



SPEAKER PROFILE

Yrrhen Bernard Balinis

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Country Lead
Ocean Centres Philippines

Yrrhen Bernard Sabanal Balinis is a seafarer by profession, with over seven years of international seagoing experience across various vessel types. He currently serves as the Country Lead of Ocean Centres Philippines, a long-term initiative hosted by the United Nations Global Compact and supported by the Lloyd's Register Foundation, with the global vision of putting safety at the heart of sustainability.

Yrrhen Bernard combines his maritime background with leadership roles in both international and local organizations.

He is the Founder of the Youth in Maritime Organization (YIMO), where he leads initiatives focused on youth development, mentorship, and start-up leadership within the maritime sector. Yrrhen Bernard is deeply engaged with the United Nations system. He served as the youngest International Maritime Organization (IMO) Goodwill Maritime Ambassador at the age of 23. He is also part of the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) pool of experts, as well as affiliated with The Nautical Institute, the Royal Institute of Navigation, and Human Rights at Sea (HRAS), where he serves as a Non-Executive Director. His work spans youth advocacy, human rights, and maritime development, representing the interests of seafarers and coastal communities.

