

IMO's World Maritime Day 25 June

Theme: A Fair Future for Seafarers

On Day of the Seafarer 2021 IMO envisaged what a 'Fair Future for Seafarers will look like

The Day of the Seafarer, held on 25 June every year, draws global attention to the contribution that seafarers make to world trade.

As the world slowly moves through the pandemic, it is more important than ever not only to acknowledge the efforts that seafarers have made to keeping the supply chain open despite extremely challenging conditions, but also to ensure that the future being built is one that is fair to them. This is why IMO's 2021 Day of the Seafarer campaign chose the theme: **A Fair Future for Seafarers**.

Continued restrictions

For a second year IMO marked this day as hundreds of thousands of seafarers continue to face restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Access to repatriation, shore leave and medical support all continue to be a challenge. Although there has been a significant reduction in the number of seafarers caught up in the crew change crisis, the numbers remain unacceptably high.

As key workers, seafarers should be entitled to priority vaccination and allowed to travel without restrictions. IMO continues to urge more IMO Member States to give seafarers their due and designate them as key workers.

Currently only 60 IMO Member States have designated seafarers as key workers.

IMO will continue to work with sister UN Agencies, industry and member states in support of seafarers.

Secretary-General's message

In his message on the Day of the Seafarer, IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said: *'Our 2021 Day of the Seafarer campaign builds on the progress to support seafarers on pandemic-related challenges. It aims to draw global attention to all areas where fairness is important. This includes a safe, secure environment on ships, reasonable working conditions, fair treatment in all*

situations, as well as respect for the rights of all – regardless of race, gender and religion.

‘I am especially pleased that IMO will be amplifying the voices of seafarers themselves as they discuss what a fairer future would look like to them under the hashtag #FairFuture4Seafarers.

‘Seafarers, we are listening – and we will make sure you are heard.’

**Readers are invited to see IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim
in the 2021 Day of the Seafarer video to be found here:**

[Day of the Seafarer 2021 - Video message from the Secretary-General - YouTube](#)

And from the UN Secretary-General

In his message on the Day of the Seafarer, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said: *‘Seafarers must be recognized as key workers who deliver an essential service, and be given access to transit and travel. Seafarers must also have equitable access to vaccines, as nobody is safe until everyone is safe...We must acknowledge that the future of world trade depends on the people who operate ships. All stakeholders must work together to ensure a fair future for seafarers.’*

IMO used this year’s theme across various IMO social media platforms to ask seafarers what this fair future means to them.