Seatrade Maritime
CrewConnect Global Awards

Crew Connect Global Awards Ceremony

21 October 2026

Shangri-La The Fort, Manila, The Philippines

SeatradeMaritime
CrewConnect Global Awards

Introduction

Distinguished Guests and Friends, Mabuhay!

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 9th edition of the Crew Connect Global Awards! Thank you for joining us this evening to celebrate the best and brightest in the crewing industry, and for the support, input and dedication you have given Crew Connect Global over the years. Here's to many more to come!

For more than two decades, Crew Connect Global has been a vehicle for change. It is where the industry's future manpower strategy is forged, and where safety and competence are the defining hallmarks of a truly global maritime professional. Shipping is now working through new fuels, new technology and new expectations of what a career at sea should offer. Tonight we honour your talent, your passion and your commitment to a safer, more engaging and more rewarding industry, and we hope to inspire you to keep pushing boundaries as we sail into the future of seafaring.

This year's field was exceptionally strong. Our judges shortlisted 29 finalist entries across six categories, ranging from AI-native operating platforms and VR engine-room training to period dignity schemes for women at sea and outreach programmes for seafarers' families ashore.

We will recognise excellence in crewing and marine operations through our 7 Awards:

- Training and Safety at Sea
- Environmental & Green Transition
- Innovation and Technology
- Health and Wellbeing at Sea
- Industry Partner
- Seafarer of the Year
- Industry Champion, chosen by you, our audience

A special word goes to our Seafarer of the Year finalists: Capt. Emerson Madlangbayan Reyes, Gordon Foot and Sarthaki Bhadra. They remind us that everything discussed at this conference is ultimately about the people on board.

As is now tradition, we will also honour a personality who has dedicated their entire life and career to the maritime industry with our Lifetime Achievement Award, selected by the Seatrade Maritime editorial board.

We wish to thank our distinguished judges, who have given their time to guide us through the process and evaluate every entry:

- Francesco Gargiulo, Chief Executive Officer, The International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC)
- Fabrizio Barcellona, Seafarers and Inland Navigation Section Coordinator, International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)
- John Lloyd FNI CMMar, Chief Executive Officer, The Nautical Institute
- Simon Grainge, Chief Executive, International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)
- Capt. Alexandra Hagerty, Founder, Captains Without Borders at Hagerty Maritime Consulting LLC
- Sebastian von Hardenberg, President of InterManager and CEO of Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement
- Ben Bailey, Director of Programme, The Mission to Seafarers
- Haakon Storhaug, International Coordinator, Norwegian Maritime Authority

continued on p4

Finalists

SEAFARER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to an active seafarer, someone who has stood out in the past twelve months by going over and beyond their role, or having a notable achievement, driving significant change or making a real difference to the crew welfare/safety or operations onboard.

Shortlist

Capt. Emerson Madlangbayan Reyes, MSc, AFNI, CMHEP, Master Mariner, Fair Shipping Corporation



Capt. Emerson Madlangbayan Reyes is a Filipino Master Mariner with over a decade of seagoing experience and former experience as a Crewing Manager. Beyond the bridge, he holds postgraduate qualifications from the World Maritime University and an MSc from the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy. Now currently undertaking research with the University of Plymouth, in partnership with MLA College focusing on human capital preparedness for maritime digitalization and decarbonization. He also serves as Education Committee Chair of The Nautical Institute–Philippines Branch, contributing to maritime education and professional development.

A passionate maritime photographer, his work captures and celebrates seafarers, life at sea, and the maritime profession through his lenses.

Gordon Foot

Offshore Client Representative and MLA College alumnus



Gordon Foot's profile showcases an inspiring career built around leadership, safety, seafarer welfare, education and giving back to the maritime community. As an Offshore Client Representative, Gordon has worked across major offshore construction projects while championing psychological safety, respect, allyship and lifelong learning onboard. His contribution extends beyond his professional role through extensive mentoring, charity fundraising, industry leadership and supporting aspiring maritime professionals. He has mentored students from MLA College, the University of Plymouth and Plymouth YMCA, while actively encouraging further education and professional development. His story demonstrates how kindness, integrity, purposeful leadership and a commitment to empowering others can create a lasting impact across the maritime industry.

Sarthaki Bhadra

3rd Assistant Engineer, Njord Ship Management India Pvt. Ltd.



Throughout my journey at sea, I have always believed that technical proficiency and compassionate leadership belong together. Earning MSC's Best Cadet of the Year, IMU Kolkata's Most Dedicated Lady Cadet, and three Directorate General of Shipping scholarships affirmed my commitment early on. Beyond the engine room, I channel this dedication into advocacy and driving real change for the maritime community. Selected for the global UNESCO & DIOR initiative, I led grassroots programs championing women's empowerment. As an official representative for ISWAN, I continuously assist in advancing seafarer wellbeing, fostering diversity, improving onboard connectivity, and spearheading vital campaigns on gender sensitization and mental health.

In recognition of being a finalist for the

Seafarer of the Year

at Seatrade Maritime Crew Connect Global Awards 2026,
21st October 2026, Shangri La The Fort, Manila, The Philippines

This is awarded to

Capt. Emerson Madlangbayan Reyes

MSc, AFNI, CMHEP, Master Mariner, Fair Shipping Corporation

Signed _____ Date 21 October 2026

Chris Morley, Group Director, Seatrade Maritime

SeatradeMaritime
CrewConnect Global Awards

2026 Judges

Simon Grainge
Chief Executive at International Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN)

Ben Bailey
Director of Programme at Mission to Seafarers

Capt. Alexandra Hagert
Founder Captains Without Borders at Hagerty Maritime Consulting LLC

Christian Andersen
Human Sustainability Representative at Global Maritime Forum

Francesco Gargiulo
Chief Executive Officer at The International Maritime Employer's Council (IMEC)

Sebastian von Hardenberg
President of InterManager CEO at Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement

Marcus Hand
Editor at Seatrade Maritime News

John Lloyd FNI CMMar
Chief Executive at The Nautical Institute

Haakon Storhaug
International Coordinator at Norwegian Maritime Authority

Prof. Maximo Q. Mejia
President at World Maritime University

Fabrizio Bacellona
Seafarers and Inland Navigation Sections Coordinator at International Transport Workers Federation – ITF

Helio Vicente
Director of Employment Affairs at International Chamber of Shipping