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NIS CADETS

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Highlights:

- NIS Budget reduced
- Less ships under NIS flag
- More costly program
- 2 years full scholarship
- Considered alternative actions
- Recommended 0 Cadets
- Increase contribution to ATEP

New intake for 2003

11th Batch 2003 - 2007

The NIS Budget for 2003 was reduced by more than 25 % compared with 2002 at the ATEP Steering Committee meeting January 15 2003. This means that there are no funds to cover for a new intake of cadets this year (11th Batch, 2003-2007).

Due to the fact that the number of ships registered under the NIS flag as well as the number of Filipino seafarers on board said vessels has decreased, the contribution to the ATEP fund has decreased during the last two years. This problem was addressed at the meeting between NSA and different Filipino Unions in Manila in January this year, and this will again be a topic during their next meeting.

The program has also become more expensive. When ATEP decided some 4 years back to give two years full scholarship to each NIS Cadet including boarding and lodging, the scholarship cost increased with more than 210% compared to earlier years. Another factor is that the number of Cadets in the NIS Project is at a record level. We have today more than 480 Cadets of which 309 receive full scholarship. Combined this with the extra courses (as requested by the Ship-Owners) we give our Cadets, like culture awareness, welding, safety, housekeeping, study habits etc. the budget can not cover a new intake in 2003.

We have considered alternative actions, like only take in 50 Cadets, postponing courses and the use of training ships until 2004, but the NIS Project regards this as lowering the standards we have so carefully built up the last years. Taking in only 50 Cadets will cost considerable more per Cadet, since the travel (for testing, screening, selection and Parents meeting etc) and administration will be almost the same as if we took in 150 Cadets.

Our recommendation to ATEP was not to take in any Cadets for 2003 and rather take in more Cadets next year. We also hope that the ATEP fund will grow this year with hopefully an increase in the contribution per Filipino Seafarer sailing on board Norwegian ships.

Helping Ship-Owners

To help those Ship-Owners that are in dire need of Cadets this year, the NIS Project can help with testing, screening, selection and follow up through the year of any Cadets they might want. We have to charge a fee per cadet for this and a minimum intake of Cadets. This means that the number of cadets from all Ship-Owners in total must not be less than 25 per class. (25 deck or 25 engine) The fee has been set to USD 1800 per Cadet per year.

Anyway, this will only be valid for 2003 since we plan to "take over" these Cadets in our scholarship program next year (2004), as NSA will continue to offer to the NIS members Cadets from the NIS Project.

Helping Ship Owners

The NIS Project goals are the same as always:
Create the best Filipino Cadets for the shipping industry.

Embarkation 2003

The NIS Project will again conduct pre-embarkation seminars for the 9th Batch Cadets whom will go onboard this coming April / May. The seminar will be held at the school with all the Cadets and their parents. Any Principal or Manning Agents that would like to have their representatives at these meeting, please contact the NIS Project so we can arrange this. This is a good opportunity to have a final information or instruction to your Cadets prior to embarkation.

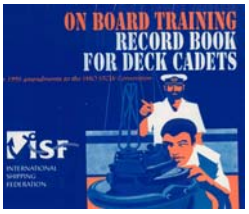
US Embassy Visa Requirements

The American Embassy Manila requires that all "greenhorns" (first time visa applicants) like our NIS Cadets, must apply for an interview at the American Embassy. This process takes "normally" two months. After the interview the Visa process takes another 10 working days. Please make sure that all documents, like passport, Seamen's book, birth certificates, documents from schools etc are all OK before the interview.

Three top Model Cadets with Capt. Thomasli and his wife

JB Lacson Model Cadet Competition

This year Model Cadet Competition at JB Lacson Academies showed that the NIS Project is at the top. Among the 8 finalists, there were 6 from the NIS Project. The three top places were all taken by our NIS Cadets. Among the criteria to become a Model Cadet are: showing leadership among the peers, maintaining above-average grades, involving in co-curriculum activities and community services. Further on the candidates must have good moral character, strong leadership potentials, good poise and bearing and well disciplined.



Training Record Book

ISF training record book is a functional approach for cadets training, hence, Masters are encourage appointing shipboard training officers to train and monitor cadets to the standard performance required in the Training Record Book (TRB). Before they can have their degree, Cadets will be evaluated according to the competence requirements indicated in the TRB. NIS Class Project conducts its own pre-assessment upon cadet's disembarkation to validate accomplished tasks.

Facsimile from newspaper

Stress Management Seminar

This February, 113 NIS Senior Cadets from 7th Batch attended a one day Stress Management Seminar held in John B. Lacson and University of Cebu Campuses. Among the topics discussed were: causes of workplace stress, techniques to manage stress, techniques to manage time, balancing life and work and breaking bad habits. Stress management activity was also held during the seminar.

Simulator Course

A group of eight (8) integrated NIS cadets from different school will participate in a Navigational Watch keeping and Collision Regulation Simulator Course to be held in NTC-M. This would be a pilot group to determine Cadets competence in Bridge-watch-keeping, navigation, and collision regulation with the use of simulator. NTC-M Instructor's will conduct the course for the four (4) 2nd Year and four (4) 4th Year NIS Cadets this March.

MAAP 9th Batch sea-time December 2003 to June 2004

We have available 20 Cadets from MAAP, so far without any Principals. They have been 1 ½ years at MAAP and will be ready for their sea-time from November / December 2003 to June / July 2004. Please contact the NIS office if you need some of these fine Cadets or download the Commitment form directly on our website: www.ntcm.com.ph under NIS Project.

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