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Ph, Jap join hands to promote disaster-resilient ports



The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), in cooperation with the Japan Overseas Port Cooperation Association (JOPCA), held the second Ph-Jap Port Seminar for Disaster Prevention at the Manila Diamond Hotel on February 3, 2016.

The delegates pose for a souvenir photo. The participants are expected to chip in their respective share in the development of sustainable, clean and disaster-resilient ports.

The whole-day event, which also attracted several partner-agencies like the Department of Transportation and Communications, MLIT, OCDI, SCOPE, WAVE and CDIT and supported by JICA, was attended by close to 120 stakeholders—a combination of Japanese and Filipino delegates from the different participating agencies.

JOPCA President Mr. Tatsuhiko Ikeda opened the event highlighting the accomplishments of JOPCA in the areas of crisis management and disaster prevention while PPA Officer-In-Charge Raul T. Santos welcomed the guests and participants.

In his welcome address, Mr. Santos said that it was with great honor for the PPA to co-organize the event stressing that the PPA has a soft spot for Japanese non-government agencies being the recipient of numerous grants from

Japan for technical studies or for the development of the Philippines' gateway ports and other maritime-related developments.

JICA country representative Noriaki Niwa, on the other hand, enumerated the different projects that JICA has undertaken for the past couple of years with the Philippine government. He stressed that ports are essential to the entire supply chain that they need to be developed to facilitate transportation in the country and boost economic activity.

Niwa also emphasized on the need of the Philippines to design disaster resilient ports in light of the 7.3 magnitude Bohol earthquake in October of 2013 and the devastation of Cyclone Haiyan in November of the same year.

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Ph hosts 1st ASEAN Sustainable Port Dev't Network meeting



The Philippines, through the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), hosted the first ever meeting of the Training Network for Sustainable Port Development (SPD) in the Asean region.

The meeting, which was held at the Bayleaf Hotel in Intramuros, Manila on March 15, was attended by the different decision makers from the member economies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The training network is an offshoot of the partnership forged by the German International Cooperation agency (GIZ) with ASEAN and the Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) in 2009 to implement the SPD.

According to PPA Officer-In-Charge Raul T. Santos, the event aimed to institutionalize and strengthen the collaboration of ASEAN in advancing sustainable port development.

"The one-day event served as the official start of the Regional Training Network's taking over the sustainability of the project from GIZ, thus, a presentation of the Memorandum of Understanding duly signed by member economies will highlight the event.

Aside from GIZ, the PPA and PEMSEA, other participating institutions include Northport (Malaysia) Bhd, Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd, Phnom Penh Autonomous Port, Myanmar Port Authority, Port Authority of Thailand and Vietnam Maritime College One.

The SPD project, on the other hand, started in 2009 and ran for six years, engaged 12 ports among seven ASEAN countries with the primary objective of

improving the quality and efficiency of Safety, Health and Environment management of these selected ports. The conclusion of the project last year paved the way for the creation of the Regional Training Network through the commitment of seven ASEAN member economies to continue its implementation in the region.

The Training Network for SPD in the ASEAN Region is comprised of two Regional Training Centers and initial five National Training Centers. PPA, through its PPA Training Institute, is one of the Regional Training Centers and also serves as the Secretariat to the network.

In 2013, the PPA has separately partnered with the GIZ for the conduct of a training scheme aimed for the same purpose.

The scheme is a trainers' training program that will strengthen the trainers' teaching skills and their ability to effectively transmit knowledge.

The course focused on three major aspects of port development such as the handling of dangerous goods (DG) in port areas; integration of safety, health and environment (SHE) in ports; as well as safety management systems (SMS) in ports.

The program also offered advanced course in the handling of dangerous goods in ports; safety health and environment issues for port workers; and occupational safety and health in ports. ■

Truck booking system speeds up trade flow at South Harbor

The online Terminal Appointment Booking System (TABS), government's innovative solution to boost Philippine supply-chain, has kept international port gateway Manila South Harbor humming and buzzing in support of the country's economy.

Its operator listed Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) reported handling more truck transactions with quicker truck turnaround time since implementing TABS in October last year, thereby facilitating faster flow of commodities to the market.

From processing around 800 trucks in a 12-hour shift prior to TABS, Manila South Harbor is now servicing over 1,000 trucks on the average, over 20% increase in production.

