

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS' TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE E-BULLETIN



JUNE 2019



Dear seafarers!

Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine takes care of you and your families not only when you are ashore, but when you are at the sea. In order to keep you informed about our activities, we designed this monthly E-BULLETIN which guides you through all our achievements and events provided by our Union. Any suggestions and proposal are welcome. Stay connected!

Yours sincerely, Oleg Grygoriuk
First Vice Chairman
MTWTU

UKRAINE IS PREPARING COMPETITIVE SEAFARERS



On June 4, the MTWTU invited the foreign guests to pay a visit to the Kherson State Maritime Academy and to explore the educational and training capacity of this educational institution.

The Union and the Academy are bound by many years of successful cooperation; a range of large-scale projects aimed at improving the quality of education and employment of future seafarers have been jointly implemented.

Representatives of the International Transport Workers' Federation and its affiliates from Japan, Singapore, Germany, Norway, the Philippines and India, as well as the representatives of shipowners and their associations from Norway, the Netherlands and Japan were impressed by the level of training of future seafarers, granted in Kherson. The guests noted that without any doubt, Ukraine supplies highly qualified, competitive, hardworking and knowledgeable professionals to the global maritime labor market.

UNION TAKES TO THE MOVIES



Premiere film screenings for seafarers, registered with the MTWTU, and their families have been gathering the full hall of the 'Rodina' cinema for several years already. Thus, thanks to the Union, seafarers and their families became one of the first viewers of such expected movie premieres as 'Aladdin' – the animated musical fantasy film by Disney Studios, and the new part of the iconic sci-fi series 'Men in Black: International'. For the members, the Union-organized cinema shows are among the most loved and awaited.



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ETC-2019: PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS



On June 5 and 6, 2019, the VII International Forum on Seafarer's Education, Training and Crewing (ETC-2019) was held at the Passenger Terminal of the Odessa Sea Port. This time the event was dedicated to the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the National University 'Odessa Maritime Academy'.

Every year, the event brings together key maritime industry experts. More than 100 organizations and companies from 25 countries of the world took part in the Forum. These were relevant universities and colleges, major shipping companies, crewing agencies, manufacturers of specialized equipment for the shipping industry and international banks. The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine was one of the key participants of the project.

In his welcoming speech at the Forum Opening Ceremony Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU First Vice Chairman, noted: "The International Forum on Seafarers' Education, Training and Crewing has taken place in Odessa for the seventh time already. Thus, all of us are becoming witnesses and founders of good maritime traditions as well as organizers of events that contribute to promoting of Ukrainian seafarers in the global industry. We hope that the Forum will continue being traditional, permanent and developing. At



the same time, the number of parties interested in Ukrainian seafarers will increase. The Forum is an excellent platform to show that Ukraine keeps on successful training of highly skilled personnel for the global fleet."

At the MTWTU invitation, the ETC Forum was visited by the representatives of the ITF affiliates and of the foreign shipowners and their associations that arrived in Odessa to take part in the second Europe-Asia Maritime Summit, held on the eve of the Forum. The foreign guests had an excellent opportunity to get familiar with the leading maritime educational establishments and seafarers' training centers presented at the exhibition, and to see for themselves the high level of training of Ukrainian mariners.

Focus on digital technology and future challenges for seafarers

The annual conference, held as part of the Forum, attracted about 200 authoritative industry participants, who discussed various acute maritime topics. On the conference agenda were: ship management in the digital era, future challenges for seafarers and the future of marine education, competitiveness, competence and advantages of Ukrainian seafarers at the international market and much more.

Criminalization of seafarers

On the second day of the Forum, there took place a round work table on Criminalization of Seafarers. Considering that the MTWTU has actively worked in this direction, and together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is the initiator of the project aimed at preventing seafarers' criminalization, the discussion was moderated by the MTWTU First Vice Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk. During the work of the round table, the participants exchanged views on the causes of criminalization, actions in the event of arrest and the role of the ITF in conflicts resolution.

Seminars on topical issues

Two days seminars for seafarers and cadets were for the first time held within the ETC. Thus, the ITF Inspector Christian Roos (Port Zeebrugge, Belgium) carried out a seminar on the labor rights of young transport workers. The idea to separately address the labor rights of cadets and apprentices came to Christian after the death of 19-year-old Indian cadet on the second day aboard his first ship.



Now Christian is developing amendments to the collective bargaining agreement, which are aimed at strengthening the cadets' labor rights and toughening the employer's responsibility in order to secure safe working conditions for the cadets during their training onboard.

