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**Challenges and Conditions for Sustainable Seafarer Supply:
A Case of the Philippines**

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Contents

Preface

Chapter 1

Maritime Labor Convention 2006 and Subsequent Amendments: Tripartism in Philippine
Ratification and Institutional Capacity Building 1

Maragtas S. V. Amante

Chapter 2

Challenges and Initiatives for Developing Sustainable Filipino Seafarers Supply 38

Izumi Chibana

Chapter 3

Filipino Seafarers in the Global Labor Market: Compliance and Quality Standards 64

Izumi Chibana

Preface

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began around 2020, caused unprecedented damage around the world, and the shipping industry was no exception. Among the hardest hit were seafarers, who are vital to the international shipping industry. As a result of the pandemic, millions of seafarers were unable to return home due to travel restrictions and port closures, were stranded at sea for months at a time, and were forced to work under inhumane conditions.

In conducting this research, we were supported by the management and faculty of seafarer training institutions represented by the NMP, MDDA, HCDC, MMMA, PMMA, MAAP and so forth, as well as graduates and cadets of these institutions, in addition to universities and government agencies in the Philippines. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for their kind consideration and warm hospitality.

We would like to thank them for their valuable and invaluable cooperation in conducting face-to-face interviews and listening to their experiences. Their names will not be mentioned here, however, without each of them, we would not have been able to proceed with this research project. We also would like to express our sincere gratitude to our research colleagues and members of the ERIA Support Office for their invaluable support.

We hope that through this report a sense of the dedication of Filipino seafarers who continue to play an important role in the global economy despite the difficulties they face will be gained. Thank you all very much indeed.

Izumi Chibana

Editor