



Developing more projects for seafarer training

The Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP)'s JSU-IMMAJ Campus was completed with much support from interested parties. In order to improve the quality of Filipino seafarers, who are essential to the Japanese commercial fleet, the new facility will provide high-level academic and training programs required for mercantile marine college students.

Attended by many interested parties from the Japanese and Filipino maritime industries, including representatives from the All Japan Seamen's Union (JSU), the International Mariners Management Association of Japan (IMMAJ), and the Associated Marine Officers' & Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP), an entrance ceremony was held June 8 on the JSU-IMMAJ Campus for 250 freshmen, who will receive financial support under the JSU/IMMAJ scholarship program.

It is expected that the campus will produce 250 Filipino mariners every year for the Japanese merchant fleet.

Dalian CSU/JSU training center

On July 20, representatives from the JSU, the CSU (Chinese Seafarers Union), the IMMAJ and DIMSCO (Dalian International Maritime Service Co. Ltd.) confirmed matters concerning the establishment and registration of a CSU/JSU comprehensive training and education



From left to right: Zhang Yong Heng, president of Dalian Int'l Maritime Services Co. Ltd.; Li Tieqiao, president of the National Committee of the Chinese Seamen & Construction Workers' Union; Yoji Fujisawa, president of the All Japan Seamen's union.

center in Dalian. The remodeling work, including the installation of simulators, will be completed in late October.

The People's Liberation Army, which owns the land, decided during a meeting on May 8 that the Dalian site would be leased out to provide training and education for securing Chinese seafarers to meet the demands of

the Japanese merchant fleet.

Second IBF bargaining session

On July 6-8, the International Bargaining Forum (IBF) held the second round of its central bargaining sessions for the current fiscal year in Singapore.

Prior to the negotiations, the labor side had convened internal

meetings, classifying the items requested by both sides, other than those relating to wages, into the following categories – Contractual Clause, IBF Administration, and Mechanism of Resolving Disputes in accordance with the confirmations made at the first-round sessions.

In order to encourage the dedicated subgroups to proceed

smoothly with the negotiations, the labor forum ensured that the groups comprised both leaders and members of the working committees representing the labor side.

However, in respect to the proposal made by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) for the revised IBF methodology for a new wage system, the Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) – in particular, the IMMAJ, which demanded reductions of 10 percent from the ongoing wage standards – strongly opposed the IBF methodology.

As such, it was impossible to hold working group meetings or a general meeting, and the second round of the negotiations reached a stalemate.

Therefore, executive meetings were held intermittently to break the deadlock, but it was finally decided that the negotiations would be carried over to high-level meetings between labor and management to be convened on Sept. 8-9.

Ceremonies for VSUP students

On June 4, the 42nd meeting of the Vietnam Seafarers Upgrading Project (VSUP) management committee was convened in Hanoi, during which representatives of both Japan and Vietnam gave addresses.

At a time when the Vietnamese

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JSU awarded citation by Philippine President

BY: ISS NOEL CRISTOBAL

The Philippine President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, conferred a presidential citation to the JSU during her meeting with the Filipino community during the 111th Independence Day celebration on June 19, which was held at the JSU-owned Hotel Mariners Court Tokyo.

The citation was given to four distinguished Japanese institutions in recognition of their outstanding contributions in promoting the close relationship between the Filipino and Japanese people, and for their invaluable support to the welfare of the Filipino communities in Japan.

The JSU President, Yoji Fujisawa, received the prestigious award on behalf of the union. Presently, there are approximately 51,000 non-domiciled members, of which 35,000 are Filipinos working aboard Japanese owned and operated vessels.

Arroyo, in her speech, thanked the JSU for being generous and supportive of the Filipino com-

munities. The JSU has often allowed Filipino communities to use Hotel Mariners' Court Tokyo for gatherings such as the Independence Day celebration.

She also mentioned that in an earlier meeting with the JSU and the Japanese Shipowners' Association (JSA), they discussed the effect of the global economic crisis on both countries, as well as the welfare of Filipino seafarers manning Japanese vessels, including the dangers they face of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia.

Arroyo said she was relieved that the earlier idea of completely banning Filipino seafarers to work on vessels transiting pirate-infested areas was not implemented, as that would create a negative effect on the Japanese shipping industry, which also translates to lost job opportunities for seafarers.

The Japanese Minister of Transport and the Prime Minister himself, Taro Aso, told the Philippine president that the Diet had just approved a law allowing the Japanese Self-Defense

Forces (sea and aircraft) to protect and defend not just Japanese-flagged vessels, but all vessels plying the pirate-infested area, which will provide a great boost to the safety of Filipino seafarers.

Arroyo commended the Japanese government, the Japanese shipping industry and the JSU for answering the call to protect Filipino seafarers onboard vessels plying this dangerous corridor of world trade.

This shows that Japan is committed to be a strong and reliable partner of the Philippines and to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region as a whole, she said.

With the present global economic crises continuing to send shivers and creating challenges for the entire world economy, there is no better time than now to strengthen the partnership between the Philippines and Japan, Arroyo concluded.

An excerpt of the citation is as follows:

To the All Japan Seamen's Union for its unrelenting support



JSU President Yoji Fujisawa receives the citation from Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

and outstanding contribution to the personal well being of Filipino seafarers, as well as for its strong partnership with the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP), which resulted in the establishment of the JSU-AMOSUP Mariners' Home in Malate, Manila and prominent maritime school and training centers in the Philippines.

For its dynamic partnership with the Philippine Seafarers'

Union (PSU) in building the seven-story, JSU-PSU Mariners' Court Cebu, which has contributed to harvesting the skills training and development of seafarers.

Given this 19th day of June in the year of our Lord 2009 in the City of Tokyo, Japan.

Signed,

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President of the Philippines

