

WORLD MARITIME SEAFARER PROFILES



NAME: **MARWA EL SELEHDAR**

JOB TITLE: **SHIP'S CAPTAIN**

What is an environmental issue that you feel passionate about?

I am really passionate about protecting the blue economy for future generations. Sustainable global development greatly depends on the strength of our blue economy. We must find ways to use our seas, lakes, rivers and oceans in a sustainable way that allows social progress and economic growth while still protecting the environment. Marine protected areas help to restore ocean productivity, prevent further degradation, and provide natural solutions to climate impacts. They're also sites for scientific study and can generate income through tourism and sustainable fishing. Part of the solution also involves reducing plastic use as this often ends up in our oceans.

Can you describe your ideal on-board working environment?

My ideal scenario for the best on-board working environment is one where everyone is seen as equal. I believe that people should be able to work without any focus being given to gender, politics, religion, or nationality.

What challenges do you see in the future for seafarers?

I believe that the long-term future of shipping will see autonomous port and ships, and it is necessary for seafarers to keep training to match the pace of the developments in the maritime field. We are already seeing that many companies are looking to build bigger vessels, which are complex to operate and will create difficulties for terminals that will need be able to handle such big vessels. I feel that gender diversity is required so that everyone has equal opportunity to create a balanced environment in shipping.

Have you or your colleagues been impacted by the Covid19 pandemic?

Covid-19 has really impacted the future of many seafarers, including myself. It affected my access to practical training, which is carried out on training vessels. I have also seen that many seafarers that worked for small companies lost their jobs when the company was affected by the pandemic. And of course, the restrictions for crew change have affected seafarers and their families.

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