In related developments, South Harbor set a new operations record this February as production averaged an all-time high of 30 container moves per crane per hour. This production level is world-class and is comparable to global trade giants Singapore and Hong Kong ports. Production is measured in terms of the number of containers a crane moves from ship to shore per hour.

TABS works like an airline booking system, which allows customs brokers to conveniently schedule the pickup and delivery of containers at Manila ports. Booking is done by selecting time

slots across the 24-hour, 7-day week period. Sufficient slots are available, enabling brokers to rationally plan deliveries once port fees and Customs duties are settled.

Further, since the system is automated and online, it is free from any form of human intervention, promoting greater transparency and streamlined processes for the industry.

With confirmed booking, a broker's truck simply has to show up at the terminal within its schedule and it is immediately served. The orderly arrival of trucks spread throughout the day avoids bottlenecks at the port's gates and eases traffic flow along major roads.

Since transactions are pre-advised, the port operator can adequately deploy resources that match actual demand. This allows pre-positioning of containers for faster container pickup, as against digging up a box from a five-high stack upon the truck's arrival, the practice prior to TABS. Faster turnaround time gives truckers

more opportunities to do multiple trips per day.

Despite higher transactions, truck service time became faster, consistent with what TABS had been envisioned to deliver. Of over 113,000 South Harbor bound trucks from October to January, 89% were served within 15 minutes to less than an hour from gate entry.

Following the successful pilot run of TABS, an enhanced system will be implemented by mid-March, including truck ban exemption and the privilege to use Roxas Boulevard, as earlier approved by the Metro Manila Council and announced by Cabinet Secretary Jose Almendras.

This will be applicable for TABS-registered trucks and those with valid terminal booking. Valid bookings can easily be verified via short-message-system (SMS) by dialing 292908120 from any mobile phone device.

Government-mandated penalties will also be in place to safeguard the system from abuse and misuse. ■

Devolution.
MOA signing
of LGU
Oroquieta and
PMO Misamis
Occidental/
Ozamiz on the
management
of the ports
of Manuel L.
Quezon and
San Vicente
Bajo, Oroquieta
City. ■



Philippine ports posts 33% drop in 2015 cargo throughput

Cargo volume handled by Philippine ports in 2015 dropped 33% to 141.498 million metric tons (mmt), down from the 221.241 mmt recorded in 2014.



Both foreign and domestic cargoes sustained volume cuts. Foreign cargoes accounted for 57.4%, a drop of 40% to 81.172 mmt in 2015 from 134.171 mmt in 2014. Domestic cargoes, representing 42.6% of total, contracted 21.7% to 60.326 mmt from 77.07 mmt.

By region, Luzon accounted for the biggest throughput share with 58% or 82.501 mmt, 28.5% lower than its contribution of 115.463 mmt in 2014. Mindanao, which contributed 22.9%, also saw volume shrink by 53.5% to 32.382 mmt last year from 69.574 mmt in 2014. Only Visayas ports, which posted a share of 18.8% of the total, handled slightly more cargoes last year with 26.614 mmt, or 1.6% up from 26.203 mmt.

Imports slipped 22.9% to 50.849 mmt from 65.967 mmt, while exports fell 55.5% to 30.323 mmt from 68.203 mmt.

The export numbers particularly bear out earlier reports from the National Economic and Development Authority, which noted that revenue

from Philippine exports fell for the ninth straight month in December 2015, mainly due to lower sales of manufactures, agro-based, and mineral products.

The Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) continued to handle the biggest volume among Philippine ports with 21.573 mmt processed last year, 0.7% higher than 2014's volume of 21.428 mmt.

Manila North Harbor handled purely domestic cargoes with 16.532 mmt, a 1.7% improvement from the previous year's 16.240 mmt volume. In December, Manila North Harbor was designated an authorized customs facility by the Bureau of Customs, now allowing it to handle international cargoes.

Cagayan de Oro placed third, recording a 14.1% increase to 5.293 mmt from 4.641 mmt in 2014. Manila South Harbor was ranked fourth with 5.203 mmt processed, 5.8% up from 4.917 mmt, followed

by Davao-Sasa with a 7.8% growth to 4.189 mmt from 3.887 mmt.

