

PRESS RELEASE
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Japan's Transport Minister Visits MOL Magsaysay Maritime Academy, Highlights Vital Role of Filipino Seafarers



Minister of MLIT Kaneko Yasushi (center) with officials from Japan, MOL, and MMMA during his visit to MOL Magsaysay Maritime Academy in Dasmariñas, Cavite, on August 12, 2026. From left are Magsaysay MOL Marine Inc. Director Capt. Masaya Itano; MOL Chief Country Representative of the Philippines Mr. Goro Yamashita; MMMA Chairman of the Board Mr. Marlon R. Rono; MMMA President Dr. Alex M. Enriquez; and MMMA Adviser Mr. Shigeki Sakamoto.

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE, August 12, 2026 — Japan's Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Kaneko Yasushi, visited the MOL Magsaysay Maritime Academy (MMMA), highlighting the strong maritime ties between Japan and the Philippines and the vital role of Filipino seafarers in keeping global shipping safe and sustainable. Minister Kaneko was welcomed by the MMMA leadership led by Chairman Marlon Roño and President Dr. Alex Enriquez, together with Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL) Country Representative Goro Yamashita.



MLIT Minister Kaneko Yasushi gets a closer look at MMMA's ship-in-campus facility during the campus tour.

During his visit, Minister Kaneko toured MMMA's training and academic facilities and interacted with cadets during their classes and practical training. The visit provided an opportunity to see firsthand how future deck and engine officers are being prepared for careers in the international maritime industry.



MLIT Minister Kaneko takes part in MMMA's traditional tree planting ceremony.

Minister Kaneko also took part in MMMA's traditional Tree Planting Ceremony, an activity held in honor of distinguished guests visiting the Academy. The ceremony reflects MMMA's commitment to nurturing and developing future generations of maritime professionals and strengthening its partnership with Japan.

Minister Kaneko also engaged MMMA cadets in a discussion on the career opportunities available to Filipino maritime professionals. He commended MMMA, MOL, and Magsaysay Maritime Corporation (MMC) for providing young Filipinos access to modern maritime education, training facilities, and opportunities to build careers in the Japanese and international shipping industries.

Speaking to the cadets, Minister Kaneko emphasized the significant contribution of Filipino seafarers to both the Philippine and Japanese maritime sectors, particularly in maintaining the safe operation of vessels and protecting the people who depend on maritime transportation.

"The economies of the Philippines and Japan are sustained by seafarers, many of whom come from the Philippines. They also play an important role in sustaining maritime safety," Minister Kaneko said.

Encouraging the cadets to pursue maritime careers in Japan, he added, "We are hoping that you can come onboard Japanese vessels. I welcome you all."

Jointly operated by MOL and MMC, MMMA provides academic and practical education and training for future maritime deck and engine officers and professionals.

Minister Kaneko's visit was a meaningful affirmation of the strong maritime ties between the Philippines and Japan, particularly in education and training, and MMMA's role in preparing Filipino maritime professionals for careers in the international shipping industry.

About MOL

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL), headquartered in Tokyo, is a leading shipping company with the world's second-largest fleet of over 900 vessels and the largest LNG fleet globally. It is developing various social infrastructure businesses, technologies, and services centered on marine transport to meet the ever-changing needs of society, such as environmental protection.

MOL's fleet includes LNG carriers, dry bulkers, car carriers, tankers, and so on. In addition to the traditional shipping business, it is also developing social infrastructure businesses such as logistics, wind power and offshore businesses, as well as wellbeing life businesses including real property, cruises, and ferries.

www.mol.co.jp

About MAGSAYSAY

Magsaysay Maritime Corporation (MMC) is a leading provider of quality seafarers and exemplary crewing services for the world's maritime and cruise industries. Headquartered in Manila, Philippines, and with affiliates and subsidiaries in Indonesia, China, and Croatia, MMC provides partner Principals around the world direct access to topnotch, well-trained, and excellent crew of various cultures and nationalities for both merchant marine vessels and cruise ships.

MMC's service is anchored on building a human resources pipeline and investing heavily in the sourcing, selection, training, and certification of seafarers and crew members for specific jobs they will perform onboard cruise ships and merchant marine vessels.

www.magsaysay.com

Media Contact:

Magsaysay World Communications

E mwc@magsaysay.com

T +63 2 8526 8888 local 9317