During another seminar on the second day of the Forum, seafarers and cadets learned how to secure themselves during the voyage and became aware of the latest changes and innovations in the maritime industry of Ukraine. The seminar was held jointly by the only ITF Inspector in Ukraine Nataliya Yefrimenko and the MTWTU Legal Advisor Yulia Pelykh.

Hundreds seafarers visited the MTWTU exhibition booth

A traditional exhibition was held as a part of the ETC-2019, where the MTWTU exhibition booth traditionally attracted attention of the Forum visitors. There one could find useful information for seafarers and cadets, get advice from the Union experts and the ITF Inspector and communicate with colleagues-seafarers. Moreover, this year under cooperation of the MTWTU and the International Labor Organization, any interested Forum participant could undergo voluntary anonymous HIV testing at the Union booth.

CONTINUING COOPERATION WITH ILO

In the middle of June, the International Labor Conference in Geneva adopted the Convention supplemented by a Recommendation concerning violence and harassment in the world of work.

Being a member of the International Labor Organization for more than 60 years, Ukraine has ratified most of its fundamental conventions. Therefore, it is highly probable that the above-mentioned Convention will become a priority for ratification by our country. This will allow ILO tripartite partners to do their utmost to ensure that working men and women are not subjected to various forms of discrimination at the workplace, such as gender, HIV status, nationality or religion.

The MTWTU has been fruitfully collaborating with the International Labor Organization in various areas for more than three years. One of these areas is HIV prevention at the workplace, as well as the well-being of maritime transport workers.

The MTWTU and the ILO jointly organize training sessions for the Union members, discussing such issues as HIV stigma and discrimination and violence and stress at the workplace.

This year, in May and June, two such trainings for seafarers took place in Odessa and Izmail. They were as well attended by the employees of the Danube Institute of the National University 'Odessa Maritime Academy', the Izmail Higher Professional School and the International Seamen's Club of Izmail.

SECOND SEMINAR FOR CRUISE INDUSTRY WORKERS IN ODESSA



From June 25 to June 28, the second seminar for cruise industry workers from Eastern Europe was held in Odessa. The event was organized under the auspices of the ITF by its affiliates from Norway, Germany, Italy and Ukraine – the largest trade unions of NSU, ver.di, FIT-CISL and MTWTU. While the collective agreements of trade unions from Europe cover the ships of leading cruise companies (such as MSC Cruises, Carnival Corporation, Norwegian Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruises and Royal Caribbean), for the second year in a row the MTWTU acts as a host, responsible for organizational matters in the preparation and conducting a seminar.

It should be noted that cruise seminars have been held in the Philippines, India, Malaysia and Indonesia for more than 13 years, and only the second time for seafarers of Eastern Europe. There is a logical explanation for this: the Philippines, India and Indonesia make up the top 3 countries supplying seafarers to cruise ships. And among the countries of



Eastern Europe, Ukrainian seafarers rank first. The seminar was attended by 44 participants from Romania, Hungary and Ukraine. On the first day of the seminar, a women's conference was held, where the participants discussed the problematic issues they face on board the ship, and inter alia, harassment and bullying. On June 26, male participants joined the women's group, and together they discussed cultural differences between people of different nationalities, shared life situations arising from lack of intercultural understanding, talked about various forms of bullying, sexual harassment in the workplace, discrimination and ways to counter it. In the afternoon there was a session devoted to financial and budget planning. At the final session of the day, the seminar participants were told about the trade union movement, its core functions and the benefits of the union membership. The next day of the seminar was devoted to the functions of the International Labor Organization and the International Maritime Organization; the participants also learnt of the 'Flags of Convenience' and studied provisions of collective bargaining agreement. Another session that day was devoted to the Ukrainian union: MTWTU. First Vice Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk told the seminar participants about the activities, priorities, main tasks and goals of the union, as well as of successful large-scale projects and plans for the



future. During the discussion at the end of his presentation, the seminar participants discussed the reasons why so few cruise ships call Ukraine, and in particular, Odessa, as well as the possibility of reviving the cruise fleet in our country. Health and well-being of people working on cruise ships was another important topic on the seminar agenda. During the last day, the participants attended HIV/AIDS awareness-raising session, and moreover, under the joint MTWTU/ILO project, each seminar participant could undergo free anonymous HIV testing.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SEAFARER WITH THE UNION



On June 25, on the International Day of the Seafarer, the MTWTU invited its members and their families to celebrate the professional holiday of all seafarers together. More than five hundred people gathered at the private beach complex Private Elling. The Union has prepared a lot of surprises for all participants, such as a competitive program, tasty treats, an atmosphere of a real holiday filled with bright emotions and fun. We hope that warm memories of a great time with the MTWTU will warm the seafarers during the voyages when they are far away from their families.

