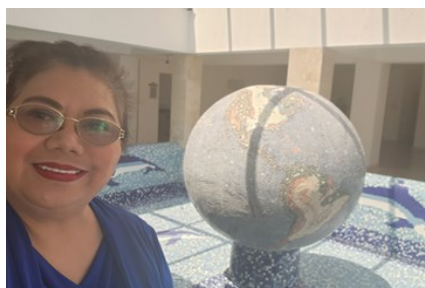




Erasmus+

2023 ERASMUS + Teaching and Professional Mobility at Constanta Maritime University (CMU), Romania: A Wonderful and Memorable Experience of a Lifetime (Ref: *Invitation letter dated March 3, 2023 by CMU Rector to MAAP President for the May 15-June 20, 2023 visit*)



By: **Prof Angelica M Baylon, PhD**

ERASMUS plus Coordinator for MAAP /MAAP-ERO Director
Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific Philippines



Special Acknowledgement: My heartfelt thanks to Senate President **Dr. Prof. Engr. Cornel Panait**; Rector **Prof. Univ. Dr. Engr. Violeta-Vali Ciucur**; Vice-Rector for Students Relations, Economic and Social Environment **Dr. Engr Radu Hanzu Pazara**; Vice -Rector for Academic Affairs **Dr. Prof. Eliodor Constantinescu**; Vice-Rector for Scientific Research and Innovation **Dr. Prof. Engr. Gabriel Raicu**; Vice-Dean **Dr. Nicoleta Acomi AFNI, CMarTech, MIMarEST**; JMET Editor and Environmental Engineering Expert **Dr. Prof. Engr. Mariana Panaitescu**; HORESEC Head and Renewable Energy & Environmental Emergency Expert **Dr. Prof. Engr. Fanel- Viorel Panaitescu** and most especially to my dearest superb research partner, the Smart Transport, Logistic and Sustainability Expert **Prof. Dr. Cristina Dragomir**.

Special thanks: Faculty of Navigation and Naval Transport **Dean Dr. Prof. Costel Stanca**; Faculty of Marine Engineering **Dean Dr. Engr. Liviu-Constantin Stan**; Professional Counselling Department Head **Dr. Luminita Stan**; Computer aided-Graphics Expert **Dr. Alexandra Raicu**; Mechanical Engineering (VR) **Prof Remus Zagan**; GMDSS Simulator **Prof Dr. Engr Codruta Pricop**; Deck Simulator **Prof Dr. Eugen Barsan** and **Dr. Engr Nicolaie Grosan**; Engine Room Simulator Lecturer **Catalin Faitar** and **Asst Viorel Grozav**; Senior Lecturer **Dr. Engr Ion Serbanescu**; Senior Chemistry Lab Lecturer **Dr. Irina Stanciu**; High Voltage Expert **Prof Dr. Marian Dordescu**; Marine & Technical Judicial Surveyor Expert **Prof. Engr. Dr. Andrei Murineanu**, the International Relations Staff Ms. **Maria Pavalache**, Institutional ERASMUS Coordinator Ms. **Roxana Iancu** and many significant others.

In addition to teaching and sharing my knowledge on the subject of Maritime Management, Logistics, Transport, Change Management Models, Mental Health Programs, Maritime Security, Green Shipping Technology Trends, and my experience and insights in influencing change in the maritime sector, I also learned the CMU best practices and various facilities for effective delivery of a global Maritime Education and Training. I would like to express my heartwarming experience using the Mnemonic **E-R-A-S-M-U-S P-L-U-S**, which my experiences and professional meetings stand for:

E- Enthralled by the leadership, various experts, facilities, equipment, and courses the Constanta Maritime University offers.

R- Reinforced further the strong cooperation between my institution- the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) Philippines, and our co-IAMU partner, the Constanta Maritime University (CMU), Romania, thru the possible development of digital and hybrid lessons, using a virtual component.

A- Added new friends and contacts in the process, which is suitable for global research, instruction, and partnerships as new friends with varied expertise (*local government agencies, educational sectors like universities, academies and training institutions, and smart transport sectors*), and at the same time, added value to the mobility (*in the context of the modernization and internationalization strategies*) between MAAP and CMU.

S-Supplemented my personal and professional knowledge and skills, for which I am most grateful. Indeed there is more room for continuous improvement.

M-Mesmerized on the arrangements and warm welcome provided by friends despite their busy schedule in both their personal and professional daily activities

U-understood and appreciated other cultures, the people, the hospitality, the food, and most significantly, the goodwill and friendships

S-Supported the planned activities by friends in CMU, like the intended activities for women empowerment, research publications, and online teaching based on shared interests and time.

P- Provided much confidence to collaborate and communicate with foreign friends and counterparts thru a direct channel for cooperation between faculties based on varied expertise as the basis for collaborations.

