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FILIPINO ASSOCIATION FOR MARINERS'EMPLOYMENT, INC.

FAME ADVISORY NO. 012-21

To : **ALL FAME MEMBERS**
From : The Secretariat
Subject : **NEPTUNE DECLARATION - MAY SIGNATORY UPDATE**
Date : 11 May 2021

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

Thank you.

MA. DAPHNIE V. VARGAS

Executive Secretary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bianca Garvin** <bg@globalmaritimeforum.org>
Date: Fri, May 7, 2021 at 9:29 PM
Subject: Neptune Declaration - May Signatory Update
To:

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 Signatory to the Neptune Declaration,

We have recently seen an alarming uptick in the number of Covid-19 cases, as new variants have degraded the pandemic and the Indian situation is posing a significant threat to crew-changes and the wellbeing of Indian seafarers.

As a result, there has been an increase in travel restrictions in major seafaring nations and in crew-change hubs. Very few seafarers have so far been vaccinated, which further complicates their ability to travel. Therefore, sustaining our efforts in facilitating crew-changes and supporting seafarers remains crucial.

46 YEARS OF WORKING TOGETHER WITH INDUSTRY FOR EXCELLENCE

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To help support seafarers, the Seafarer International Relief Fund has been established by leading seafarer welfare charities and shipping industry players in order to support seafarers and their families devastated by the rampant COVID-19 pandemic in India and other countries. A number of major shipping organisations have already pledged their support to the fund. Information on how you can support the fund is contained in the attached slides.

There has been progress on promoting access to vaccines for seafarers, thanks to efforts by many industry organisations, trade unions and international bodies. The International Labour Organisation adopted the "Resolution Concerning Covid 19 Vaccination for Seafarers" in late April, calling on governments to ensure seafarers have priority access to vaccines.

As stated in the Neptune Declaration, solving the crew-change crisis remains a shared responsibility that requires collaboration. Recently, a group of leading charterers drafted a 'Best Practices for Charterers' document, with recommendations and examples of how charterers can help facilitate crew changes with the least possible disruptions. In a similar way, the UN Global Compact has developed 'A Tool to Support Human Rights Due Diligence' to call on cargo owners and charterers to address the crisis and work together to facilitate crew changes, which was launched on 6th May.

Finally, to get better information on the crew-change situation and changes to it, we have created the Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator, which is based on data provided by leading ship managers. The first Indicator was published in May and we will be publishing it on a monthly basis. This will allow stakeholders to monitor developments and respond to any deteriorations.

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*

As a Neptune Declaration Signatory you have demonstrated industry leadership. The Global Maritime Forum's objective is to shape the future of global seaborne trade to increase sustainable long-term economic development and human wellbeing. To serve our mission, we facilitate a wide variety of initiatives and convene critical stakeholders. We hope you will continue to be a part of this, and we would like to involve you in relevant work going forward. If you do not want us to contact you further, please let us know at info@globalmaritimeforum.org. You can find our privacy policy [here](#), as well as our initiatives [here](#).

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Neptune Declaration May Update

Maritime Industry Crew Change Taskforce
May 2021



The Neptune Declaration
on Seafarer Wellbeing
and Crew Change

Key Developments

- The rapid spread of new strains, especially in Asia has led to a rise in cases. This has translated into travel restrictions in major seafaring hubs and seafaring nations and into crew-change bans.
- A growing number of seafarers are testing positive and some seafarers have indicated a reluctance to join vessels out of fear of family members falling ill and needing their help.
- These developments can potentially lead to a resurgence of the crew-change crisis.
- It is therefore important to sustain efforts, engage with governments and stakeholders and stay abreast of developments on the ground to effectively respond to deteriorations of the situation.
- To better monitor the situation and changes, tools such as the Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator have been developed.



Seafarers' Access to Vaccines

- Ensuring seafarers have access to vaccines is a long-term solution to overcome the crew-change crisis. Recent developments include:
 - A very limited number of seafarers have been vaccinated.
 - 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 pilot projects for vaccine hubs are ongoing.
 - Industry partners are also exploring ways to ensure that vaccination records remain private to seafarers, but enable them to prove inoculation for the purpose of international travel as mandated by the MLC.
- Some governments have announced they are prioritizing seafarers' access to vaccines, such as [Cyprus](#), Romania, Belgium and Singapore as of April 2021.
- The ILO adopted the "[Resolution Concerning Covid 19 Vaccination for Seafarers](#)" at the Fourth Meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee of the MLC, 2006 – Part I (19-23 April 2021), calling on governments to ensure seafarers have priority access to vaccines.



Shared Responsibility and Collaboration

- The Neptune Declaration identifies the recognition of a shared responsibility and the importance of collaboration as key elements to overcome the crew change crisis.
 - **Best Practices for Charterers**
 - A framework of “[Best Practices for Charterers](#)” based on the Neptune Declaration has been developed and published by a group of leading charterers. This was launched in early May with an [op-ed](#). The Document lists actions for time charters and spot charters and hopes to inspire other to follow the recommendations and share their best practices.
 - **‘A Tool to Support Human Rights Due Diligence’, UN Global Compact**
 - The United Nations Global Compact has issued ‘[A Tool to Support Human Rights Due Diligence](#)’ for businesses, specifically drafted for cargo owners and charterers. The Tool lists best practices that each party can implement to facilitate safe crew-changes.



The Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator

- To get better information on the crew-change situation and changes to it, we have created the Neptune Declaration Crew Change Indicator, which is based on data provided by leading ship managers.
- We hope this information can be used by stakeholders from the public and private sector to take relevant action to improve the situation and use the Indicator to engage with policy- and decision-makers and proactively respond to deteriorations of the situation.

May Indicator

- The first Indicator was published in early May 2021, you can find the [press release](#) and the full [report](#).
- From a sample of over 90, 000 seafarers:
 - **5.8 %** have been onboard beyond the expiry of their contract.
 - **0.4%** have been onboard for over 11 months.
- We expect the numbers to be higher for the June Indicator, as the rapidly deteriorating situation in India has begun to have several impacts on crew-changes and government regulations.



Charity Plea: Seafarers' International Relief Fund

- The [Seafarers International Relief Fund](#) has been established by leading seafarer welfare charities and shipping industry players in order to support seafarers and their families devastated by the rampant COVID-19 pandemic in India and other countries.
- By collaborating in the face of emergency, it is anticipated that more impact can be achieved in a shorter space of time than can be individually.
- A number of major shipping organisations have already pledged their support to the fund.
- The Seafarers International Relief Fund will deliver aid to seafarers affected by the COVID-inflicted crew crisis through existing welfare programmes to ensure the relief reaches seafarers and their families as quickly as possible. The fund will continue to provide support over the coming weeks and months in India and other afflicted countries if needed.
- To share the message and for how to donate, please see [here](#).

Update on the Neptune Declaration

- **Status:**
 - There are currently **814** Neptune Declaration Signatories in early May 2021.
 - There have been **2,590** media mentions and **3,290** social media posts (Instagram and LinkedIn excluded) identified by early March
- The Declaration is available [here](#) with a full list of Signatories

