



Portside Online

February 2013

THE GRAND PRINCESS VISITS POS

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Stephen Cadiz, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Julianna Boodram, and Cruise Ship Market Specialist of the Tourism Development Company, Greer Assam, paid an official visit on board the Grand Princess, on Friday 1st February 2013.

The largest cruise vessel for the 2012/2013 cruise season, The Grand Princess docked at the Cruise Ship facility with 2,541 visitors on board. A United States vessel from the Princess Cruises line, it was no surprise that the majority of passengers were US citizens, with a smaller number of Australian nationals.

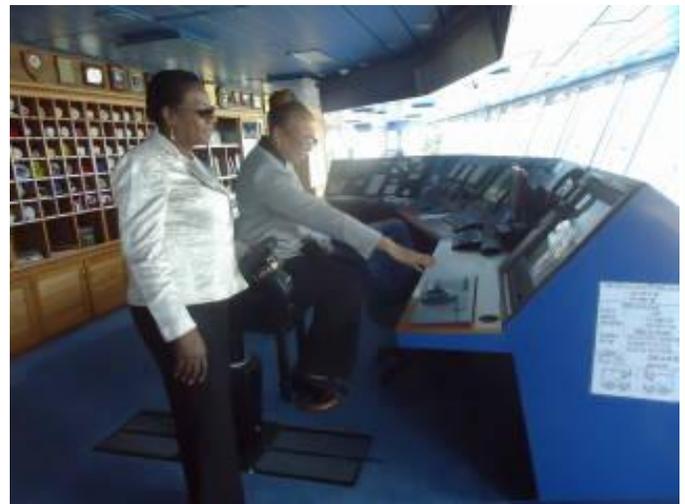


The Grand Princess at the Cruise Ship Facility



Minister Stephen Cadiz (center) with the Captain and PS Julianna Boodram

The vessel berthed at 8:00am and departed our shores at 5:00pm, which gave the visitors just enough time to go on various exciting tours of the island. The tours included a visit to Maracas Bay, to sample the beautiful scenery and the local cuisine, and another to enjoy some shopping in the capital city. Representing the Port Authority were: Ag.CEO/GM Sharon Mark, Ag. CEO of POSINCO - Kathleen Maxwell, Head of Cruise Shipping – Balkaran Maharaj and PR Manager – Betty Ann Gibbons.



Ag. CEO/GM Sharon Mark (seated) and Ag. CEO POSINCO, Kathleen Maxwell on the bridge of the ship

After the presentation of gifts to the Captain by the Minister, the visiting group was taken on a tour of the magnificent ship. The group was also invited to enjoy a delicious buffet lunch on board the Grand Princess.

NEW EPA INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENT SIGNED



Ag. CEO/GM Sharon Mark (center), Exec. Mgr. HR Lyrine Lewis (3rd L), Paul Joseph (2nd L) Security Superintendent and members present for signing

On Friday 1st February, managers of the Port Authority and representatives of the Estate Police Association (EPA) signed the Memorandum of Agreement governing employees of the Port Police Department, for the contractual period 1st August, 2008 to 31st July 2011. This Agreement also incorporated two former memoranda which were reached in April and May 2012 respectively.

Among the articles addressed were: increases in salaries, cost of living allowances, plain clothes allowances, and subsistence allowances. New to the agreement were the introduction of a laundry allowance and a shift allowance.

As participants of the two representative bodies exited the Authority's Board Room, one thing was evident – the period of negotiations culminated in a win-win situation for both parties. Proposals for the 2011-2013 agreement are expected to be submitted within the next two months.

TOBAGO COPS 2013 CALYPSO MONARCH TITLE

The Port's 2013 Calypso Monarch and Ole Mas Competition, dubbed 'A Tribute to Lord Money Ears'- created the usual hype that has become synonymous with the annual event. It was also the general consensus that the competition was of the usual high standard.

Nine calypsonians performed on the evening, including the lone female contestant, Judy Campbell, who captured the special prize for First-time Female Participant. Among the special prizes were: Wharf March which was awarded to Eric Blackman - and Most Humorous Calypso, won by Hafeez Mohammed.



Ag. CEO/GM Sharon Mark presents the prize to the champion - Steve Holder

The first four places in descending order were: Steve Holder (Tobago), Hafeez Mohammed (Senior Management/ Marine), Jeremiah Combie (Tobago) and Lennox Sampson (Mechanical Garage).



Commissioner Nirmala Harrylal and Hafeez Mohammed on stage

At the end of the competition, the Hutchinson family took the stage to make a presentation in memory of their late brother, Kirk Hutchinson aka Lord Money Ears. Two bands participated in the Ole Mas Competition - Dave Phillip's presentation 'Elvis Presley and Jail House Rock' captured second place, with 'Tobago January 21st 2013' copping the first place – a presentation of Dennis Marajh and the Barrel Shop. On hand to lend their support were Ag. General Manager/CEO Sharon Mark, Ag. CEO POSINCO, Kathleen Maxwell and Commissioner Nirmala Harrylal.