L –Learned more about other organizations, facilities and equipment, merchant terminologies, and the working environment of colleagues in a different academic setting. The Training facility's Integrated Complex **Simulators** include *Navigation and Ship Handling Simulator TRANSNAS Full Mission; Engine Room Simulator Kongsberg ERS Neptune MAN B & W 5L90MC-VLCC; GMDSS Simulator; Simulator for the Handling of Liquid Bulk Cargo; ECDIS Simulator; Dynamic Positioning* with Certificate of Affiliation from the Nautical Institute UK. What interested me most was the **PIECES II Simulator** for Emergency Situations. Speaking of **Laboratories**, CMU has an *Electronics Laboratory; Electrotechnics Laboratory; Digital and Analog Electronics Laboratory; Microwave, Antennas, and Radio wave Propagation Laboratory; and a Multifunctional Laboratory* (Workstation for Brake specific fuel consumption BSFC) to evaluate the efficiency of the internal combustion engines (ICE), Workstation for the study of combustion of liquid and gaseous fuels, Workstation for the study of fluid flow sediments, drive panel for the naval power steams, Operating Pumps in series or parallel, Diesel generators in the multifunctional laboratory preparation for the startup and supervision of operation and fluid mechanics laboratory and hydraulic actuators); *Hydrobiology Biodiversity and Ecotoxicology Laboratory* and *the Fire Fighting Container Training Polygon Laboratory*. What interested me most were the **five laboratories**: Holistic Impact of Renewable Energy Resources on Environment and Climate or **HORESEC Laboratory**; the **Chemistry Laboratory**; the **Waste Water Treatment Laboratory**; the **High Voltage Techniques and Electrical Drives Laboratory**; and the **3-D Printing Laboratory**. Also remarkable was the **Smart Energy Expo 2023** for the modernization of Constanta Romania Maritime Transport. I learned that as a maritime researcher and educator with varied disciplines, I can collaborate with scholars to create new information and knowledge.

U- United or integrated our joint expertise and had agreed to strengthen the partnerships through the use of technology for joint papers and projects.

S- Shared insights and snapshots with people at various places visited (offices, laboratories, campuses, home, church, lovely places), which documented the excellent ERASMUS plus experience.

Both **MAAP** and **CMU** are members of the International Association of Maritime Lecturers (**IMLA**) and the International Association of Maritime Universities (**IAMU**), which gathers maritime higher education institutions worldwide and aims to ensure the standardization of the teaching curricula in order to foster mobility and the gaining of the necessary competencies in facing the challenges of the global labor market.

The **CMU curriculum** is described based on learning outcomes and is graded using the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). All programs are validated through the CMU's quality assurance process. CMU recognizes the use of ECTS for the purposes of **international mobility**. The bilateral cooperation initiatives' activities result from the **ERASMUS+ Bureau's negotiations with foreign counterparts**.

MAAP offers **3 Bachelor's Degrees**: *Marine Transportation, Marine Engineering, and Marine Engineering and Transportation(Dual Course)*. Conversely, **CMU** offers **6 Bachelor's Degrees** (*Marine Engineering and Navigation Field, Navigation and Waterborne Transport; Marine Engineering, Electrical Engineering field; Engineering and management Field; Field of Electronic Engineering and Telecommunications and Field Environmental Engineering*).

MAAP and **CMU** are recognized by the **Japan Maritime Center** as certified institutions under the System of Recognition for MET institutions. Both MAAP and CMU graduates may join the Japanese Fleet without undergoing additional tests and acknowledgments.

CMU had signed **28 global cooperation agreements** with MET institutions worldwide, with **MAAP Philippines** included (*Ref: Signed Bilateral Agreement and MOU for 2022-2027*).

With so many fascinating facilities and personalities at CMU, this brief photo-documentation report is limited to a few selected work and maritime-related photos, with insights and brief descriptions because photos speak a thousand words. **Not included in this report are the so many souvenir photos with friends and their families** that made the ERASMUS plus journey even more incredible, memorable, and fun. Like in the Philippines, **Romanian families** have strong family ties, are very hospitable and generous, and treat me as part of the family even. Truly a heart-warming and beautiful experience that is worth keeping and remembering.

The ERASMUS PLUS (+) Teaching Mobility Souvenir Photos

* On June 1, 2023 CMU Senate President Dr. Prof Engr. Cornel Panait (former CMU Rector) said to wit **“You are the 1st Filipino Faculty of CMU”** *

(Part of the 2022010R001-KA171-HED-000064434 project initiated by the National Agency for Community Programs in the Field of Education and Vocational Training to promote international cooperation among international institutions around the world)

DEALING WITH COMPLEX POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (C/PTSD) CAUSED BY HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ON BOARD, IN THE MARITIME SECTOR AND DURING PIRATICAL ATTACKS AGAINST VESSELS

WISTA MEXICO OAS Move rights for more people CIP Inter American Caribbean on Parity Universidad Veracruzana

MENTAL HEALTH & MARITIME SECURITY
SECURITY FOR WOMEN AGAINST ATTACKS IN THE OCEAN

“Stay Strong. Stand the Storm. Shoulder to Shoulder. Side by Side. Support and Stand by each other.”

Prof. Angelica M. Baylon
Director for External Relations
At Marine Academy of Asia and the Pacific

Celebrating the IMO International Day for Women in Maritime 2023
18th of May 2023 Mexico 08:30 a 13:00 hrs | GMT-6

Supporters: UN WOMEN, WOMEN IN MARITIME, ILO, SJÖFARTSVERKET

Co-Organization: WISTA, Universidad de los Andes, COPECHE MEXICO, IC, IPIH, CSGL, KLU

Register Link: <https://www.uv.mx/veracruz/mcm/mhms/>

DEALING WITH COMPLEX POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (C/PTSD) CAUSED BY HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT ON BOARD, IN THE MARITIME SECTOR AND DURING PIRATICAL ATTACKS AGAINST VESSELS

PRESENTATIONS

THANKS TO ALL THE KEY SPEAKERS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT.

