

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN

AUGUST 2024



DEAR ALL!

Ruthless events have befallen our country, shattering the fate of its citizens. The unjustified war started by Russia inflicted a significant blow on all aspects of the nation's life, forcing many of our citizens to flee in search of a safe place and adapt to new realities.

Ukrainian seafarers also suffered significant damage, losing their jobs — due to the introduced martial law, they lost the opportunity to leave Ukraine and start working on foreignflagged ships.

Despite the constant threat of rocket attacks, power outages, and other infrastructure failures, the MTWTU team continues to work for the benefit of the Union members. We fight for the well-being of their families by providing them with financial assistance, humanitarian aid and legal support on various issues and organizing social events. Regularly, the leadership of the MTWTU takes part in conferences drawing attention to the need for providing seafarers with the right to leave the country during martial law and informing about the problems faced by our Trade Union members during these tough times.

We express huge gratitude to all those who support our organization and the people of Ukraine in word and deed. We will be glad to hear any feedback on our activities and are grateful for any help you are kindly willing to provide.

Your sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk
Chairman MTWTU
Vice President IFSMA,
Goodwill Maritime Ambassador



LOCAL COOPERATION

MEETING WITH ONMU REPRESENTATIVES

On August 1, MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk met with the Odesa National Maritime University Rector, Serhii Rudenko, and other university representatives.

During the meeting, the Trade Union highlighted its activities at both national and international levels, emphasizing its efforts to support young professionals in the maritime sector. Key issues in maritime education and potential future collaborations were also discussed.

On August 7, a second meeting took place, during which Oleg Grygoriuk and university representatives discussed the importance of involving students in union activities, underscoring the benefits of union membership for their studies and career development. This cooperation strengthens the community and opens new opportunities for all participants.



REBUILDING KHERSON: A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

Representatives of the MTWTU and Kherson State Maritime Academy participated in an event organized by the Kherson Regional Military State Administration and local educational institutions. The event focused on post-war reconstruction, supporting youth, and uniting efforts to rebuild the country.



Special attention was given to the role of young people in this process. The MTWTU and its Youth Council shared their experience in implementing projects, training sessions, and initiatives aimed at youth development.

Cadets from the KSMA, who are studying in Klaipeda under a dual-degree program supported by the MTWTU and the ITF

Seafarers' Trust, also participated, sharing their academic achievements. They expressed gratitude for the opportunity provided by the MTWTU.

The event showcased how joint efforts, youth vision, and international support contribute to rebuilding the country. Congratulations to everyone on Youth Day, and here's to new achievements!

SEAFARERS' WELFARE

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPORT FOR SEAFARERS' FAMILIES

On August 30th, MTWTU and the Welfare Fund "MORTRANS", supported by the fraternal trade union SEKO (Sweden) and The Seafarers' Charity, hosted a special event for seafarers' children as they prepared for the new school year.

Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, and Antonina Shkamerda, "MORTRANS" Director, highlighted the importance of supporting young learners, emphasizing that children are our future. The event included fun activities, gifts, and ice cream, bringing joy and positivity to the families during these challenging times.

We wish all the kids a successful and enjoyable school year!



MINE SAFETY TRAINING

Ukraine remains one of the most heavily mined countries and full demining may take decades. In response, certified trainers from the Main Department of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine from the Kharkiv region, supported by IUF and Vanforlife, are conducting mine safety training using 3D-printed models to demonstrate common explosive devices.

The training session was held in Odesa for members of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine. This initiative, organized in collaboration with the Agricultural Industry Workers' Trade Union (an IUF member), aims to raise awareness and enhance safety practices among the maritime community.



SEAFARERS' EDUCATION

ITF SUMMER SCHOOL

The final day of the ITF Summer School brought a remarkable conclusion to an enriching experience for young seafarers and cadets. Participants showcased their skills by engaging in various “pre-voyage” and “onboard” scenarios, where they applied their knowledge to real-world maritime challenges from different perspectives.

After five insightful sessions with the ITF Inspector, the youth have gained the confidence to search for the truth, support each other, and stand up for their rights. Their newfound skills and teamwork were evident in their problem-solving abilities and their approach to addressing complex maritime issues.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants and take great pride in their achievements!



YOUTH-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

ENGAGING CADETS AT THE DANUBE INSTITUTE OF NU "OMA"

The MTWTU Local Trade Union Organization of the Danube Institute of the National University "Odesa Maritime Academy" actively engages cadets in the union movement. Regular meetings are held to discuss the benefits of MTWTU membership, opportunities for youth development, practical cases of labor rights protection, and various union initiatives and projects.



FOR MORE DETAILS

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