



## LET US LEVEL UP MAAP'S ESTEEM, IN 2017!

VAdm Eduardo Ma R Santos, AFP (Ret) – *President's New Year Message*

First of all, let me thank you for participating in our traditional new year's call on the president. We are gathered on this first day of work in 2017, in fellowship as we review our achievements in 2016 and renew our resolve to do better as we lay down our plans for this year.

Before we start our review, I'd like to wish everyone a joyous, prosperous and blessed new year. In the same breath, I ask each of you to greet the persons around you, your best new year's wishes. Go ahead, make an effort to shake hands with those whom you have official or personal animosities, rivalries, jealousies or pet peeves and let go! We have to have better relationships so we can work together harmoniously.

In 2016, we broke the 3k mark in the number of graduates at 3104. With only 127 graduates in 2003, no one ever thought that we could produce 3,000 graduates in 13 years – **but we did!** On top of that, we even added 13 graduates from our Master's Degree Program. This is truly a fitting reward for the vision and hard work of our founder, Capt. Gregorio S. Oca, an affirmation of our effective school system, a credit to our faculty, facilitators and staff and of course, a tribute to our alumni who, in spite of an input-based curriculum struggled against the odds, persisted and eventually succeeded with 104 licensed master mariners and 77 chief engineers! During the incorporation of class 2003 in 1999, the class will remember that I said: MAAP – now a name, soon a legend. Indeed, we are almost a legend in many shipping companies world wide! Let's give ourselves a big round of applause!

In academics, our OBE curriculum for 2017 has been approved. This includes assessments from our CMS dovetailed as TLOs for most subjects. We can now show the seamless flow of our educational activities from the vision/mission down to the final assessment of our graduates through the integrated simulator exercises. With 511 graduates from our free IMO model course 6.10, we have greatly enhanced the capability of simulator instructors from all maritime schools nationwide and with our moa with the Philippine Red Cross to man its relief ship, MAAP will be expanding her extension service to cover all calamity areas in the whole country!

In training, MLC and OLC are now being offered at MAAP and last month, we even started classes at the seamen's center annex in Intramuros. To avail more modules to our seafaring officers, we launched the first marina-approved distance learning module developed solely by our MIITD-led project team.

Our big event in external relations was our acceptance to the international association of maritime universities (IAMU). MAAP was also in a leading role in the youth for peace ambassadors, the royal institution of Singapore, the nautical institute, IMAREST among others and signed MOUS with MOKPO maritime university and the national Taiwan ocean university.

In terms of capability enhancement, we have complete ownership papers for the 15 hectares of land behind the academic building at the IMMAJ campus. MAAP now has total land area of 122 hectares. The seamanship laboratory at the VTC is almost complete and we have renovated the ground floor of the mess hall at the west campus which now houses the 4cl cadets of 2020. With the upgrades being done by Kongsberg Maritime, our simulators are still the most advanced in this part of the world with a high voltage simulator facility, 3d virtual engine room and the new KSIM capability.

So, how do others see us? Many give oral compliments about MAAP being the best maritime school. These can be self-serving and patronizing but no one can deny that we are the first maritime institution in the country to

be accredited to ISO 9001:2015. MAAP is the only school in the country with a TUV-SUD QMET certification which incidentally, marina would like to emulate for our local schools. Our offshore facility is one of the four (4) accredited by the petroleum industry training organization (OPITO). We have also attained level ii status in PACUCOA. Can any other institution beat that?

But none of the above is the work of one, neither is it mine alone – this is our achievement – all of us, working together with god’s blessings! Let’s give ourselves another big hand!

In 2017, we must continue working together to reach higher heights and stay in the leading edge of maritime education and training. We shall continue polishing our curriculum and strengthen our assessment system. In order to further prepare our graduates for the new developments in shipping, we shall offer new subjects in high voltage, electro technology and artificial intelligence/automation. Needless to say, we must enhance the teaching methods of our instructors through more focused programs that will enable them to handle classes more effectively. Still in academics, by popular demand, the CEC shall re-open the bridging program for mechanical engineering to marine engineering this month. So let’s prepare accordingly. The Kongsberg simulator upgrade shall continue, this time to the west campus and we hope to see a more impressive full mission bridge simulator there. We shall complete the seamanship laboratory this month then build the work ship skills lab, rehabilitate the heads at the IMMAJ dormitory and hopefully build the much delayed expansion of the ladies’ staff house.

The number of MAAP applicants has been dropping for the last two years so there is a need for us to devise a better recruitment program which should take cognizance of the possibility that senior high school graduates may have taken non-maritime career options already.

We shall endeavor to pass our PACUCOA level iii accreditation status by the first quarter so that we can reach level iv before the year ends. By the way, marina is planning to come up with a local QMET standard which will be implemented by accrediting companies. MAAP will, of course be happy to serve as the model but we must be ready to be scrutinized. After dozens of external and internal audits by foreign and local auditors, I’m sure we can handle the job.

Finally, we shall celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January next year. We have to start the plans by the middle of the year so everything will be in place before the Christmas break.

So there. You can see that indeed, there is more work for us ahead but if we listen to recommendations, communicate our intentions and coordinate our actions, we shall complete all our projects gloriously!

Our slogan for this year is: **Let us level up MAAP’s esteem, in 2017!**

Happy new year to all!