UN Women

Maria Noel Vaeza

Mental Health & Maritime Security

Seunghee Choi

Sustainability Through Mental Health Programs in Maritime Education & Training

What is Mental Health?

Angelica Baylon

Register Link: <https://www.uv.mx/veracruz/mcm/mhms/>

ERASMUS Project

Erasmus+

MAAAP Philippines and Constanta Maritime University

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR GREENER SHIPPING

Hosted by

Constanta Maritime University, Romania

Dr. Angelica M. Baylon
External Relations Director
Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific
Philippines

Erasmus+ Changing Lives. Opening Worlds.

UNIVERSITATEA MARITIMĂ CONSTANȚA

HOW TO INFLUENCE CHANGE IN THE MARITIME SECTOR?

Data: 24.05.2023
Ora: 15:00
Sala: P018
SEDIUL CENTRAL UMC

Dr. Angelica M Baylon
Maritime Academy of Asia and Pacific

ERASMUS + Teaching Mobility







UNIVERSITATEA MARITIMA



WELCOME FLOWERS (roses – red, white, yellow, pink, orange and maroon)

Received from friends and their families that brought smiles, cheers, and good wishes. The same **fresh ROSES** were offered to the Blessed Holy Trinity, Mama Mary, and holy Angels and Saints with prayers for my good friends and loved ones at the **Chapel of the Romanian Naval Academy,**



At the **CMU Nautica Base** Strada Cuarțului 2, Constanța Romania Main and the **CMU Main Campus** Strada Mircea cel Bătrân 104, Constanța Romania 900663, <https://cmu-edu.eu/en/>

Welcome Visit and Meeting with the experts and counterparts



With the amazing CMU Lady Rector **Prof. Univ. Dr. Ing. Violeta-Vali Ciucur**







Met with essential personalities, leaders, and professors of CMU and discussed the way **forward for the international cooperation** between MAAP and CMU as our co-IAMU member.

At the **HORESEC** (Holistic Impact of the Renewable Energy Resources on Environment and Climate) Laboratory, at the Nautica Base Constanta Maritime University

With **Dr. Prof. Fanel Viorel Panitescu** of the **HORESEC Renewable Energy Laboratory** and **Dr. Mariana Panaitescu** of the **Environmental Engineering Laboratory**, Department of Engineering Sciences in Mechanics and Environment





The HORESEC Laboratory consists of various equipment combining wind photovoltaic and renewable energy systems. The system was entirely designed and built at CMU to test on-grid and off-grid operation efficiency. The **HORESEC project** supports smart specialization of energy through the holistic analysis of the impact of energy sources on climate change, achieving the evolution, and the progress of knowledge for the **sustainable development** of the University and Romania in general.

At the **High Voltage Techniques and Electrical Drives Laboratory**, Nautica Base, CMU

(With High Voltage expert **Prof Dr. Marian Dordescu** and Electromechanics Faculty **Dean Prof Dr Engr. Stan Liviu Constantin**)



The laboratory trains students enrolled in **Electrical Engineering** and **Electromechanics** within the Faculty of Marine Engineering in compliance with the STCW Code with Manila Amendments, which become compulsory starting on January 1, 2017; **marine engine** and **electrician officers** must acquire competencies in the operation of **High Voltage Systems** which are to be found on board of the newest modern maritime vessels. The laboratory is also used to train and certify seagoing maritime personnel and qualified staff on exploiting high-voltage electric plants. The laboratory comprises **two sections**: one dedicated to **electrical driver equipment**, having 8-state of the art working stations, and one dedicated to the **high-voltage electrical plant**, which features actual equipment that can be found in natural power plants.

At the **Waste Water Treatment Laboratory**, Nautica Base, CMU



The state of Art equipment allows for the **laboratory analysis of wastewater** and experimental techniques for environmental monitoring, qualitative analysis, and testing and diagnosis of environmental factors. **Introductory chemistry** is very much applied in this Engineering Laboratory.

At the **Chemistry Laboratory**, CMU Main Campus



As a chemist, I enjoyed my ERASMUS and the Maritime Chemistry Laboratory visit and had fun with **Dr. Irina Stanciu**. In maritime, only general chemistry is taught, not advanced chemistry. Mostly basic principles like REDOX (Reduction and Oxidation reaction) to explain the reason behind the rusting of iron or corrosion, the principle of acidity and basicity, which can be tested using various indicators like phenolphthalein, PH papers, etc., the various gas laws, etc. Indeed, Chemistry is so much fun! Missed teaching Chemistry, which is my field of expertise (MS and Ph.D. in Chemistry). Nevertheless, the knowledge and analytical skills acquired in Chemistry made me **explain scientific phenomena** in maritime in simple and easy-to-understand terms. All seafarers **must know basic chemistry** to appreciate and understand the wonders of science and how to present, control, prevent, mitigate, solve, and contribute to **greener shipping for a sustainable maritime industry**.