In terms of container throughput, PPA ports handled 4.3% more boxes in 2015 to 5.558 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from 5.328 million TEUs in 2014.

Foreign boxes, which accounted for 57% of the total, declined 1.6% to 3.157 million TEUs from 3.209 million TEUs. Domestic containers, on the other hand, increased 13.4% to 2.401 million TEUs from 2.118 million TEUs.

MICT was also the top contributor in boxes processed with 1.96 million TEUs. This is a 4.4% increment from the 1.877 million TEUs logged in 2014.

Likewise posting higher volumes were Manila North Harbor, again in second place, with 1.113 million TEUs lifted, 7.8% up from 1.032 million TEUs, and Manila South Harbor with 807,897 TEUs, 6% up from 762,490 TEUs. Davao-Sasa's handling of 296,255 TEUs in 2015 was 27% higher than 2014's traffic of 233,112 TEUs, landing the port in fourth place. In fifth place was Cagayan de Oro for servicing 236,714 TEUs, a 14.7% surge from the previous 206,328 TEUs.

More ships docked at Philippine ports in 2015, recording a 4.2% increase to 371,093 ship calls from 356,157 vessels in 2014. Of the total, domestic vessel calls registered 361,233 or 4.2% higher than the previous year's 346,540 calls. Foreign ship calls also went up, climbing 2.5% to 9,860 from 9,617. However, it must be noted that vessel size may affect the number of calls, as some liners may have deployed bigger or smaller ships last year.

Meanwhile, more passengers used sea ports last year, increasing 2.5% to 56.258 million in 2015 from 54.898 million in 2014. ■

Port of General Santos passes international standards

The port of General Santos City in SOCCSKSARGEN Region scored a grand slam in compliance with international standards on port safety, health and environment management, and port security.

The Port Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (PSHEMS) in the port of General Santos City passed the external audit conducted by the Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) on December 10-11, 2015.

GenSan's PSHEMS, a management system that facilitates efficient, safe, secure and environment-friendly movement of cargoes, was recommended for international recognition by the PEMSEA. The system is based on the requirement of the PSHEMS Code developed by PEMSEA and implemented by the Port Management Office (PMO) SOCSARGEN of the Philippine Ports Authority.

On December 15, 2015, the Philippine Office of Transportation Security (OTS) and the International Port Security Programme-United States Coast Guard (IPSP-USCG) conducted a joint verification audit of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code implementation in the port of General Santos.



The OTS and IPSP-USCG found the ISPS Standard Operating Procedures consistent with the port facility security Plan and compliant with the ISPS Code.

The findings of the audit attested the international standard of port security measures of the Gen. Santos port. The result means that goods and cargoes from the said port shall continue to have access to the ports in the United States, as well as other international ports operating under the ISPS Code.

On February 12, 2016, the TUV Rheinland, Philippines re-certified the PMO SOCSARGEN to ISO 9001:2008 for a period of three (3) years starting CY 2016.

As "ISO 9001 Certified," the GenSan port has met the requirements on meeting customer expectations. It cover core business processes in entrance formalities, assessment and collection of vessel charges and departure clearance. Such service standard has translated into higher revenues for GenSan port. ■



Courtesy Call...

Mr. Chad Tsu, Coast Guard Attaché/ Executive Assistant to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) with Phil Coast Guard CG2 Personnel made a Courtesy Call to PMO Northern Luzon port manager Marietta Odicia and coordinated with ISAS-OGM Chief, PPSupt. Reynaldo A. Evora on the planned visit of Taiwanese Ambassador to the Port of Irene in Appari slated on March 1-2, 2016. (Photo taken by DonDon Dacanay) ■

AGM Guzman administers Oath to new PPAEDCO Officers



The newly elected PPAEDCO Board members Ms. Asuncion B. Flores, Mr. Jimmy Hernandez, Mr. Eduardo Alvarez and Mr. Eddie R. Cordova take their Oath of Office before PPA AGM for Finance and Administration Armando M. Guzman at the PPA Head Office on March 29, 2016. Joining them are the elected officers of the Audit Committee led by Mr. Danilo M. Estoesta, and Ms. Florida Tomogon as well as the Election Committee members composed of Mr. Rolando S. Salgado and Mr. Rogelio Pineda. ■



Brightest of them all...

