



GUIDE

Competent crew – key to success

WALLENIUS  MARINE

Intro

With the need to spend weeks carrying out often strenuous, monotonous and sometimes unlikable tasks, a competent, closely knit crew and an environment where people feel at home are essential. It is Wallenius Marine's firm belief that investing in further education and relaxing surroundings is what makes the crew go the extra mile.

“ One of the best things about being a Wallenius Marine employee is that while we're from different countries and cultures, we all feel equal.

TEXT KARIN ANDERSSON PHOTO JONAS TOBIN

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In the engine room of m/v TITUS, 25-year-old Jay-R Fajela picks up his walkie-talkie and answers a question from another crew member while checking a monitor. As 3rd Engineer, his main responsibilities are the auxiliary machineries connected to the main engine, such as boilers and separators, and managing the bilge and sludge systems.

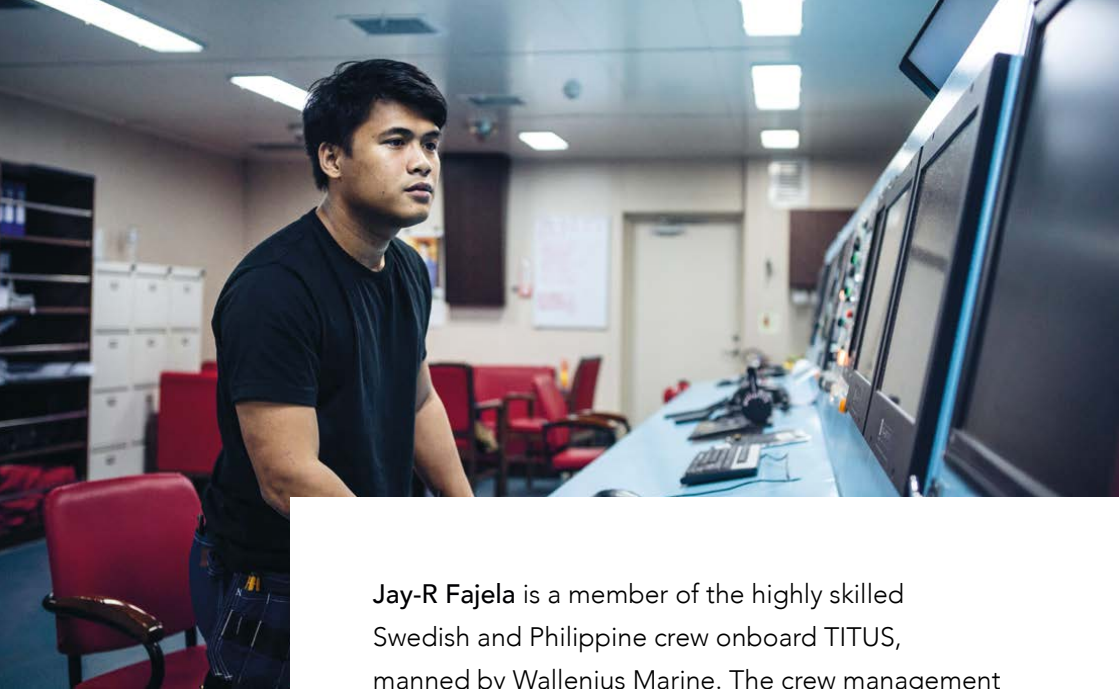
It's his first assignment onboard TITUS, and being new at the job, it's important for him to get along and work well together with his colleagues.

“ *Everyone onboard works together. If there's a problem, we solve it as a team.* ”

Working as 3rd Engineer is a tough and sometimes monotonous job and can mean many hours in a hot, greasy engine room. Hence, it's important for the crew to be able to really switch off and get well rested once off-duty.

For Jay-R, this means that almost every evening, he watches a movie in the TV room together with the engine crew. He also likes

to use the ship's gym or outside pool for some exercise, and once in a while the crew plays table tennis together.



Jay-R Fajela is a member of the highly skilled Swedish and Philippine crew onboard TITUS, manned by Wallenius Marine. The crew management service includes everything concerning the onboard staff, allowing the ship owner to focus on their core business. The dedicated crew management team assures that the crew hold all necessary certificates and have undertaken trainings according to international rules and regulations.

Wallenius Marine also takes on the important responsibility to provide not only a safe and efficient working environment, but also a place where the crew can feel at home.

For Jay-R, this means that almost every evening, he watches a movie in the TV room together with the engine crew. He also likes to use the ship's gym or outside pool for some exercise, and once in a while the crew plays table tennis together.

“After a long day's hard work, being able to relax is really valuable. Getting that opportunity onboard isn't something I take for granted.”

It is lunchtime on the ship – on today's menu is a mix between Swedish and Filipino cuisine. The mess room is spacious and light, and conversations in different languages are held across the tables.

3rd Officer Roberto Avellanosa (who also happens to be the ship's pro bono barber) appreciates the multicultural atmosphere onboard:

"One of the best things about being a Wallenius Marine employee is that while we're from different countries and cultures, we all feel equal. Everyone can speak out and get their voice heard."

Roberto heads back to his cabin, where he calls his wife and two young daughters via Skype. It will be another three months until he sees them the next time.

"Even though I'm out at sea, I'm always able to communicate with my family. And the Wi-Fi signal is strong no matter where you are on the ship," he says.





One of the things that makes these vessels managed by Wallenius Marine unique is the extra care about the interiors. The interior is very nice-looking with solid furniture in dark wood, green plants and plush couch pillows, but what is most noticeable is the original artwork that adorns the walls of the ship, purely for the crew's pleasure.

Klara Andersson, currently 3rd Engineer on m/v FIGARO, has been a Wallenius Marine employee for ten years. She believes that the environment on the ships – as well as the many common areas and large cabins, tailored to the needs of the crew – contributes to everyone's wellbeing.

"Working at sea is demanding and challenging, so the quality of life onboard is really important for the crew, especially when you're away from home during such long periods at a time," she says.

For Klara, it makes a huge difference. "The atmosphere is great onboard, we're like a big family," she continues. "And, I learn something new every day."

The ongoing upskilling guarantees that employees onboard are up to date with the latest regulations and standards, but also that they are continually improving their skills and adding to their competences for each year they stay at sea.

Wallenius Marine works hard with safety, both at sea and onshore. The crew onboard the Wallenius Marine managed vessel learn from one another and stay updated on safety matters through a regularly fleet-wide newsletter. Klara explains that every ship has monthly safety drills to ensure that everyone knows how to act in a crisis situation. But it starts with the small doings.

” Just as important as knowing what to do if there’s a blackout or if someone falls overboard is the everyday actions such as wearing hearing protectors or other necessary safety equipment.



In all bathrooms, there is a sticker on the mirror that says: *This is the person who is responsible for your safety today.* A reminder to everyone onboard to stay focused. And being capable of making the right choices might just come down to being happy at work.

“A highly motivated staff is more efficient, competent and pays higher attention to safety,” Klara concludes.

In the engine room, Jay-R Fajela is done working for the day. But before heading up to enjoy the evening, he checks the monitors one last time to make sure that everything is in order.

“We look out for each other onboard – no one is left behind,” he says, and adds with a smile:

” *Happy crew,
happy ship.*





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Wallenius Marine offers a complete and sustainable shipping service – from innovative design and newbuilding to ship management. We always take on a long-term perspective. Our integrated way of working, where operational feedback is used to optimize the design and enhance performance, goes into next generation of vessels.