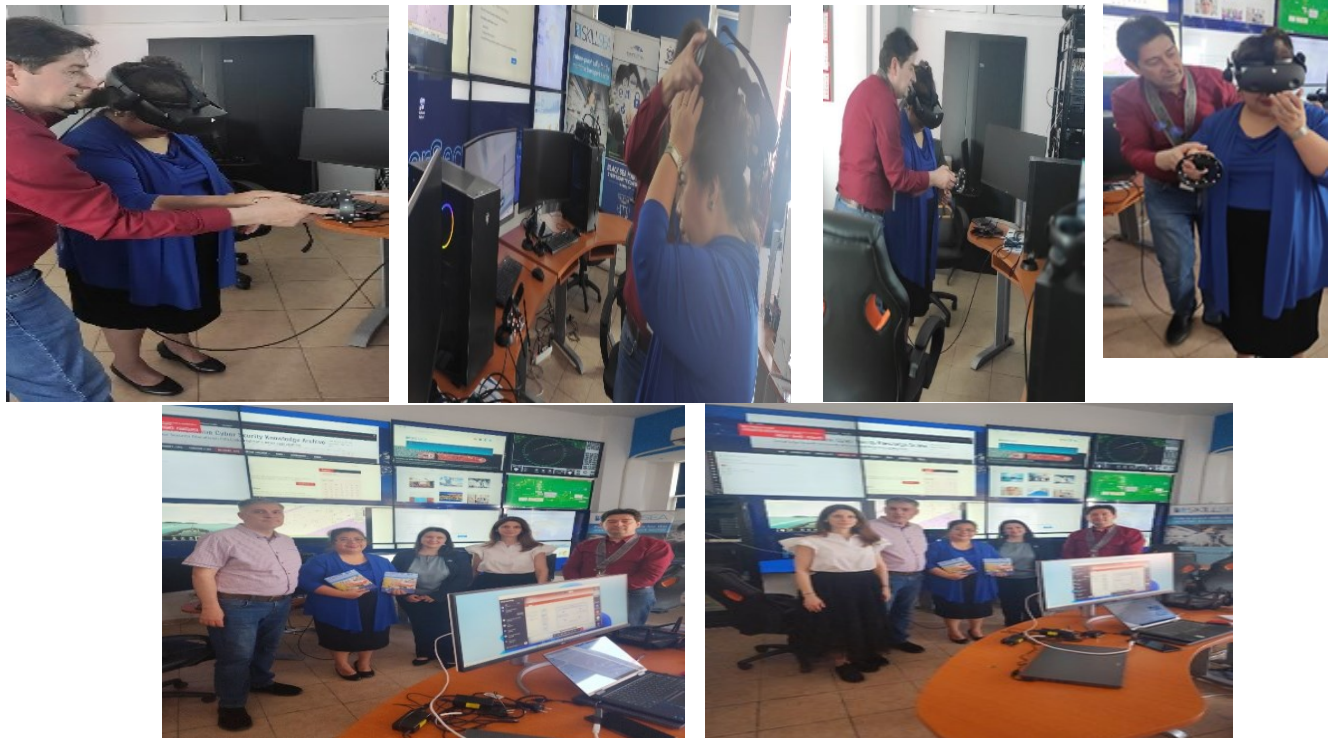
At the **3-D Printing Laboratory**, CMU Main Campus (With Computer-aided graphics expert **Dr. Alexandra Raicu**)



There are a number of **benefits to adopting 3D print techniques** for educational institutions in the maritime industry. One can repair a vessel while she is at sea, as this will temporarily stop any safety or efficiency issues until a port or dry dock can be reached. In the marine industry, **3D printing** is already being used to manufacture several items like propeller parts, accessories, etc. In the future, the industry is looking forward to more applications in the construction of ships and submarines. Thank you to **Alexandra** for the souvenir sample small vessel prototype made using the **3D printer at CMU**, as shown in the photo. On the other hand, the Navy also uses 3D printing (additive manufacturing) to produce everything from tiny plastic clips to large-scale proof of concepts of submarine hulls. Sailors' print spare parts aboard ships, use 3D printing to test prototypes, and even manufacture custom drones. A photo of a sample of a small 3D printer was taken during my visit to the **Romanian Naval Academy**. The 3D laboratory interests me because **MAAP** also has a 3D printer in the Innovation Center for similar purposes.

At the **Maritime Cyber security Center of Excellence**, Constanta Maritime University (CMU) Main Campus

In addition to participating in the MAAP Virtual Seminar on MAAP cyber security policy and guidelines on **May 24, 2023 (4AM Romanian Time)**. I got interested to the CMU Cybersecurity Center of Excellence. Thanks to **Dr. Cristina Dragomir**, who brought and introduced me to important experts (Vice-Rector for Scientific Research and Innovation **Dr. Gabriel Raicu**, Computer aided-Graphics **Dr. Alexandra Raicu**, and Mechanical Engineering (VR) **Prof Remus Zagan**). CMU provided brochures and also made me try the virtual reality gadgets at the center.



Trusted when it comes to safeguarding systems, the center works with **National Cybersecurity Directorate**, Romanian **government agencies**, and **private companies** to identify and close skill gaps. The center offers basic, advanced, and mandated training solutions customized to needs and handled by the best instructors. The center provides **training to IT security professionals** who serve on the frontline of cybersecurity defense teams, maritime and harbor companies, and various organizations in the labor market. Students learn the latest **offensive and defensive tactics** and how to apply them to real-world scenarios. Their courses are meant to push boundaries that prepare students with **actionable insights** and **proven strategies**.

At the **PIECES II SIMULATOR** for **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**, Constanta Maritime University (CMU) Main Campus

(With **Prof Dr. Fanel Viorel Panaitescu** showing & brilliantly explaining Scenarios)



The **Potential Incident Simulator Control and Evaluation System (PIECES)** is organized so the trainer can launch **pollution scenarios** towards the student workstations. They can virtually use various resources from a library to limit pollution and retrieve and annihilate the polluting substance.

