PTC at CrewConnect 2017

Over 600 key stakeholders and thought leaders from every sector of the maritime industry converged for CrewConnect Global 2017 held last November 6 to 8 at the Sofitel Manila in Pasay City.

This year’s CrewConnect Global featured sessions and topics on the most vital issues of the industry today such as the emerging importance of the Philippines as a center for business management and operations, skills & training for the 21st century, cyber compliance & security, ship to shore interaction and more. These were discussed in the form of ship owners’ case studies, industry response panels, future focused keynotes & outsiders’ view sessions.

A new addition to this year’s conference was CruiseConnect, a one-day summit focusing on the cruise industry which took place a day before the start of the main conference.

PTC CEO Gerardo Borromeo, representing the Filipino Shipowners Association, conducted a session which brought together key global industry stakeholders and representatives from the Philippine government to address and discuss key issues and maritime policy updates. The meeting was governed by the Chatham House Rule which ensured anonymity for the participants to stimulate a frank discussion. In attendance were Ms. Vera Joy Ban-eg, Representative of the Maritime Industry Authority; Mr. Josefino Torres, Deputy Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; Ms. Yolanda Paragua, Director of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration; and Cong. Jesulito Manalo of maritime party ANGKLA.

At the conference proper, Mr. Borromeo was a panelist at the “Shipping Leadership Forum: Crewing Across the Industry,” which addressed the commonalities and differences across the various sectors of shipping, the changing manning and training landscape and the need for agility in the industry. Mr. Borromeo was joined by Mr. Yuzuru Goto, Managing Director of “K” Line LNG Shipping; Mr. Prabhat Jha, Group Managing Director of MSC Shipmanagement; and Mr. Artur Pankowski, Associate Vice President of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. at the forum.

Prior to the start of the conference, PTC hosted a welcome reception for the conference speakers at the residence of PTC CEO Gerardo Borromeo, where the guests enjoyed a social media project organized by the International Transport Workers’ Federation to find out what gives joy to the more than 1.5 million seafarers all over the world.

Ms. Karen Avelino, PTC Executive Director of Business Development, Shipping Cluster, was among the participants for the panel discussion on Maritime Education and Training (MET) held on Day 2. The discussion centered around the standardization of training practices, changes on seafarer education and training, streamlining regulatory processes, future challenges on the safety of seafarers, the public and environment. The session was moderated by Mr. John Adams, Conference Chairman and Chairman of the Bahamas Shipowners’ Association; and included panelists Mr. John Lloyd, CEO of The Nautical Institute; Glensy Jackson, Manager of the Merchant Navy Training Board; Mr. Adam Lewis, Head of Training and Operations at the International Maritime Employers’ Council; and Ms. Kimberly Karpelhoe, Head of the ITF Seafarers’ Trust.

Students from the Mapua-PTC College of Maritime Education and Training (CMET) were selected to be part of CrewConnect’s #HAPPYAtSea Cadet Task Force. #HAPPYAtSea is a social media project organized by the International Transport Workers’ Federation to find out what gives joy to the more than 1.5 million seafarers all over the world.

Prior to the start of the conference, PTC hosted a welcome reception for the conference speakers at the residence of PTC CEO Gerardo Borromeo, where the guests enjoyed dinner while being serenaded by saxophonist, Vince Lahorra and the University of the Philippines Guitar Orchestra under the baton of renowned Professor Lester Demetella.

Spreading Awareness on Marine Environmental Sustainability

The Malayan Colleges Laguna (MCL), through the Mapúa-PTC College of Maritime Education and Training (CMET) and PTC, collaborated with the Embassy of Sweden in Manila and several other organizations to tackle environmental problems in “HindiAkoPLASTIC: A Collaboration on Sustainability,” a documentary roadshow featuring Craig Leeson’s “A Plastic Ocean.”

As an institution geared towards developing a sustainable clean and green environment, MCL supported the film showing to further raise awareness on the problems and effects presented by pollutants, particularly plastics, and how to reduce them.

“I hope that by the end of this activity you will take to heart the spirit of caring and protecting the environment so that the next generations may still experience a place that is green, livable, and sustainable,” Engr. Maribel G. Songsong, Vice President for Academic Affairs of MCL, expressed during her welcome remarks.

Prof. Raychelle R. Artuz, Director of the Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement (CSCE), emphasized their joint efforts with other MCL colleges and departments, as well as, external stakeholders in advocating for environmental protection. “We would also continue to foster and promote initiatives that highlight the need for environmental protection and action.” Held last October 25, 2017 at MCL’s Francisco Balagtas Auditorium, the event was attended by administrators and faculty members of MCL and Maritime, Environmental Science, Chemical Engineering, Tourism Management and Pre-Bacalaureate Maritime (PBM) students. Mr. Lennart Jansson, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Sweden in Manila, was also given a warm welcome as guest of honor.

