



Portside Online

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STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM 2014

'Moving forward by moving together'

On August 19th. the Port's stakeholders gathered at the Cruise Ship Complex where they were updated on developments at the Port, the challenges facing the organization as well as initiatives for charting the way forward. The theme, 'Moving forward by moving together' , served as a reminder of the importance for stakeholders to work together with the Port to ensure that the service delivered is efficient and acceptable.



Members of the head table

From (l) to (r) David King, Divisional Manager, Equipment (Ag.); Densley De Lancy, PC LAN Administrator; Glen Singh, Deputy Comptroller of Customs (Ag.); Charmaine Lewis, General Manager/C.E.O. (Ag.); Ricardo Gonzales, Manager Container Operations; Neshan Singh, Specialist in the Ministry of Trade and Investment

At the Head Table representing the Port Authority were Ms. Charmaine Lewis, Ag. General Manager/C.E.O.; Mr. Densley De Lancy, PC LAN Administrator; Mr. Ricardo Gonzales, Manager Container Operations. Also present was Mr. Glen Singh, Deputy Comptroller of Customs (Ag.) and Mr. Neshan Singh, Specialist at the Ministry of Trade and Investment. Master of Ceremony for the day's proceedings was Ms. Candice Gomez, Marketing Executive.

Ms. Lewis welcomed all and gave the strategic direction of PPOS, "where we are; where we want to be; how we plan to get there and what's in it for you". Ag. Head of Marketing, Ms. Betty Ann Gibbons give brief remarks on the purpose of the occasion focusing on the importance of good customer service. She explained that there is a multi-function approach at PPOS to deliver customer service, which involves participation of Operations, Equipment, IT and Marketing departments.



Ag. Head of Marketing, Betty-Ann Gibbons

Mr. Gonzales' presentation addressed the Operations at the Port. Equipped with statistics, he presented challenges and how they are handled. While some performances may have been worthy of praise, such as

the recent record of 39,917 TEU's handled in any one month in the history of the Port, he explained that it is important that such records are not only attained but also sustained.



"When you ask we must respond," advises Port's Operations Manager, Ricardo Gonzales

He addressed the issue of operational demands, among them the increasing call size of vessels, a growing requirement for greater quantity of gangs, improved productivity and a greater multi-purpose operation. He explained " We have a mandate from you (our stakeholders) and when you ask we must respond".

Mr. David King's presentation focused on the challenges faced by the Equipment Division, having to maintain a fleet of aging equipment, keeping them fully operational on a 24-hour basis. As an Electro-Mechanical Engineer, his professional expertise has enabled him to keep the wheels of progress turning. He has increased the human resources complement of the division having recently employed six additional Electricians and three Mechanics. Additionally, employees will undergo training to improve their skills set and trouble-shooting capability.

An update of the NAVIS Terminal Operational System was given by Mr. De Lancy who explained that at present the Port was operating with a 2.2 system and that plans are underway to upgrade the application to 2.6 thereby allowing for increased stability. With this upgrade, agents will now be required to update to the JAVA 7 application. Some helpful reminders of the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) were also given.

Ag. Comptroller of Customs, Mr. Glen Singh spoke on the ASYCUDA computerized customs management system and explained the challenge to improve delivery times to customers. He advised that the Ministry of National Security is presently in the process of acquiring four (4) mobile scanners for use at the Ports of Port of Spain and Pt. Lisas, the first of which is expected to arrive in September 2014. These scanners will be used to scan ALL containers. Mr. Singh invited stakeholders to come on board informing that they will be apprised of any new procedures to be implemented by his division.

Representing the Ministry of Trade and Investment was Mr. Neshan Singh who gave an insight into the Ministry's TTBizLink - an on-line electronic system designed to afford persons the ease of doing business in Trinidad. Launched in 2012, it provides a number of services among them E-company Registration, E-permits and licenses, to name a few. In 2013 more services were introduced, among them, applications for permits, National Insurance numbers and VAT Registration numbers. To date, over 150,000 applications have been processed.



Peter Pitts of Gulf Shipping poses a question to the panel

The Q&A segment provided an avenue for feedback and interaction. Stakeholders shared their views and provided constructive criticism. The respective Managers attempted to answer all questions posed to them to clear up any existing ambiguities. For those extremely challenging questions, the stakeholder was given the assurance that the issue would be addressed and he would be so advised.

Delivering the vote of thanks at the end of the day's proceedings, Ms. Sherry-Ann Greenidge-Brewster, Marketing Executive, thanked all for taking the time off from their busy schedules to be a part of the discussion. She reiterated the need for dialogue, the sharing of ideas and the importance of working together to ensure a mutually rewarding business relationship.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

In an informal setting , in an atmosphere of warmth and laughter, employees of the Barrel Shop got together on Friday 8th August to bid farewell to three of their colleagues - Gordon Logan, Milton Duncan and Anthony De Souza.

The event was organized by Assistant Shed Manager, Dennis Marajh, in appreciation of their dedicated service to the Authority - Mr. Logan with over 30 years service, Mr. Duncan with 45 years and Anthony De Souza with 41 years. In a predominantly male gathering, they played cards and shared in some good ole 'picong', reminiscing on the time spent on the Port.



Milton Duncan (left) and Gordon Logan show off their gifts

All were invited to partake of a sumptuous meal and to raise a toast to the trio, after which they were each presented with a token of appreciation. Mr. De Souza was not present at this time so Dennis Marajh accepted the gift on his behalf.

Portside extends best wishes to the 'boys' for a happy and healthy retirement.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH HOSTS EBOLA SENSITIZATION SESSION FOR STAKEHOLDERS



Dr. Phillips addresses stakeholders

Dr. Randolph Phillips, Port Health Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health addressed stakeholders at a session held to sensitize them on the Ebola virus and what is being done both locally and internationally to curtail the spread of the deadly disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO) of which Trinidad and Tobago is a member, has dubbed it a public health emergency and has mandated that every member puts systems in place to detect and prevent the spread of the virus. The Ebola virus was first detected in 1976 near the Ebola River in Central Africa. To date it has spread to five countries in West Africa: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. By the end of August the World Health Organization reported that the number of deaths across the region was 1,552 from 3,069 cases.

The virus is spread through direct contact - through body fluids or blood. It is difficult to diagnose as the early symptoms are similar to any other viral illness, however precautionary measures can be taken to prevent the spread of the virus , the most effective being the use of bleach. Yes, ordinary household bleach, mixed one part bleach to nine parts water to clean surfaces is a proven defence against the spread of the virus. Regular washing of the hands with soap and water also helps.



Public Health Inspector III (Ports) Narace Dookeran makes his contribution

Mr. Narace Dookeran, Public Health Inspector III (Ports) stated that while the risk of importation of the virus by sea is low, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to strengthen public health emergency preparedness and to promote infection control practices at all times.