The **pollution accidents** that may be simulated are the discharge of Hydrocarbon into the sea and the discharge of toxic and radioactive gas into the air. The **PIECES II Simulator** is also provided with the Module “*Management of Critical Situations*” which can be used in case of forest fires, pollution of water with Hydrocarbon, accidents with hazardous cargo, searching and saving operations following naval and aircraft accidents, and terrorist attacks.



At the Sky Bar By Impera Constanta, Downtown Building Strada Stefan cel Mare nr2 Romania <https://adl.anmb.ro/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=10359&parent=13373>

Sponsored by Maersk line in cooperation with Constanta Maritime University, a Life at Sea Sharing Session for Women, May 26, 2023) with **Dr. Cristina Dragomir** and **Dr. Luminita Stan** of Constanta Maritime University (CMU) and with the Vice Dean for Scientific Research and International Relations Marine Engineering Faculty of Mircea cel Batran Naval Academy **Dr. Edith Hilde -Kaiter**. Thanks to Maersk Marine People Advisor **Ms. Rebecca Acujboae** & all the lovely Romanian women in maritime.



**Life at sea
Sharing sessions 2.0
Women's Edition**

When? 26 May 2023, starting 16:30.
Where? Informal gathering at Sky Bar by Impera, Constanta, Downtown Building, Strada Ștefan cel Mare nr.2

Va invităm pentru a participa alături de colegiile noastre, ce au ales o carieră pe mare la un eveniment informal, ce are ca scop împărtășirea de experiențe și de sfaturi utile!

Vom avea o teleconferință interesantă despre parcursul pe mare cu realizări și provocări, susținută de C/O Justyna, colega noastră din Polonia, urmată de o sesiune de Q&A, snack break și timp să socializăm!

Acest eveniment este dedicat doamnelor și domnișoarelor interesate de cariera de navigator, necesară fiind doar confirmarea participării în prealabil pe mailul nostru: MFMTMPPEU@maersk.com.



TOGETHER ALL THE WAY





Very timely to have networked with co-empowered women as part of this **ERASMUS plus mobility project** while in Constanta, Romania. At the outset, it can be surmised that the 2018-2019 IAMU-funded Gender Equality and Cultural Awareness in Maritime Education and Training or **GECAMET Project**, ably led by **CMU Prof Dr. Cristina Dragomir**, is still actively involved in various women empowerment activities with Maersk Line as a partner. After her IAMU-funded **Digital Skills Project led by Dr. Dragomir**, this 2023 - 2024, another IAMU Funded **VILSMAR project** is led by **CMU Prof. Dr. Cristina Dragomir**. It is worth noting that with more than 70 institutional members at IAMU, many of us submit funding proposals; however, only 4-6 project proposals were annually considered for funding. **CMU** is regularly included in IAMU-funded projects through its lead proponent – **CMU Prof Dr. Cristina Dragomir**, a rare gem of CMU. Her impressive, notable, and well-written proposals with global impact are always considered by IAMU. MAAP as a co-IAMU member is a happy and honored partner of CMU through the commendable IAMU –funded projects of **Dr Prof Cristina Dragomir**.

At the **Mamaia Exhibition Center**, Bulevardul Mamaia 331A, Constanța

For the **SMART ENERGY EXPO – Smart Transportation Technology**

(May 23 - May 28, 2023) www.ccina.ro and m.youtube.com for more details

(With CMU Smart Transport and Logistic Expert **Dr. Prof Cristina Dragomir**)



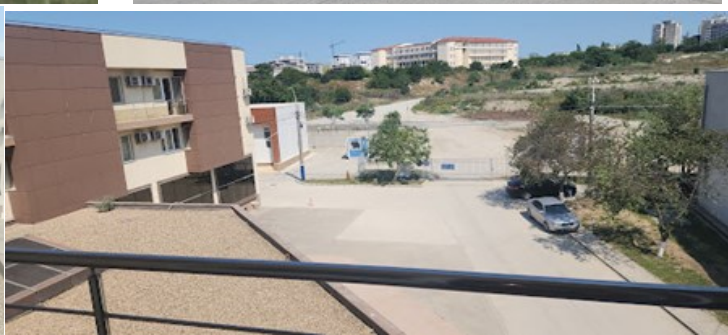


At the **Ovidius University of Constanta** (popular Medical School) in Aleea Universității nr. 1, Campus-corp A, etaj 1, 900470 Constanta Romania <https://admission.univ-ovidius.ro/v2/> , walking distance to the CMU Nautica Base

The University has study programs in medical and natural sciences, humanities and engineering, social and economic sciences, law and administrative sciences, theology, and arts.

Out of curiosity, I entered the building. On the ground floor, I saw in each room some hospital beds having human specimens covered with white bed sheets. I asked the Professors if the specimens were **real human corpses**, and they confirmed, so I immediately got out of the building with **no photo souvenirs** taken within the University. Ovidius University is the largest University in **South-East Romania** and the largest University of the **European Union in the Black Sea**.

My room at CMU Nautica Base overlooks **Ovidius University**, as shown on the room terrace.



