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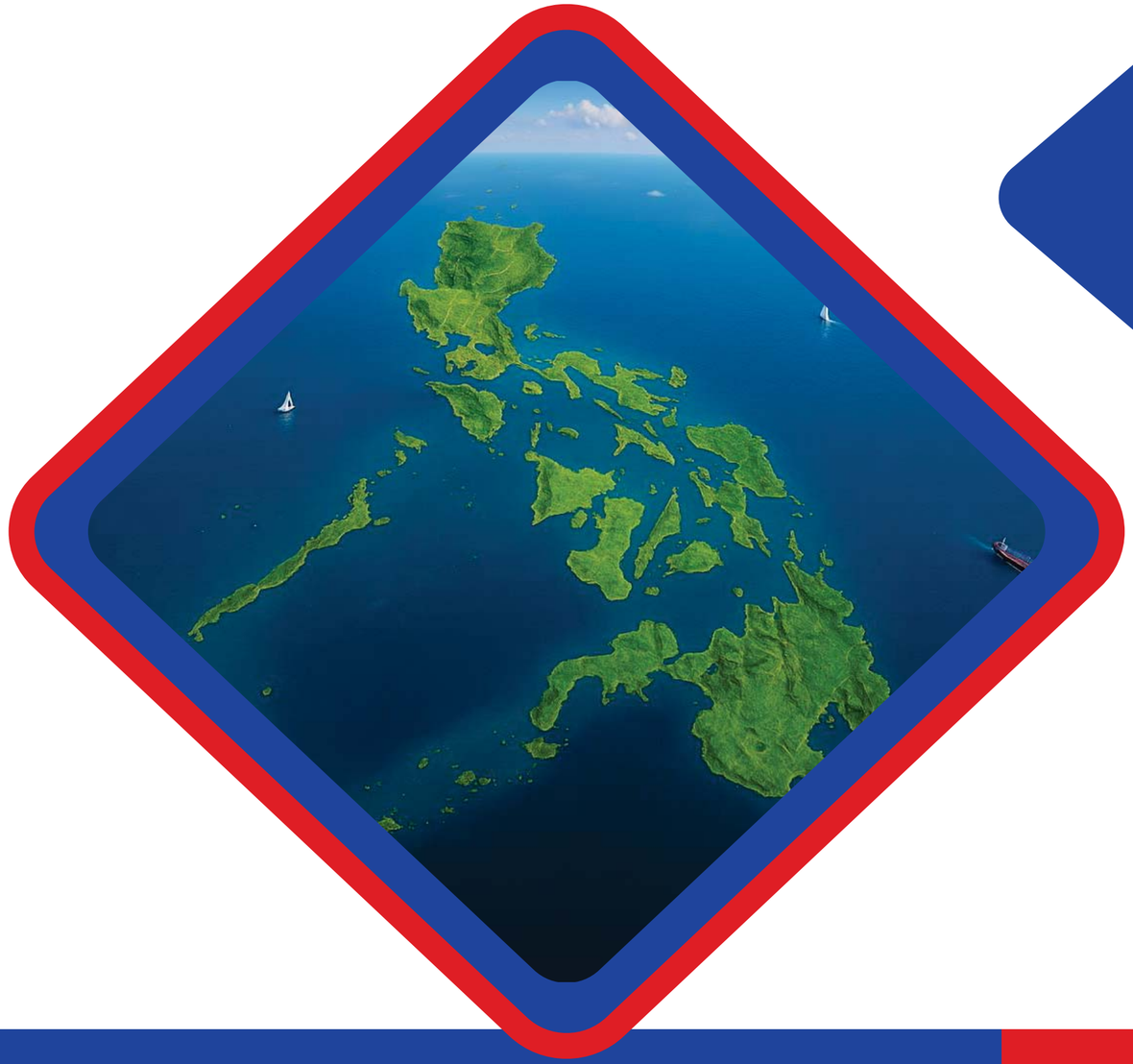
EMPOWERING FILIPINO SEAFARERS, TRANSFORMING MARITIME GOVERNANCE: A STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

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The Manila Times Maritime Forum 2025

INTRODUCTION

- The Philippines as a maritime nation
- Strategic value across the maritime value chain
- Theme aligns with national and global maritime direction



LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- RA 10635 and EO 63: Mandating MARINA as single maritime administration
- RA 12021: Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers
- DOTr oversight ensures aligned implementation

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INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND COMPLIANCE

- IMO Whitelist inclusion (Regulations I/7 and I/8)
- Continued recognition by European Commission
- DOTr support in international engagements

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STRENGTH OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

- 435,000+ Filipino seafarers deployed in 2024
- $6.941B remittances from sea-based OFWs
- Global recognition supported by state certification infrastructure

DIGITALIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

- MISMO: Online seafarer management system
- SAM-IS: Accreditation and monitoring platform
- DOTr drives digital reforms and interagency integration

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EU-ASEAN SCOPE ASSISTANCE

- €4M technical assistance to support STCW and MLC alignment
- Launched at DOTr in 2024
- DOTr provides diplomatic and institutional support

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SHAPING GLOBAL POLICY

- 5 Philippine technical papers submitted to IMO STCW Review
- Reflects Philippine leadership in global maritime reform
- DOTr facilitates interagency alignment for policy positions

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INSTITUTIONALIZING REFORM

- Support in the establishment of ODAETC to enhance maritime education governance
- Proposed structure submitted to DBM
- DOTr backing ensures sustainability and domestic training reform

INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

- DMW, DOLE, DOH support implementation of RA 12021
- CHED on postgraduate maritime education
- DOTr ensures policy coherence and synergy

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SUPPORTING THE MARITIME VALUE CHAIN

- P1.16T logistics growth projected by 2027 (DEPDev)
- DOTr leads maritime infrastructure and MIDP implementation
- Supporting shipbuilding, port development, sustainability

CALL TO ACTION

- Strengthen maritime institutions through policy and investment
- Deepen interagency and private sector collaboration
- Ensure the Philippines remains a global maritime leader

BAGONG PILIPINAS

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THANK YOU!