

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKER'S TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E - BULLETIN



Dear All!

AUGUST 2020

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine is always there to take care about its members – seafarers and their families. The Union extends its social coverage to seafarers, both when they are at sea and ashore. In order to keep you informed of our activities, we have developed this monthly E-BULLETIN, aimed to guide you through our most recent and significant achievements and activities, provided by our Union. Any suggestions and proposal are very welcome. Stay tuned for more information!

The MTWTU team works every day, striving to do its best for the Ukrainian seafarers and their families. Significant efforts are still focused on keeping them abreast of the most crucial industry developments concerning the Ukrainian seafarers and their employment onboard the foreign-flagged ships worldwide during COVID-19 crisis.

Furthermore, all Ukrainian seafarers-MTWTU members, are entitled to apply for financial assistance from the Union, if they are unable to get employment onboard the ship for more than 6 months from the end of last contract, as well as if they are facing employment delays due to COVID-19 quarantine measures and travel restrictions.

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



UKRAINIAN SEAFARER GRANTED IMO EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AT SEA AWARD



On August 14, 2020, a Ukrainian seafarer Mykhailo Myronyuk was granted an IMO Award for his leadership and great resolve after pirates attacked the mv ANUKET AMBER.

The tanker ANUKET AMBER was performing its service in Western Africa, when it was attacked by pirates and a major part of the crew was taken as hostages. Among the kidnapped crew were top three officers: Master, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer.

Only two officers remained onboard – Mykhailo Myronyuk, who was performing his first contract as a Second Officer, and a Second Engineer. The Ukrainian Second Mate for two days navigated the vessel by himself: he managed to repair the radio equipment damaged by the pirates, established connection with the local authorities, and requested the French navy convoy to a safe spot.

www.mtwtu.org.ua
office@mtwtu.org.ua
+380482429901
www.facebook.com/MTWTU

The award ceremony should have been held during the IMO General Assembly in November 2019, but was postponed due to some reasons, and then COVID-19 pandemic made its adjustments. Finally, Mykhailo Myronyuk got his award from IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador in Ukraine and the MTWTU First Vice Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk.

It is worth noting that Mykhailo Myroniuk was the first Ukrainian seafarer to receive the award in 13 years since its establishment.

MTR 100 OCEAN INFLUENCER: DR. CLEOPATRA DOUMBIA-HENRY



The July/August edition of Marine Technology Reporter, the 15th Annual «MTR100», recognizes Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, president of the World Maritime University (WMU) in Sweden, as a leading «Ocean Influencer.» She is a leader on issues impacting the international shipping industry, maritime law and gender equality in ocean-related fields. She is a distinguished academic in the field of international law, justice drives her motivation for social and environmental change on a global scale.

It is worth noting that the MTWTU and Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry have longstanding friendly and partnership relations. As the Director of the International Labor Standards Department of the International Labor Organization, Dr. Doumbia-Henry was the ideologist

for the creation of the Maritime Labor Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006) and repeatedly visited Ukraine.

Unfortunately, for so many years of the Convention's existence Ukraine has not been able to join it, despite the fact that our country is one of the main providers of seafarers to the international labor market. Nevertheless, the MTWTU team has not given up and hopes that the situation will soon change for the better.

In the meantime, we sincerely congratulate Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry and thank her for her many years of friendship and cooperation.

ASSISTING UKRAINIAN SEAFARERS CAUGHT IN SCAM



On 12 August, the MTWTU and the ITF helped 6 Ukrainian seafarers return home after they got caught into fraud scheme by a notorious fake manning agent. At the beginning of July, a group of Ukrainian seafarers signed employment contracts through the Ukrainian manning agent Artur Kharatyan, the founder of Kharatyan Crew Management, to work onboard the ships MV Arif Kaptan and MV Rachel Borchard. Soon after signing the contract, the Kharatyan transported the crews to the Turkish city of Karasu, where they were supposed to join the ships there.

