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**FILIPINO ASSOCIATION FOR MARINERS'EMPLOYMENT, INC.**

**FAME ADVISORY NO. 008-21**

To : **ALL FAME MEMBERS**  
From : The Secretariat  
Subject : **NEPTUNE DECLARATION - MARCH SIGNATORY UPDATE**  
Date : 19 March 2021

We are pleased to share with you below Update on Neptune Declaration Signatories as of March 2021 for your information.

Thank you.

  
**MA. DAPHNIE V. VARGAS**  
Executive Secretary

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**From:** Bianca Garvin [<mailto:bg@globalmaritimeforum.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:12 PM  
**Subject:** Neptune Declaration - March Signatory Update

*Dear Signatory,*

*We are delighted to share with you a message from the Chairs of the Maritime Industry Crew Change Taskforce.*

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Dear Neptune Declaration Signatory,

First of all, we would like to extend a large thank you for continuing efforts in supporting our seafarers through these difficult times.

Since our last update, the number of Signatories to the Declaration has increased to over 750 companies from across the value chain. This has continued to create large-scale visibility and support for the issue and we have seen individual companies implementing best practice protocols, collaborating with other actors of the value chain and taking action to ensure crew-changes are carried out.

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## **FILIPINO ASSOCIATION FOR MARINERS'EMPLOYMENT, INC.**

Yet as new challenges are arising and older ones stay unresolved, the crew change crisis remains a critical issue for the industry. We have therefore developed a roadmap, found attached, to create an overview of the status and actions that are ongoing in terms of: recognising seafarers as key workers and giving them priority access to Covid-19 vaccines, establishing and implementing gold standard health protocols based on existing best practice, increasing collaboration between ship operators and charterers to facilitate crew change and ensuring air connectivity between key maritime hubs for seafarers. The aim of the roadmap is to outline the ways in which we can collectively take forward the action areas outlined in the Declaration.

One of the action points is to share best practices, to show that the industry is taking concrete actions to facilitate crew changes and inspire others to follow suit. Therefore, we would be happy to hear from you if you have examples of best practices you would be willing to share with other signatories and the general public. We will of course inform you in advance if we intend to use your example in communications to get your approval.

To those who have already provided such examples, we would like to extend a great thanks.

We will continue to keep you updated on developments and on ways through which you can help support the next steps.

Thank you for all your good efforts and continuous support!

Kind Regards,

Graham Westgarth, *V. Group*  
Jeremy Nixon, *ONE-Line*

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# Roadmap for Neptune Declaration

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**Maritime Industry Crew Change Taskforce**  
**March 2021**



**The Neptune Declaration**  
on Seafarer Wellbeing  
and Crew Change

# Overview

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- This action roadmap aims at plotting ways in which to take the action areas outlined in the Neptune Declaration forward over the coming months and to track the progress for each action area.
  - The Neptune declaration builds on and seeks to reinforce the many good efforts and initiatives that are already ongoing. The main follow up activities will thus be through these existing channels, and it is up to each signatory to determine, what actions are relevant to take, based on their role in the value chain. The Taskforce will continue to support these efforts.
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# The Neptune Declaration

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- **Objectives:**

- Raise Awareness about the on-going crew change crisis
- Build momentum around the concrete actions to address the situation contained in the *Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change*
- Demonstrate the willingness of leading stakeholders in the maritime industry and beyond to work together to address the situation.

- **Status:**

- There were 327 Signatories at launch, and the number has reached **755** in early March
- There have been **2,080** media mentions and **2,830** social media posts (Instagram and LinkedIn excluded) identified by early March
- Declaration available [here](#)



# The Neptune Declaration

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- **Actions:**

- Expand the number of Neptune Declaration Signatories, in particular by adding stakeholders who have a strong role in addressing the crisis.
- Continue to provide Signatories with updates about progress concerning the crew-change crisis and around the actions they can take to support the Declaration objectives.
- Continue to raise awareness of the crew-change crisis in the public domain.
- Develop a system for tracking the number of seafarers affected, based on input from Taskforce members and Declaration Signatories.
- Actively work to have the Neptune Declaration and the crew-change crisis to be on the agenda of high-level events in 2021.



# I. Recognise Seafarers as Key Workers and give them Priority Access to Covid-19 Vaccines

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- **Objectives:**

- Expand the list of relevant countries and large seafaring nations who recognise seafarers as key workers, with a view to get priority vaccination for seafarers.
- Work to ensure access to vaccines for all seafarers by the end of 2021.
- Work to educate seafarers as to the effectiveness, safety and need for vaccinations.

- **Status:**

- At the start of 2021, 53 governments recognised seafarers as key workers in line with the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 1 December 2020, a number that has since risen to **56**, by early March 2021.
- Some governments have announced they are prioritizing seafarers' access to vaccines, such as [Cyprus](#), Romania and Singapore as of March 2021.
- A very limited number of seafarers have been vaccinated.

- **Actions:**

- The ICS, ITF and other organisations are actively working with international governance bodies to secure seafarers' access to vaccines.
- Work is also ongoing to establish vaccination protocols and pilots for these.
- The Taskforce members, Signatories and organisations to continue to raise awareness around the need to ensure vaccine access for seafarers.



# II. Establish and Implement Gold Standard Health Protocols Based on Existing Best Practice

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- **Objectives:**

- Implement STAR or similar best practice protocols in key seafaring and crew change hubs through collaboration between industry and governments.

- **Status:**

- Best practice crew change protocols have been implemented on a pilot-basis in Singapore and the Philippines. Efforts and ongoing to establish these in further seafaring countries.
- Best practice protocols for quarantines have been developed, including through the Neptune Declaration.

- **Actions :**

- Support ongoing efforts in implementing such gold standard protocols in relevant jurisdictions.
- Promote best practice recommendations to governments, including implementation of Neptune Protocols as well as access to vaccines.





# III. Increase Collaboration Between Ship Operators and Charterers to Facilitate Crew Change

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- **Objectives:**

- Expand the number of charterers and shipowners who sign up to the Neptune Declaration and implement its recommendations, including the elimination of 'no-crew change' clauses'.
- Increase collaboration between charterers and shipowners on carrying out crew changes, based on industry best practices, protocols and identified port/airport hubs.

- **Status:**

- **57\*** charterers have signed up to the Neptune Declaration by early March 2021.
- A working group of leading charterers has been established.

- **Actions :**

- Develop a framework of best practices for how charterers and shipowners can collaborate to make crew changes happen, based on the Neptune Declaration.
- Raise awareness of best practices through active communications and lobbying in targeted countries.

\* Number based on the Signatories' own categorization, provided in their forms



# IV. Ensure Air Connectivity Between Key Maritime Hubs for Seafarers

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- **Objectives:**

- Establish a universally accepted and harmonized framework of standards for the validation of trusted health data for seafarers to facilitate border crossing and ensure the long-term resilience of air connectivity.

- **Status**

- A number of initiatives are under way to establish such frameworks, also involving maritime stakeholders.

- **Actions :**

- Support the stakeholders who are actively involved developing these processes to ensure they are suitable for seafarers.
  - Raise awareness of the need to ensure that vaccination passports do not prevent seafarers from joining their ship.
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