

SPEAKER'S PROFILE

SESSION 3.2 Navigating the Future

Moderator



Brandt Wagner

Head

Transport and Maritime Unit

Sectoral Policies Department

ILO

Brandt Wagner is the Head of the Transport and Maritime Unit of the Sectoral Policies Department of the International Labour Office, the secretariat of the International Labour Organization. His unit covers all maritime (shipping, fishing, ports, inland navigation) and dry transport (road, rail, civil aviation, urban transport) sectors. He is a graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy and a former deck and marine engineering officer and Navy Reserve Officer. After serving at sea, he worked ashore for United States Lines, the Council of American-Flag Ship Operators, the National Association of Stevedores and PCCI Marine Engineering. He joined the ILO in 1990 and has been involved in all ILO shipping and fishing work, including the development and implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185) and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188).

Mr. Wagner frequently represents the ILO at meetings of the IMO, FAO, regional Port State Control agreements and other international and regional bodies. He is the ILO focal point for UN-OCEANS and has represented ILO at the UN Ocean Conferences (SDG 14 Conferences).

Speakers



Jean Ver P. Pia

Maritime Attache

Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines

As Maritime Attaché, Atty. Pia represents the Philippines at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since December 2021. She has been in the government service for close to thirty (30) years in various capacities:

- Director of the Overseas Shipping Service (OSS), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) from 14 November 2015 until 11 June 2020. Tasked with the international shipping registry of the Philippines, maintaining and cultivating MARINA's bilateral, regional and international relations, including IMO affairs.
- Officer-in-Charge Deputy Executive Director of the MARINA STCW Office from 12 June 2020 to 15 July 2021. During her stint as OIC-DED, she Chaired the Steering Committee of the STCW Task Group in MARINA which spearheaded the implementation of immediate and decisive corrective actions to address the findings and observations of a third-party audit under the STCW Convention, among others.
- National Knowledge Partnership Officer (NKPO) of the Philippines. Acts as the Philippine focal point for capacity building activities which benefits technical personnel of partner government agencies and relevant stakeholders.
- Single Point of Contact (SPC) for the IMO Member States Audit Scheme Audit of the Philippines on October 2023 to ensure the Philippines' full and effective implementation of applicable IMO instruments.

A lawyer by profession, Atty. Pia attained her Master of Science (MSC) in Maritime Affairs degree specializing in Maritime Administration from the World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden in 2003. She likewise attained her Doctor of Philosophy (PH.D.) degree from Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom in 2017 as a Research Fellow at the Seafarers International Research Centre (SIRC) based in Cardiff University. Both her MSC and PH.D. are fully funded scholarships from the Nippon Foundation (NF).

Webpage link:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/jean-ver-pia-9276b0160?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app



B. Sitki Ustaoglu

Head

Asia and Pacific Section

Subdivision for Maritime Development

Technical Cooperation Division

IMO

Dr. Ustaoglu has more than 30 years of experience in the maritime industry, academia, and regulatory organizations, national and international, primarily focusing on a wide range of aspects of maritime safety, including operational, regulatory and policy. More recently, Dr. Ustaoglu has been in the above position at IMO since April 2009.

Before his current IMO employment, Dr. Ustaoglu represented Türkiye at IMO as the Alternate Permanent Representative (2006-2009). Previously, Dr. Ustaoglu was Deputy Undersecretary for Maritime Affairs (UMA - Maritime Administration) of Türkiye (2003-2006), responsible for core technical work related to maritime safety and security and marine environment protection.

In addition to the governmental and intergovernmental work experience, Dr. Ustaoglu has an established academic record, teaching and conducting research at the Maritime Faculty of Istanbul Technical University (ITUMF) for a period spanning over ten years (1993-2003), focusing on human factors, the safety of navigation and other specific subjects under the STCW Code. Dr. Ustaoglu has an unlimited Master Mariner Certificate of Competency (CoC) and GMDSS General Operator license.



Kjersti Aass

Program Manager

United Nations Global Compact

Ocean Stewardship Coalition

Kjersti Aass is driven by a desire to fight inequality and protect the planet.

She recently joined the UN Global Compact to lead the Maritime Just Transition Task Force, including the two main action tracks: development of a baseline training framework for seafarers in decarbonization, and development of a global recruitment and retention strategy for the maritime industry.

In addition to her work with the UNGC Ocean Stewardship Coalition, Kjersti serves as Sustainability Development Director in Yara International. This large industrial and crop nutrition company is committed to driving a green transition in agriculture and shipping through clean ammonia production. Kjersti also serves on the board of Høegh Autoliners, a global shipping company in the RoRo segment.

Kjersti's previous roles include working with Doctors without Borders in Ethiopia and Afghanistan, and with the Red Cross in Nepal. She's on the emergency response unit roster of the Norwegian Red Cross.

She holds a Master of Science Degree from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, specializing in entrepreneurship. She is passionate about science and collaboration, especially development fostered through unconventional partnerships.

She is a Norwegian citizen and currently resides in London, UK.



Branko Berlan

ITF Accredited Representative to IMO

Branko has a degree in Maritime Studies, Maritime Engineer department.

He was a seafarer for 15 years, finishing his seafaring career as Chief Engineer. Branko was Assistant General Secretary of the Seafarers' Union of Croatia from 1991 until 2013 and he represented seafarers of Croatia at the IMO and ILO. Then, he joined the ITF in May 2013.

As the ITF accredited representative to the IMO, following the vision of the ITF, he recognises that as the ITF has been demonstrating at the IMO, the ITF has an immense voice for the seafarers and all workers in the maritime industry. He looks forward to enhancing influence of the ITF in shaping the maritime policies. The priorities of the ITF will be better recognition of roles and importance of all maritime workers and their safety. He will also continue pursuing more constructive cooperation with governments and the industry partners.

Further to his role of ITF Representative to the IMO, Branko also has the responsibilities:

- To lead or provide support in any UN, Industry, ITF forum that requires maritime expertise or in matters pertaining to general welfare and wellbeing of maritime workers, and
 - To undertake all maritime related and technical issues on behalf of the ITF.
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Arvind Natrajan

Senior Marine Adviser

ICS

Arvind leads on crewing and training matters at ICS and is currently involved in presenting industry perspective towards the ongoing review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code.

Arvind's 20 years of operational experience at sea culminated as a Captain on board chemical tankers with a reputed chemical operator. In between tenures on board, he also audited his employer's ships and assisted during 3rd party commercial inspections. For a brief period, he supported the shore office as an alternate Designated Person and Company Security Officer.

Arvind transitioned into permanent shore-based roles, initially as a lecturer at the University of Suffolk where he trained all levels of competency in topics as diverse as celestial navigation and maritime law. His achievement at this time was a high level of successful turnout of seafarers acquiring a STCW Certificate of Competency.

Arvind's next role was to enforce maritime legislation as a port State Control Inspector under the Paris MoU wherein he gained valuable experience about the inspection process of several ship types and assessing the effectiveness of implementation of the ISM Code.

Arvind has recognised that one of the challenges of the ongoing review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code is to make the instrument adaptable to new technologies and addressing obsolete competencies. He believes that to achieve IMO's revised 2023 GHG strategy targets, having a trained workforce to work on board future modern ships propelled by alternative fuels will be a huge challenge. Hence, on behalf of ICS, he leads the Joint IMO-Maritime Just Transition project that aims to develop generic competencies on alternative fuels for seafarers.

Related web-page links:

[LinkedIn - Capt. Arvind Natrajan](#)

[Maritime Just Transition Task Force | International Chamber of Shipping \(ics-shipping.org\)](#)