Day of the Seafarer 2015
Message from the Secretary-General

I am speaking to you today from the Seamen’s Center at Intramuros, Manila, operated by the Associated Marine Officers and Seamen’s Union of the Philippines, which is the world’s leading supplier of manpower to the global maritime industry.

Every year, on 25 June, we celebrate the international Day of the Seafarer. This year, I want to speak about how fulfilling and rewarding a seafaring career can be; and I particularly want to address this message to young people, who may now be actively considering the options open to them.

Seafaring can provide not only an opportunity to earn money to live and provide for your families, it also offers unique opportunities to navigate the seas of the globe and encounter the wonders of the ocean. It offers young people the opportunity to experience a world of real adventure on the seas and oceans of our planet, to interact with people from all over the world, and to experience the huge variety of mankind’s culture and heritage.

Today, more than ever, seafaring is a job that demands highly trained and qualified personnel. Modern ships are designed and built to the highest technical standards and require crew members with a high level of professional competence. To operate them safely and efficiently is a stimulating job in a truly hi-tech workplace.

But more than that, a successful seafaring career also holds the promise of a rewarding career ashore, after retiring from the sea. There is an immense selection of challenging and rewarding professions ashore for which a career at sea provides an excellent background – such as ship surveying and inspection, maritime pilotage, ship operations management and many more.

On the Day of the Seafarer, I wish to encourage everybody who is already engaged in this vital professional world to reach out to a new generation; tell them about your life and your work; inspire and encourage them to explore for themselves a career at sea or elsewhere in the maritime industries.

Please, show your support for our campaign, using the resources available on the Day of the Seafarer page on the IMO website; and if you’re on social media, don’t forget to share your
experiences using the campaign hashtag #CareeratSea. Together, let us reach out new audiences and inspire a new generation of maritime experts and seafarers.