

MAAP SUPPORTS 4TH SAFETY4SEA MANILA FORUM: Advancing Maritime Safety and Sustainability

APRIL 3, 2025

SHERATON HOTEL MANILA



Top photo shows a snapshot of MAAP representatives with Mr. Apo Belokas, SAFETY4SEA Founder and Managing Editor (9th from Left), Ms. Presca Lee B. Lugo of MARINA (8th from Left) and other guests. MAAP participants was led by Dr. Angelica Baylon (10th from Left); with Capt. Art Hipol, Capt. Patrick Glen Gamet, 2/M Jolan Dave Sumbanon, Capt. Teofilo Atienza, Janice Vergara, and MAAP alumni and cadets.



The 4th SAFETY4SEA Manila Forum brought together global and local maritime leaders, experts, and institutions to champion safety, innovation, and sustainability in the maritime sector. Emphasizing safety is not a choice but a core requirement; the event fostered critical dialogue on the evolving challenges and opportunities in maritime safety and human performance.

• **The Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP)** was among the proud supporters of the event, alongside NI Philippines, IMarEST Philippines, RI, PAEPI, and the Maritime League, which the MAAP President heads. The Academy's participation underscored its strong commitment to advancing quality maritime education and sustainability in alignment with global development goals.



FORUM HIGHLIGHTS AND SDG RELEVANCE

Discussions revolved around the impact of digitalization, decarbonization, leadership, and regulatory reforms on the maritime workforce. Topics addressed included crew welfare and mental health (SDG 3), competency-based education and upskilling (SDG 4), fair labor practices (SDG 8), and inclusive work environments (SDG 5, 10).

Updates on STCW and MLC regulations further supported institutional integrity and safe operations (SDG 14, 16), while conversations on smart shipping and green transitions advanced innovation (SDG 9) and climate action (SDG 13).



Dr. Angelica Baylon, MAAP's Director for External Relations, presented a thought-provoking session on the importance of soft skills in maritime education and training (MET).



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND COLLABORATION

The forum served as a strategic platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and collaborative action, thereby strengthening MAAP's role as a thought leader in maritime safety and education. Participating faculty, staff, and students gained firsthand insights into industry trends, regulatory frameworks, and leadership approaches—deepening their knowledge and inspiring new initiatives aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MAAP's active involvement underscores its ongoing commitment to integrating sustainability, innovation, and excellence in maritime training and leadership, thereby preparing students and educators alike for the dynamic future of global shipping.