

## MAAP Holds Graduation Ceremony for First Batch of the Versileas Class of 2023

Written by Angel Ampil

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On May 26, 2023 the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) held a Graduation Ceremony for their first batch of graduates on this year 2023 in Kamaya Point, Alas-Asin, Mariveles Bataan. The first group of graduates from the Versileas Class of 2023 comprised of 221 midshipmen and midshipwomen were honored during the graduation rites. Among them, 106 received a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation, while the remaining 115 earned a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering.

The ceremony began with the Invocation rites, led by the Reverend Father Marvin B. Gomez of the Oblates of Saint Joseph (OSJ). He blessed the event and offered a prayer to commemorate the occasion. The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Conrado F. Oca, the President of the Associated Marine Officers and Seaman's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) and MAAP Chairman. He welcomed the guests, sponsors, partners from different shipping companies, parents, and graduates, expressing his gratitude to the parents and leaders who supported the graduates throughout their journey.

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Following this, the MAAP Dean of Academics, Captain Daniel S. Torres Jr., introduced the first batch of graduates from the Versileas Class of 2023. Vice-Admiral Eduardo Ma R. Santos conferred the degrees to the graduates, and Lieutenant Vincent T. Larida declared and conferred the Commission Orders to them, congratulating them for their hard work.

Finally, the Guest Speaker, Mr. Mitsuharu Matsuura, the President of the All Japan Seamen's Union (JSU), delivered his commencement address, acknowledging the graduates' efforts and encouraging them to demonstrate their capabilities based on the knowledge, technologies, and experiences they gained over the past four years. He challenged them to uphold the quality of their seniors, who, despite the COVID-19 restrictions, managed to keep up with the technological advancements in the maritime industry and ensure the safety and security of navigation.





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