

Remarks of Ambassador ENDO Kazuya at the MMMA Graduation Ceremony

3 February 2026, 9:00AM, Salitran IV, Carlos Trinidad St, Dasmarias, Cavite

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Isang karangalan na makasama ko kayo ngayong umaga.

I am truly delighted and honored to join the celebration of this important milestone.

Dear graduates, my heartfelt congratulations on your graduation today.

I understand that your journey at MMMA has not been an easy one. From the beginning, you were required to complete rigorous academic coursework, practical training, and extensive onboard training. The strict protocols imposed during the pandemic significantly affected your learning and training environment. Despite these unprecedented challenges and disruptions, you remained patient, resilient, and committed to your goals. The hardships you endured will undoubtedly become invaluable experiences that shape your future. I extend my deep commendation to each and every one of you for your hard work.

Congratulations also to all the family members in attendance today on raising and supporting such amazing graduates. They would not have made it thus far without your tireless efforts.

To the academic and administrative staff of MMA, led by Dr. Morales, congratulations for producing another batch of globally competitive, outstanding maritime professionals.

The maritime industry plays a crucial role in the global economy. Approximately 70 percent of the crew members in Japan's merchant fleet are Filipino, making your contribution indispensable to international maritime operations. The Philippines and Japan are not separated but rather are connected by the sea.

I have high hopes for MMMA graduates. Through your dedication, commitment and professionalism, I am confident that you will help ensure the stability and safety of international shipping and will make significant contributions to the maritime industry's ongoing growth.

As you embark on the blue oceans, I encourage you all to dream big and aim high in the future, whether as captain, chief engineer or beyond. At the same time, remember that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Careful and diligent attention to the details of daily operations will ultimately carry you far. Your achievements will not only strengthen Philippine maritime industry and help your families, but will also leave a meaningful mark on the global maritime community.

I sincerely wish you all a bright and fulfilling future. Once again, congratulations on this well-earned achievement.

Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay ang MMMA! Mabuhay ang pagkakaibigan ng Japan at Pilipinas!