**At the Mircea Cel Batran Naval Academy, 1st Furlgerului Street,
Constanta 900218 Romania www.anmb.ro (First Filipino to visit)**

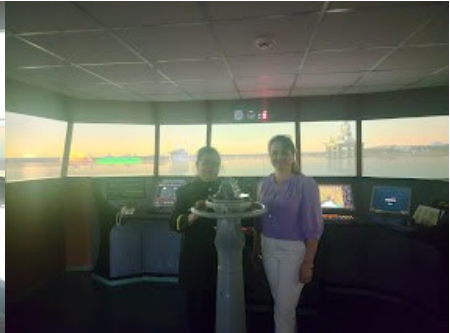
The Vice-Dean for Scientific Research and International Relations, Marine Engineering Faculty, **Dr. Edith-Hilde Kaiter**, invited me to visit the Naval Academy. As a commissioned navy officer of the Philippine Navy (LCDR rank), I was honored to enter and tour the Naval Academy in Romania for the first time. Thank to Dr. Kaiter's former students (more than 10 years ago), namely LCDR **Sergiu Șerban**, from the Faculty of Navigation and **LCDR, Dr. Eng. Ovidiu Cristea**, the Head of Tactics and Naval Armament Department who toured and presented the various naval educational and training facilities. **Dr. Cristea** also shared online unclassified educational resources found on the website, which the Philippines may use as references, like the "*Allied Maritime Tactical Signal and Maneuvering Book*" by NATO, to cite a few.

The Philippines has the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) and Naval Education Training Center (NETC) but no Naval Academy. Exceptional Filipinos accepted were sent to study at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. My very first tour of a Naval Academy was in Constanta, Romania, and the students were all from Europe, as per the Flags raised within the campus. Honored to be the **first Filipino** to visit their campus, allowed to enter, tour, and enjoy their educational and training facilities at the Faculty of Navigation and Naval Management, Faculty of Marine Engineering, and Faculty of Navigation and Integrated Simulator. Amazed and impressed with the naval, engine, and deck training facilities, especially the high-level simulation activities provided to the naval students like robotics, communication systems, tornado, etc. All their graduates are certainly alert and ready for any unfortunate situations.

Once again, thanks to **Dr. Kaiter**, who also handed me souvenirs and the 241-page book authored by her entitled "*Vocabulary and Reading Tests for Electro Mechanics*". Yes, in my lifetime, I have been at **Romanian Naval Academy** in Constanta, Romania, in my Major General (Interpol) Uniform, which shall be reported to MAAP President **VAdm. Eduardo Ma R. Santos, AFP (Ret)** (former Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy) and to TAOIC-INTERPOL **Director General Galma Arcilla** upon return to the Philippines!

Once again, I passed by the **Navy Chapel** to glorify and thank the good Lord!







At the Main Campus of Constanta Maritime University

Strada Mircea cel Bătrân 104, Constanța 900663

<https://cmu-edu.eu/en/>

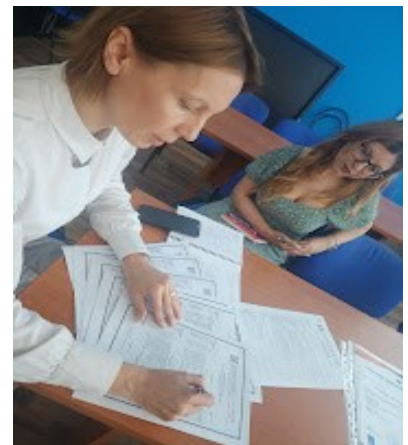
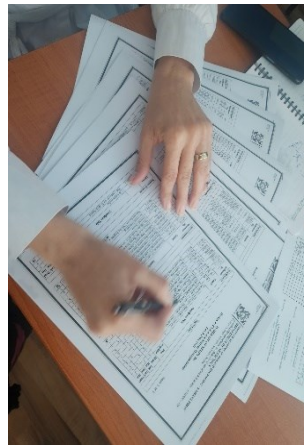
Met with the Hon. President Senate, **Dr. Prof. Engr. Cornel Panait** and **Dr. Nicoleta Acomi** for the Way Forward between MAAP Philippines and CMU Romania. This ERASMUS + report will not be complete without a visit and meeting with our dear **Dr. Prof. Engr. Cornel Panait**, former CMU Rector and now CMU President of the Senate, is one of the most respected and valued pioneering members of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) and the prime mover of the Constanta Maritime University. In the presence of Vice Dean **Dr. Prof Engr. Nicoleta Acomi**, Dr. Panait said, and I quote – *“Dr. Baylon, You are the First Filipino Faculty of Constanta Maritime University.”* This was repeated twice by **Dr. Panait** because I kindly requested him to repeat what he said to confirm if I heard it correctly. Indeed, I was honored to hear from the well-regarded **Prof Panait** for considering me as the CMU First Filipino faculty.

Indeed, the signed MOU between MAAP and CMU, coupled with the strong partnership thru **ERASMUS + Teaching Mobility**, made it possible for me to visit CMU and be the **first Filipino** to teach at CMU, with lovely accommodations accorded to Professors at the CMU nautical base. On behalf of MAAP President and IMO Goodwill Ambassador, **Vadm. Eduardo Ma R Santos, AFP (Ret)**, I had the honor to have had a photo with **CMU Hon. President Senate Dr. Prof Engr Cornel Panait** at his office, with the signed partnership between CMU & MAAP President. He sends his high regards to Admiral Santos & he looks forward to Admiral Santos's visit to CMU Romania **any day, any time.**



We also discussed the way forward for MAAP and CMU and to continue the good partnerships using technology with online teaching as an example.

