

Aboitiz Jebsen crew conferred Outstanding Seafarer Award



Aboitiz Jebsen (Abojeb) seafarer, Electrical Engineer Demosthenes Quiñones was recently chosen as one of three Outstanding Filipino Seafarers by the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment.

Quiñones was conferred the award at the Philippine International Convention Center last June 22, 2010 by IMO Secretary General Efthimios Mitropoulos together with Labor Undersecretary Romeo Lagman. He was represented by wife, Josephine. Quiñones received a certificate of recognition and a P300,000-prize.

The Outstanding Filipino Seafarer Awards (TOFSA) was launched nationwide last April by DOLE through the Maritime Training Council as the attached agency involved in the project, in cooperation with the private sectors such as the: Associated Marine Officers and Seamen Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP); Joint Manning Group; Filipino Association for Mariners' Employment (FAME); Philippine Association of Maritime Training Centers, Inc. (PAMTCI); Marine Engine Officers of the Philippines (MEOAP); Masters and Mates Association of the Philippines (MMAP); Conference of Maritime Manning Agencies (COMMA); Philippine Association of Manning Agencies (PAMA); and United Filipino Seafarers (UFS) to commemorate IMO's designating 2010 as the Year of the Seafarer.

An article on the awards launch said, "The Filipino seafarers have continuously shown competency and proficiency in the international maritime industry and for this reason, the Philippines has become the largest and most viable source of shipping crews around the world. It is likewise an utmost recognition that they have become the most professional, reputable, adaptable, and capable individuals working in shipping vessels of foreign flags. Their demonstration of excellence and world – class expertise has earned them a reputation as the most preferred choice of international shipping employers. Having mentioned all these, it is proper that the Philippine government recognize the vital role of our Filipino seafarers in our growth as a nation. It is hoped that through this, the government will be able to further the incessant enhancement of the competency and proficiency of our seafarers."

Out of 26 seafarers nominated by various manning agencies and organizations, only three were selected to receive the prestigious award.

The ceremonies were attended by hundreds of delegates to the International Diplomatic Conference of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held in Manila from June 21 to 25, 2010. The cash prize was courtesy of Smart Communications.

Abojeb was specially elated by the citation given to Quiñones by the screening committee:

"Mr. Quiñones enhanced the image of Filipino seafarers through his consistent exemplary work performance as Electrician Officer. Mr. Quiñones has proved equal to the challenge of rendering service as Electrical Officer onboard the old Frankfurt Express, a challenging vessel which other engine ratings, engineers and electrician avoid due to high expectations required from its crew. He was instrumental in the design of training programs for new electricians especially for those with landbased experiences and acted as screening and training officer for would-be electricians undergoing training based on European standards."

Quiñones, currently onboard Hapag Lloyd's container ship Rotterdam Express as Electrician Officer, has been with Jebsens Maritime Inc. for 13 years.

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Personal Background

Demosthenes Quiñones is a licensed electrical engineer who has been onboard Hapag Lloyd vessels for more than eight years. He has maintained an excellent performance onboard where he gained thorough knowledge on the specific equipment and facilities of Hapag Lloyd vessels. Prior his sea service, he started his career as production manager at Citizens Radio and Electronics Corp. of the Philippines right after finishing Radio Telephony and Communication Technology course. He then became the company's quality control section head then research and development head. He moved to Lyn-Ann Electronics and Service Center as head electronic technician while finishing his bachelor degree in electrical engineer at Central Colleges of the Philippines. He was an active president of the Philippine Association of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers student chapter then. He topped the licensure exam of Professional Regulation Commission for electrical engineers in 1989.



Josephine Quiñones (second from left), wife of Electrical Engineer Demosthenes Quiñones, receives the award on behalf of husband currently onboard Rotterdam Express. With her in photo are (L-R) Abojeb Sr. Crewing Manager Manny de Vera, IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Labor Undersecretary & TOFSA chairman Noriel Devanadera, Quiñones' daughter Abigael, Abojeb Crewing Vice President Arleen Asuncion and Sr. Crewing Manager Roenen Pepito.