The event was made possible through the efforts and support of organizations PTC, the Philippine Center for Advanced Maritime Simulation and Training, Inc. (PHILCAMSAT), the Swedish Institute, Business & Professional Women (BPW) Makati, PTC-CSJ Foundation, the Embassy of Sweden, and Plastic Oceans Foundation.
**Abojeb Holds Job & Family Fair**

Abojeb held a “Job & Family Fair” last November 5, 2017 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City as part of the company’s 35th anniversary celebration. Onsite job application opportunities for maritime and cruise hospitality careers, as well as, overseas land-based positions were available for jobseekers present at the fair. The event also featured career talks, special training development offerings and fun activities for kids of seafarers. Participating in the fair were PHILCAMSAT, Health Metrics, Constellation Travels, First Maritime Credit Corp., and ACM Homes who presented their exclusive packages and offerings to Abojeb crew and their families.

**Health Metrics Celebrates 10th Anniversary**

Health Metrics, Inc. (HMI) celebrated 10 years of providing reliable health care and the most advanced medical diagnostics services by giving a special treat to seafarers while encouraging them to live a healthier lifestyle through “Fit is It” last November 17. To show their appreciation for their most valued clients, HMI provided healthy snacks and refreshments to all seafarers who scheduled their Pre-Employment Medical Exam (PEME) during the day and offered a free photo booth where guests could take commemorative photos. The special event was held simultaneously at HMI’s Makati, Pasay and Iloilo branches. The anniversary celebration was highlighted by a special thanksgiving mass attended by the management of HMI, employees, clients and valued partners.

**MARINA Conducts First Deck and Engine Licensure Exam in Cebu**

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) conducted the very first licensure examination for Deck and Engine officers in Cebu last November 7, 2017 at the MARINA Region VII – Cebu Office. This marks the first time that marine licensure exams are conducted outside of Metro Manila.

A total of 29 Merchant Marine officers passed the said Theoretical Examination for OIC-Navigational Watch and Master Mariner. According to Captain Ronald Enrile, Vice Chairman of maritime party ANGKLA, this milestone was made possible through the efforts of Congressman Jesulito Manalo who pushed for the enactment of Republic Act 10635, creating a single Maritime Administration for the implementation of the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 10635 provide for the devolution of the functions of the MARINA central office to its regional offices, including the administration of licensure exams. MARINA is also set to launch the same initiative in Davao and Iloilo soon.

**Managing Stress**

PTC Group employees learned about the importance of managing stress at the latest installment of PTC’s Health & Wellness Lecture Series last November 29, 2017 at First Maritime Place. Organized in cooperation with Medicard Philippines, the lecture underscored the impact that stress can have on one’s physical, emotional and mental health if left unmanaged. Starting by knowing how to identify one’s stressors, attendees were taught various techniques and coping strategies to help reduce stress and maintain a healthy work-life balance.

**Health and Wellness Seminar on Stress Awareness**

November 29, 2017

Health Metrics, Constellation Travels, First Maritime Credit Corp., and ACM Homes.

**Lifelinks Offers Free Language Lessons for Nurses**

To help prepare globally competitive health care professionals, Lifelinks International Resources is offering free German language lessons for Filipino nurses who wish to pursue career opportunities in Germany. The program will be running for 4 months and will cover A1 (Elementary Use of Language) to B1 (Independent Language Use) levels. The classes are offered to male and female registered nurses with at least one year work experience. The first batch of students were given their orientation last November 27 at the Lifelinks office in Makati while another batch is scheduled to start their lessons this December. Interested nurses who wish to take part in this unique opportunity may reserve their slot by emailing healthcaredesk@lifelinks.com.ph or visiting www.facebook.com/LifeLinksPH for more details.

To bring these exciting career opportunities to job seekers outside of Metro Manila, Lifelinks participated in a special job fair at Gasan, Marinduque last November 7. The event was organized by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, in coordination with the local Public Employment Service Office.
PTC Group employees are spreading the holiday cheer to the less fortunate through the company’s annual charity fundraising projects. At the PTC Christmas Bazaar for a Cause, held from November 27 to 29 at the Ground Floor of First Maritime Place, enterprising PTC employees showcased various holiday gift items as the rest enjoyed getting a head start on their Christmas shopping. Employees also had a chance to make a donation through the purchase of decor that will be displayed at the PTC Charitree located at the lobby of First Maritime Place. Proceeds from the bazaar and donations made through the Charitree will be donated to PTC’s chosen beneficiaries.

‘Tis the Season for Giving

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Crew Conferences

- **Lighthouse Shipmanagement Phils. Inc. Officers and Crew Conference**
  - November 27 to 29, 2017, Legaspi Room, First Maritime Place

- **Asiatic Lloyd Crew Conference and Fellowship Night**
  - December 4, 2017, Legaspi Room, First Maritime Place

- **Euronav Officers and Crew Conference**
  - December 5, 2017, Legaspi Room, First Maritime Place

Crewing Christmas Parties

- **Chevron**
  - November 30, 2017, Solaire Resort, Parañaque

- **Seaspan Ship Management Ltd.**
  - December 2, 2017, Palacio de Maynila, Roxas Blvd., Manila

- **Hydroussa Navigation Ltd.**
  - December 3, 2017, Vikings, Mall of Asia, Pasay

- **Grindrod Shipping**
  - December 3, 2017, Solaire Resort, Parañaque