As shown in the photo, **Dr. Nicoleta Acomi** reviewed the MAAP curriculum of undergraduate and graduate programs vis-à-vis the CMU curriculum. We have thoroughly discussed common courses offered, and we will arrange online teaching every semester. A certificate can also be awarded to our respective faculty who have rendered their expertise online. **Ms. Roxana Iancu**, the ERASMUS coordinator, manifested her appreciation for MAAP's fast action in signing the bilateral agreement and also the fast approval of their invitation to send me to Constanta Maritime University for the teaching and staff mobility project for a start as ERASMUS coordinator for MAAP. She said that dealing with MAAP is smooth and fast; hence coordination is timely, even on short notice.



On photo is ERASMUS coordinator **Ms. Roxana Iancu**, **Dr Nicoleta Acomi** ,
me and **Prof. Engr. Dr. Andrei Murineanu**



Dr. Acomi is a **co- AFNI (Fellow of the Nautical Institute, UK)** and **co-MIMarEST (member of the Institute of Marine Engineering , Science and Technology, UK)** , and also a **co- member** of the TRANSNAV Scientific Program Council by the Gdynia Maritime University Poland.

Gdynia Maritime University Poland in cooperation with Nautical Institute (NI) will be celebrating its 15th Jubilee International Conference on “*Marine Navigation and Safety of Sea Transportation* “ or TRANSNAV2023 from **21-23 June 2023** (Wednesday-Friday) in Gdynia, Poland which we both have been invited to participate and present a paper.

Truly an asset of CMU, **Dr. Acomi** recently **represented CMU and IAMU** in the IMO meeting in London on the **10-19 May 2023**. Dr. Nicoleta Acomi participated in the 10th session of the **IMO’s Sub-committee of Navigation and Search and Rescue (NSCR)** which took place at IMO headquarters in London. Empowered by the trust placed in her, she provided to IAMU, strategic recommendations for the future of education and training in the maritime sector. This meeting offered a valuable opportunity for industry and academic professionals to discuss the skills required for future maritime careers.

Dr. Nicoleta Acomi AFNI, CMarTech, MIMarEST, with **Ms. Roxana Iancu**, awarded me the Teaching certificate signed by the **CMU Rector Prof. Univ. Dr. Ing Violeta-Vali Ciucur**, a proof that indeed, I have completed the tasks and the first Filipino Faculty to teach in Constanta Maritime University as pronounced by **CMU Senate President Dr. Prof Engr Cornel Panait**, the former Rector made possible thru the ERASMUS plus mobility program.



Also, for the fourth time in CMU, I met deck cadet **Angelica Gonciar** who is taking her second BS degree at CMU and this time in maritime. Indeed CMU successfully attracts women to pursue a rewarding career in the maritime profession, not just as ordinary seafarers but as future officers.

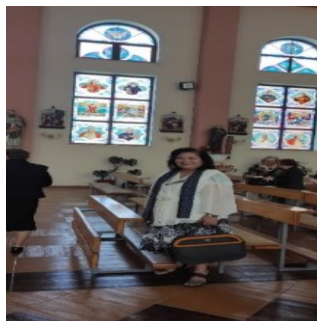


MAAP, under the pioneer leadership of **MAAP President VAdm Santos**, since its establishment in 1998, has produced the Philippines first female master mariner (Captain Maria Kristina B. Javellana and the first female with Master Mariner and DP license in Asia, Captain Jasmin Labarda) and the first female Chief Engineer Nina Sue Da Silva . All of these women officers are active seafarers , manning the vessel of international fleets.

At the **Padre Pio Basilica Catholic Church**, Bulevardul Alexandru
Lăpuşneanu 161, Constanța 900001 Constanta Romania



Biserica Catolică "Sf. Pius din Pietrelcina" - Padre Pio - Constanța



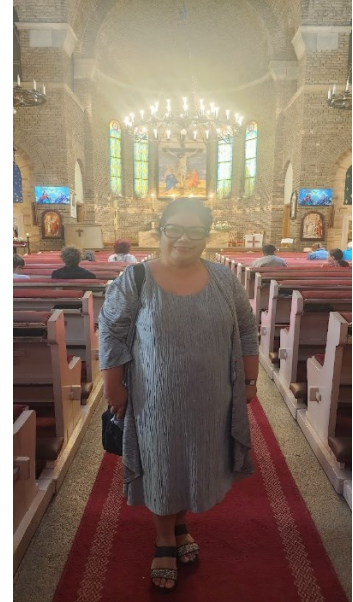
Thanking **St Father Pio** for his prayers and kind intercession to my mother. When his relic (heart) was brought to the Manila Cathedral ten years ago. We were there, and after the visit, my mother regained her health and started walking again. My mother is a strong devotee of Padre Pio.

<https://arcb.ro/website/arhidieceza/parohii-si-cler/parohii-diecezane/parohia-sfantul-pius-din-pietrelcina/> .

At the St Anthony De Padua Basilica Catholic Church,

Strada Nicolae Titulescu, Constanța Romania 900735

https://www.litoralulromanesc.ro/en/biserica_sfanton.htm



Sunday Mass at St. Anthony De Padua Catholic Church in Constanta, Romania. St. Anthony De Padua is the patron saint of my mother, **Antonina Grace Maximo – Gutierrez**. Dedicated the Mass to my mother and thanked St. Anthony De Padua for his prayers and divine intercession. Strong faith that my prayers be granted by the good Lord.





