As we come to the end of another year, we wish a very Happy New Year to all members of the Port Family, including our very dear and valued stakeholders/customers. May you have a very healthy, happy, progressive and prosperous year ahead - and may 2020 exceed your expectations.

** A SPECIAL VISIT TO PPOS **

BY HON MINISTER ROHAN SINANAN

Line Minister, the Honourable Rohan Sinanan (Minister of Works and Transport) paid a welcomed visit to the Port of Port of Spain on Friday 22nd November. The Minister was accompanied by several top ministry officials and the team was taken on a tour to all areas throughout the PPOS terminal, where he took the time to meet with workers. It was an opportunity for the minister to listen to employees, converse with them regarding any issues, and discuss possible solutions.

Port Officials who welcomed and accompanied the Minister on the tour included: Chairman (Retired) Colonel Lyle Alexander; GM/CEO Ag. Trudy Gill-Conlon; Deputy GM Ag. Marcia Charles-Elbourne; CEO PPOS Ag. Ricardo Gonzales; CEO Posinco Ag. Lenin Olivierre; Divisional Manager Robert Ramsubhag; Manager Property Development Ag Kyle Reid; Head of Marketing Ag /PR Manager Betty Ann Gibbons; Procurement Manager Althea Sammy; Management Analyst Anil Ramdial; as well as SWWTU Representatives.
A two-day session on procurement practices, moving from an old system to a new one, was held on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th November for managers of the SBU’s of Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago. The title of the session was, “Implications of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act (PPDPPA) on the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.”

The intended learning outcomes encompassed an expansion of knowledge and skills, and enhancing the general attitude towards public procurement by:

- An overview of the objectives and principles of procurement regulation and understanding the policy behind them.
- An appreciation of the relationship amongst the various objectives and principles of regulatory provisions.
- Main features of the PPDPPA and the conduct of procurement by PATT.
- Selected legal aspects of maritime procurement.
- Obligations and rights of public bodies, contractors and suppliers and third parties under the PPDPPA.
- Corruption and the identification of red flags in the procurement function.

Procurement Officers were informed that they must have a working knowledge also of the objectives and principles such as: value for money, integrity, accountability, efficiency, transparency, fairness, equity, public confidence, local industry development, sustainable procurement and sustainable development.

The two-day session was conducted by Kelvin Ramkissoon and Sonya Gyan, Adjunct lecturers at the Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business.

**New Security & Safety Upgrades at Caricom Wharves**

A meeting was held on 22nd October for stakeholders and users of Caricom Wharves to inform them of the new safety and security requirements that were to be put in place at the beginning of November 2019. In particular, the security measures focused on access control and therefore all users must have a valid port pass (enforced from 1st November 2019). Persons who work there would have a permanent pass, while other persons would receive a temporary pass.

The session outlined the new guidelines and requirements; informed that more security officers will be present; and emphasized that PATT will
work with stakeholders to ensure their safety and security at Caricom Wharves. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions and give their feedback/concerns on the new measures.

In order to receive a port pass, applicants must:

- Fill out an application form
- Provide a letter stating the purpose to use the facility and
- Produce a certificate of good character

The aim of the new procedures and measures is to mitigate any illegal activities at Caricom Wharves, in line with the recommendations of a Joint Select Committee to address security issues there.

**LAUNCH OF CRUISE SEASON 2019/2020**

The 2019-2020 Cruise Ship season was launched in style on the quayside of the Cruise Ship Complex in Port of Spain on Thursday 14th November with the visit of the Caribbean Princess. Passengers were welcomed with a touch of local culture - with entertainment ranging from dancing moko jumbies, to live pan music and parang singers.

Mr. Howard Chin Lee, Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago Tourism, was present to officially launch the start of the season, along with the Mayor of Port of Spain, Joel Martinez, several officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Tourism Trinidad Ltd, Port Authority Executives, as well as other dignitaries and stakeholders.

The Caribbean Princess will make a total of six calls to Trinidad within the November 2019 to April 2020 season. Each call is expected to bring approximately 3600 passengers totalling 21,600 passengers voyaging to our shores during this period. However, the Caribbean Princess is second to the MSC Preziosa that will make the most calls – nine in total, bringing 4363 passengers on each voyage with the total of 39,267 passengers. The season will end with the visit of Sea Dream II on Friday 24th April 2020.

In all, the 2019-2020 Cruise Shipping season will see a total of 11 cruise ships from nine cruise lines with a total of 26 calls and approximately 68,323 passengers.
COCKTAIL EVENING WITH NVOCC

A special Cocktail Event was held on Friday 15th November, at the nearby Marriott Hotel, to meet and interact with local Non-Vessel Operators Common Carriers (NVOCCs). The NVOCC’s are shippers who do not own vessels but rather handle the shipping requirements of several clients’ cargo/goods for export. These persons are therefore often the decision makers regarding which port to use.

The event was an opportunity to build and solidify mutually beneficial relationships with this important group of stakeholders. Persons on the port team included: Trudy Gill-Conlon, GM/CEO Ag; Ricardo Gonzales, CEO PPOS Ag; Betty Ann Gibbons, Head of Marketing Ag/PR Manager; and Jason Berkeley, Ag, Executive Manager Finance.

This event is part of the Marketing initiative to forge strong ties and communication with stakeholders/customers, to continually improve the customer service and also to continually explore increased business opportunities.

SATT MEMBERS TOUR PPOS TERMINAL

Members of the Shipping Association of Trinidad and Tobago (SATT) paid a visit to PPOS on the morning of Friday 15th November. The visit was part of SATT’s Port Tours initiative whereby members are taken on tours of the various ports throughout the country to become familiar with their operations.

The group of 15 persons was taken on a tour of the PPOS terminal, with Port Superintendent Naz Hosein conducting the tour and providing information on the areas, equipment and operations. The visitors were also taken to a short drive by the Cruise Ship Complex and Port of Spain Ferry Terminal.

Afterwards, the group was taken to the Conference Room where Ricardo Gonzales Ag CEO PPOS gave an overview of the Port Authority and its four business units. The visitors were then treated to a buffet lunch and the conversation and discussions continued. As a member of SATT, the Port of Port of Spain team was particularly pleased to welcome this group of visitors.
LUNCHEON FOR BOARD AND MANAGERS

Members of the Board and Management got together on Monday 16 December to enjoy a Christmas/ end-of-year lunch. The event was held in the Conference Room at the end of the December monthly Board meeting.

The GM/CEO Ag Trudy Gill-Conlon welcomed everyone and then Chairman, Colonel (Retired) Lyle Alexander, thanked the management team for their support, dedication and contribution to the organization throughout the year. The small get-together is the one opportunity for the year when the Board and Managers get to meet and share some social time together, to celebrate the Christmas season and end of another year.

The décor, entertainment and DJ music were provided by talented employees of the Port Authority.

EMPLOYEES’ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On Friday 13th December, PATT held an Employees’ Christmas Party at its Cruise Ship Complex. This event was a chance for the Port family to celebrate the Christmas and end-of-year season together.

The Cruise Ship Complex auditorium was decorated in festive shades of red, green and gold. It was the one time of the year for employees and managers to share a Christmas buffet together, and mingle socially. Later in the evening, a parang band entertained with music of the season, and the evening came to end with dancing and laughter.