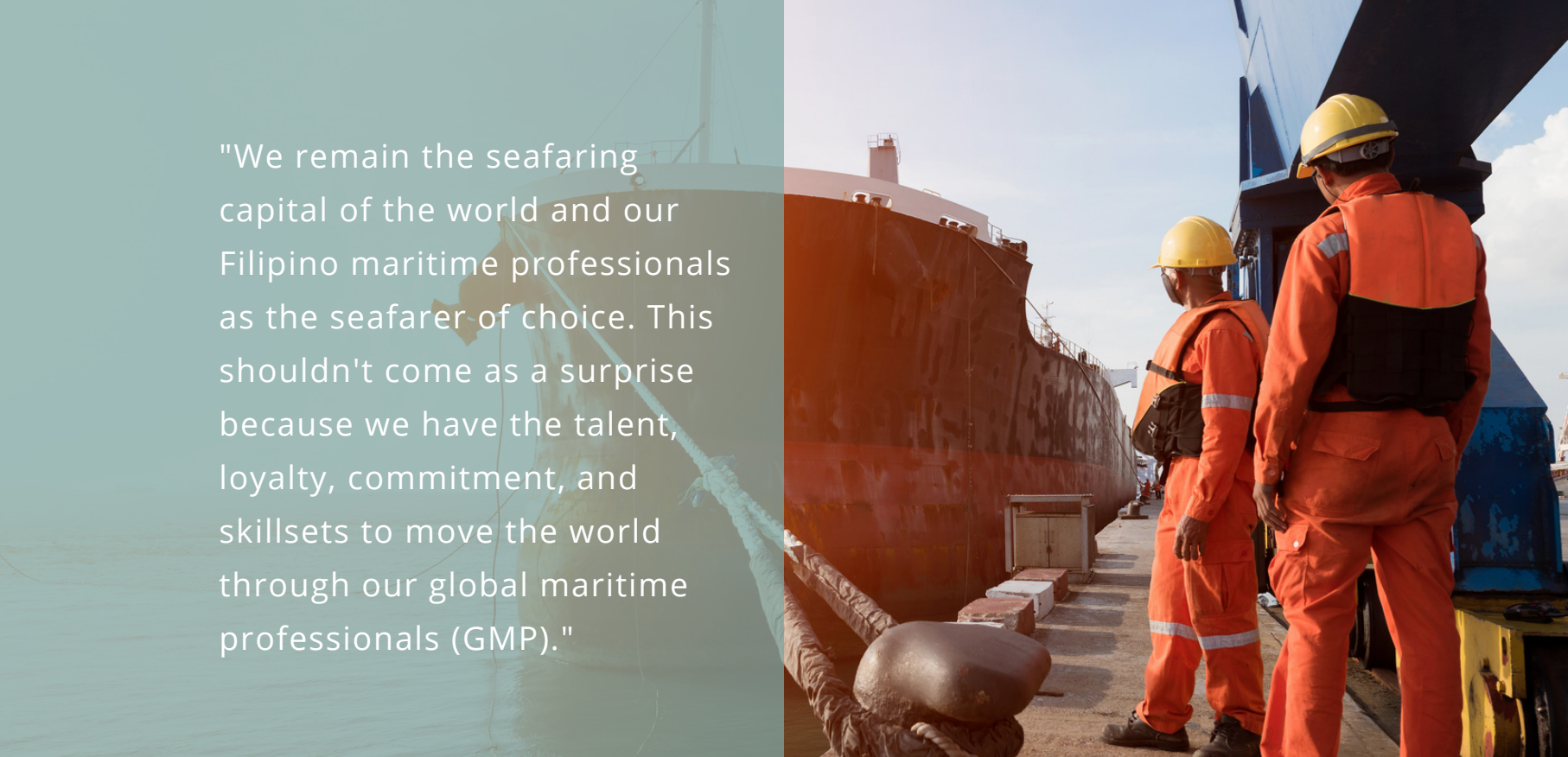
Gerardo Borromeo presents manning sector situationer at Vista Maritima forum

In celebration of International Women's Day, Women in Maritime Philippines (WIMAPHIL) presented "Vista Maritima: Elections and Beyond," an online forum designed to generate interest in the Philippine maritime vision by allowing candidates in the upcoming national elections to share their proposed agenda and reforms for the industry.

Representing the maritime employment sector, PTC CEO Gerardo A. Borromeo gave a presentation on the current state of the industry and the challenges that it is facing.



"While the pandemic impacted Filipinos sailing on cruise ships, the cargo sector continued to operate all throughout," shared Mr. Borromeo. "A feat which the Philippines can be very proud of. Remittances even in 2021 already reached 6.5 billion USD, up 3% from the previous year. And by 2021 we have already reached the pre-pandemic level of remittances from the sea-based sector."



"We remain the seafaring capital of the world and our Filipino maritime professionals as the seafarer of choice. This shouldn't come as a surprise because we have the talent, loyalty, commitment, and skillsets to move the world through our global maritime professionals (GMP)."

Addressing the attendees, Mr. Borromeo stated that ensuring quality and effective maritime education and training is the foremost of the industry's challenges. "If we want to continue to drive the future of the maritime industry, we must prepare for a future that will be driven by significantly more automation in technology and digitization. The country's education system needs to then quickly adjust to a STEAM-driven program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)."

Transforming largely manual processes into digital processes, consistent with a future that will be driven by technology, and learning from the last two years under a pandemic, he adds that there is an urgent need to drive greater digitization of the entire process of documentation and licensing of maritime professionals to enable them to readily be deployed globally on short notice.

Lastly, he emphasized that employment and contractual obligations should never be one-sided. "They must recognize the value given by the tonnage providers: crewing and ship management service providers and the seafarers themselves, and the tonnage enablers: the ship owners, which are partners of equal interest."