The seafarers were sent to a hotel in Karasu, waiting to embark onboard the above mentioned vessels, but the “agent” stopped responding any of their calls and soon it all turned out to be a fraud.

Thus, those seafarers paid Kharatyan to enter the fake contracts, from USD 1,500 to USD 7,000 each, and were abandoned in a hotel without an actual opportunity to join the vessels.

Soon after the MTWTU became aware of the situation, we asked the ITF and the Consulate of Ukraine in Istanbul for their assistance with recovering the seafarers' passports from the hotel (they were seized as a guarantee that the debt for their accommodation would be paid off) and financial support in purchasing travel tickets, so the seafarers could return home.

By 12 August, the six seafarers had been safely returned to Odessa from Karasu.

One of the repatriated crew, Captain Oleg Lunyov, said he is thankful for ITF assistance but remains disappointed and angry at the way the seafarers were exploited by Kharatyan.

"Our crew really wanted to work; we trusted the people who promised us work and gave us hope in the most difficult times. On behalf of my, unfortunately, failed crew, I want to express my deep gratitude to the ITF," he said.

"We saw the professional work of the ITF team and the help of the Ukrainian union."

MEDICAL HANDBOOK FOR SEAFARERS: NEW EDITION

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine was awarded a grant from the ITF Seafarers' Trust COVID-19 Welfare Fund to release a new edition of the Medical Handbook for Seafarers.

The guide presents general information on emergency health conditions and the principles of providing first aid. It was developed back in 2018 by the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Transport Medicine. The new edition of 2020 is supplemented with information on COVID-19, an infection that has rapidly made its own adjustments to the normal course of life.

The guide sets out the general principles of medical care on board the ship for injured and sick persons.

It advises on actions to assist a sick or injured crew member, provides information on adverse hygienic factors onboard and seafarers' occupational diseases. A small presentation of the Handbook was held in August, where the first copies of the new guide were presented to the MTWTU members-seafarers



MTWTU RESTARTS EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS*

Virtual reality simulator workshop

MTWTU organized a practical workshop on the OMS VR virtual reality simulator for young seafarers, during which the participants got acquainted with the algorithm of checking ship's firefighting equipment and also practiced skills of launching rescue equipment.

It is planned for such practical seminars in various fields to be held on a regular basis soon.



Seafarers' taxation and pensions

Once again the MTWTU experts talked to the seafarers about the taxation and pensions provision systems.

In the format of live discussion the participants of the seminar shared their personal experience (in particular - the application in practice of the right to avoid double taxation), analyzed the letters from fiscal authorities that were sent to seafarers and crews to obtain information about the income of seafarers, received answers to their questions (among which - the powers of the fiscal authorities, new rules of financial monitoring in Ukraine, etc.)

MLC,2006, seafarers' certification and training: the crucial matters

The seafarers were able to learn the main provisions of the ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006) and the key points to be contained in each seafarer's employment contract.

After that, the participants completed several tasks, where they learned to apply the Convention provisions in practice.

Among this, during the seminar the attendees discussed the structure of Ukrainian authorities on issuing documents to seafarers: who issues the documents, how and where to get them; the seafarer's e-cabinet and its purpose. The participants also discussed the causes of corruption faced by seafarers.



ENTERTAINMENT

After a forced long break, the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine resumed movie screenings for the families of seafarers, registered with the organization. It should be noted that all sanitary standards are fully observed during the film screenings: the distance in the queue is maintained, the seats are allocated and spaced to adhere to the required distancing and everyone wears protective masks.

Due to the decreased number of movie premieres, the Union invited seafarers' families to watch the American superhero movie Aquaman.

Today, such a recreational activity as kayaking is gaining more and more popularity. The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine invited its members-seafarers together with their families to watch a marvelous summer sunrise right from the sea on kayaks. Unity with nature, the awakening of the sea and the first rays of the sun will remain a special warm memory for the event participants.