Thanking my mother who always include me in her prayers. Never thought that in my lifetime, I would be invited by **Constanta Maritime University** in Romania, by the **University of Split** in Croatia, and by the **Gydnia Maritime University** in Poland for professional maritime involvement for almost two months in Europe this May– June 2023. Always thanking the Good Lord and offering thanksgiving Mass and prayers wherever I am. Everything happens for a purpose and reason in God’s time.

CONCLUDING REMARKS



The ERASMUS+ mobility provided an excellent opportunity for my **personal and professional growth**, beneficial for **my institution MAAP** and **all organizations I am affiliated with**. Having met various experts, faculties, and my counterparts in the field of Chemistry, Physics, Math, Engineering, Environmental Education, Business Administration, Maritime Education, Training, and Internationalization, I have noted some of the best practices.

CMU has an **Institutional Gender Equality Plan (GEP)**. We discussed GEP change aspects and CMU implementing the GEP action plan. I noted CMU's various initiatives and actions to empower more women for STEM (Science, Technology, Math) education in maritime. I had discussed with maritime Romanian ladies about international experiences as women in maritime and some of the gender issues. Also discussed was the possible role and opportunity for MAAP to join the **EUMENT-ENT** as an institutional member of the European Network for Mentoring Programmes for the Advancement of Equal Opportunities and Cultural and Institutional Change in Academia and Research. Understanding what are the benefits of MAAP in becoming part of the network and the network's expectations from MAAP. EUMENT-ENT has **Mentoring Programmes** for the Advancement of opportunities and cultural and institutional change in Academia and Research. CMU **Dr. Prof Cristina Dragomir** is very active on these initiatives, which we in

MAAP actively support as co-partner of **IAMU-funded GECAMET** and **VILSMAR projects**.

CMU also has a **Mentoring Program** that we in MAAP are doing for our students who need to catch up or need further reinforcement to ensure they will pass, be better, and be promoted to the next level. This mobility is an opportunity to compare work methods. It provided an outstanding first-hand experience with foreign academic counterparts in learning how to build a successful track for potential leaders among our research students. Vice-Rector for student relations, economic and social environment **Dr. Engr. Radu Hanzu-Pazara** is very active in **Mentoring Programs**, which we in MAAP support. He, along with other CMU and MAAP professors, was involved in online teaching for MAAP and CMU students, which students greatly appreciated, especially during the pandemic. We intend to continue it as an output of this ERASMUS + project.

Impressed with **Cyber security** and **3D Printing** initiatives, I am also very much amazed by the Holistic Impact of Renewable Energy Sources on Environments and Climate or **HORESEC Laboratory** and the **Wastewater Treatment Laboratory** for the University's sustainability, which is also very visible from the expertise of the respective managers (**Dr. Prof Fanel Viorel Panaitecu** and **Dr. Prof Mariana Panaitecu**) and faculty, and also from the undergraduate and graduate environmental course offerings coupled by the massive amount of grants received for the projects.

CMU has a Journal of Marine Technology and Environment (JMTE), www.jmtu.eu, with **Chief Editor Dr. Prof. Engr. Mariana Panaitecu**. JMTE is an indexed crossref with DOI for articles with MAAP (**Vadm Santos** and **yours truly** indeed as members of the editorial board since 2015). Both MAAP and CMU agreed to continue supporting each other thru the review of papers, submission of articles for publications, and possible joint papers.

CMU Romania and MAAP Philippines also agreed to continue the **Online Lecturing Program** of MAAP faculty to CMU students and CMU faculty to MAAP students, based on common topics being taught in the BSMT and BSMarE program and also in the MSMT and MSMarE graduate programs at CAMS–MAAP. We will arrange it based on a typical convenient time and schedule. **Prof Engr. Dr. Nicoleta Acomi AFNI, CMarTech, MIMarEST** discussed the CMU initiatives in having their

Dynamic Positioning (DP) Laboratory affiliated and accredited by the Nautical Institute UK, which we in MAAP is inspired to also do the same, considering that MAAP was recently recognized this 2023 as a **NI-IMarEST Center of Excellence in MET**.

For every great opportunity, there is a corresponding responsibility that goes with it. Being grateful and motivated by the privileges and opportunities granted to me inspired me to do the best of my capabilities thru God's help and overflowing grace. Indeed, this wonderful professional experience made me represent my institution MAAP as a **global Filipino citizen** being able to represent values of women's inclusivity and diversity in Higher Education Institutions in line with **SDG 4** (Quality Education) , **SDG 5** (Women Empowerment and Inclusivity) , and **SDG 17** (Global Partnership).

This ERASMUS Plus experience shall serve as an inspiration to be a productive and nurturing human being as God's instrument for His greater honor and glory. I saw and felt God's power and love in this ERASMUS-plus journey. The experience also added another first in the history of my career as the **FIRST FILIPINO** and also the pioneer MAAP Director and **first ERASMUS coordinator** for MAAP, ever invited in Romania by **Constanta Maritime University** and also by the **Mircea cel Batran Naval Academy** this **2023**, in their campus which I shall forever cherish as long as I live!

Thank you, **CMU**. Thank you **MAAP**. Thank you, **ERASMUS +**, and to all those **important people and friends** who made this professional journey possible for me in my lifetime.

To God be the Glory and Honor!