The Star of the Port Operations and Services Department shines the brightest among all Stars during the 2015 PPA Christmas celebration. Department Manager Roberto C. Aquino together with some members of the POSD family pose for a souvenir photo after bagging the prize. (Jennifer L. Lopez) ■

Ph, Jap join...

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Niwa also asked the participants to take advantage of the seminar to enhance their knowledge on port disaster prevention.

The other highlights of the opening ceremony were the Nomination of Representative of JICA Alumni Association for Port Sector, Philippines and the presentation of the Standard Specifications for Port and Harbor Works 2013 by SCOPE.

With the climate change really affecting the globe's atmosphere, it is already high-time for the country to adopt or make ports disaster-resilient.

The cost will be relative but its long-term effect to the country will be much bigger and better as we will quickly recover from any devastating effect of disasters, which we cannot do with the current state of Philippine ports.

With the new administration set to come in, hopefully it will look into the possibility of developing disaster resilient ports. ■

A celebration across generations

PMO Northern Luzon celebrated Christmas 2015 with the theme "Christmas Across Generations".



In the early morning of December 17, the PMO personnel gathered at the PMO training ground for a thanksgiving mass with Fr. Rainier Andrada.

A program followed showcasing the talents of each division, including the terminal management offices. All the division managers sat as judges during the event. The criteria for judging includes RC head participation; relevance of choreography to the assigned "dekada"; and audience impact.

The Engineering Services Division (Dekada '90) was the runaway



winner followed by the Office of the Port Manager (Dekada 2000) and the Finance Division (Dekada '60). The Port Police Division, an all-male security force, thrilled the audience with their sexy costumes, wigs and performance to the tune of "Baile".

It was a day of nostalgia for the PMO, remembering the yesteryears, discovering the talents and ingenuity of each group and seeing the transformation of the participants into the roles they played. (By: Remy Ancheta-Trinidad) ■

PMO Mar/Quez marks first anniversary

The Port Management Office of Marinduque and Quezon has celebrated its first anniversary on February 1 and 2, 2016 in a simple but very memorable ceremony.

As an offshoot of the PPA Rationalization Plan, PMO Mar/Quez has been established to take care of all the government ports in Marinduque and Quezon and likewise increase the reach of the PPA to promote progress in the countryside.

During the 2-day anniversary celebration, the employees of the PMO were treated to numerous events but nothing is more fitting than starting the festivities with a "Thanksgiving" mass followed by a sportsfest and fun run.

"The celebration made the employees closer and able to build camaraderie that will serve the PMO better in the future," port manager Marcelino D. Manatad, Jr. said. ■



More than 8,000 Juanas, Juans to 'vote' for priority women's issues

With less than two months before the most anticipated 2016 National Elections, 'Juanas' and 'Juans' can already exercise their right to vote –not for qualified candidates but for women's issues which should be prioritized by the next administration.

About 8,000 participants from government agencies, civil society groups, state universities and colleges gathered to call for inclusion of women's concerns in leadership

platforms and the government's development agenda during the Women's Month celebration. This simulation of national polls was part of the public event aptly

named as "Sama-Samang Pagsulong sa mga Agenda ni Juana."

Taking place at the Burnham Green in front of the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park, Manila at 6:30 to 9:00 am on March 16, 2016, said public event was part of the celebration of the National Women's Month carrying the theme, "Kapakanan ni Juana, Isama sa Agenda! (Include Women in the Agenda!)"

U.P. Economics professor, veteran women's rights advocate and broadcast journalist-columnist Solita "Winnie" Monsod keyed the event.

In a separate statement, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Executive Director Emmeline L. Verzosa said this public event will enable the participants to be heard and become involved in crafting policies and programs for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, especially now that we anticipate changes in local and national political leaders. ■



PPA joins Women's Month 2016 Celebration

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) joined the nation in celebrating the Day of the Juana's by pampering them with body massage for free and enhancing their knowledge and capacity through a seminar on the Reproductive Health and Responsible Parenthood. To make the event more meaningful, the PPA management allowed the Juans to join the Juanas in the events. The state-owned agency is always active in the issues of Gender and Development and continues to advocate for better equality among men and women in the society. ■