

MAAP LEADS FSTP 2024: Law of the Sea and Maritime Security Training

December 20, 2024



The Foreign Scholarships Training Program (FSTP): Law of the Sea and Maritime Security is a 1-month blended training initiative by the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) and the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong (UOW). Funded by Senator Francis N. Tolentino and administered by CHED, the program combined online sessions (November 4–15, 2024, at MAAP) and in-person training (November 25–December 6, 2024, at UOW) to equip civilian and military officials with expertise in maritime law and security. It focused on maritime regulation and enforcement - addressing threats like piracy, trafficking, and terrorism, while promoting regional cooperation and sustainability.



Phase 1: Online - MAAP (Nov. 4 - 15, 2024)

The training highlighted the importance of understanding the balance between state sovereignty, jurisdiction, and international cooperation. Also, practical exercises reinforced the application of theoretical knowledge in maritime disputes and environmental governance. In addition, the participants gained knowledge of emerging trends, such as seabed mining and the BBNJ Agreement, prepares for addressing future maritime challenges.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The program was delivered through a blended learning format: two (2) weeks of online training where participants joined at MAAP or in their respective institutions in the Philippines, followed by two (2) weeks of in-person training at ANCORS, UOW, Australia. The online component covered the Law of the Sea, including jurisdictional zones, marine environmental protection, and international legal frameworks. The in-person training focused on Maritime Security Law and Policy, addressing current security threats, enforcement strategies, and legal responses to piracy and terrorism.

This FSTP was participated in by 19 delegates – 14 representatives from the Philippine Coast Guard (6), Philippine Navy (2), Philippine Military Academy (2), Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (1), John B Lacson Foundation Maritime University (1), and FastCat/Reserved Officers; and five (5) participants/project coordinators from the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP). The participants received a certificate of completion from the ANCORS, UOW.



MAAP Coordinators - Capt. Teofilo Atienza, Janice Vergara, Dr. Angelica Baylon, Capt. Patrick Glen Gamet, and Capt. Chrisdel Paga, with Dr. Sarah Lothian (4th from Left), Senior Lecturer of ANCORS, one of the FSTP instructors.

MOVING FORWARD

Equipped with a better understanding of the Law of the Sea and Maritime Security, the participants are prepared to implement their Re-Entry Action Plans (REAP) focusing on integrating maritime security education, enhancing operational capabilities, and fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and continuous development to address evolving security challenges in the maritime domain.

Phase 2: ANCORS, University of Wollongong (Nov. 25 – Dec. 6, 2024)

Key lessons learned:

1. Maritime Security Threats
2. Legal Frameworks
3. Regional Collaboration
4. Jurisdictional Balance
5. Practical Application

