



Portside Online

May/June 2014

PORT HERALDS ARRIVAL OF MSC DIVINA

The largest cruise ship to call at POS



MSC Divina berthed at the Port of Port of Spain

Thursday 29th May 2014 was a milestone in the history of Cruise Shipping in Trinidad. That day marked the arrival of the MSC Divina, the largest cruise ship to ever grace our shores. At 333 metres in length, with 3361 passengers and a crew of over 1000 on board, the vessel anchored at the Cruise Ship facility in true majestic style, with the Port Authority and the Tourism Development Authority coordinating the day's programme with pomp and splendour befitting such a visit.



Passengers enjoy the local talent as they disembark

The quayside was repaired and beautified to welcome the guests as they disembarked the vessel. A stage was also erected where local artistes showcased the talent of our diverse cultural heritage. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Juliana Boodram, welcomed the vessel's Captain, followed by an exchange of commemorative tokens. Other invited guests included Greer Assam, Cruise Tourism Specialist of the Tourism Development Company, Charmaine Lewis - Ag. GM/ CEO, Port Authority, Balkaran Maharaj - Manager Cruise Ship Terminal, and Charles Carvalho of Carvalho Cruises Services - agents for the vessel. Two Portuguese interpreters were present to assist with communication since over 1000 passengers were of Brazilian nationality.



From left, Ag GM/CEO Charmaine Lewis, Cruise Supervisor Karen Campbell, and Commissioner Patricia Herry head to the ship

The day's activities for passengers included a wide range of tour options such as visits to: Gasparee Falls, Asa Wright Nature Centre, Maracas Beach, Caroni Nature Sanctuary, Covigne River Hike and Maracas Waterfall. That afternoon, passenger began to arrive at the Cruise Ship Complex to check-in for a departure at 5:00 pm. They were treated to a taste of local cuisine before boarding the cruise ship. These treats included: doubles, pineapple chow, Indian sweets (in celebration of Indian Arrival Day) provided by the Port Authority. Samples of rum punch were also provided, courtesy the Tourism Development Authority.

BABWAH REPRESENTS PATT AT FIRST MARITIME SAFETY WORKSHOP



Sieunarine Babwah (center) receives his certificate of participation

Sieunarine Babwah, Asst. Divisional Manager, Marine (Ag.) attended the First Workshop on Maritime Safety, held at the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington DC over the period April 28th to 30th.

Nineteen countries were represented, among them our Caribbean neighbours: Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana, St. Lucia, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Topics addressed included:

- Port Safety and Security
- Adherence and compliance with the IMO convention
- Safe working culture and environment
- Accident and Incident Investigation

Mr. Babwah was invited to address the gathering on a topic of his choice. For his presentation he chose 'The need for regional legislation in ballast water management for the wider Caribbean'. He highlighted the importance of regional harmonization and integration among Caribbean countries and compliance with International Maritime Regulations, as the tools to the achievement of this objective.

Mr. Babwah emphasized the need for all Caribbean states to share this common vision and summed up his presentation with the old adage 'a chain is only as strong as its weakest link'.

EMPLOYEES CELEBRATE INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY 2014

The Conference Room of the Port's Administration Building was filled to capacity on Wednesday May 28th, as employees got together to celebrate Indian Arrival Day 2014. The Ag. General Manager/CEO, Charmaine Lewis, welcomed the attendees and also gave some insightful information on the history of Indentureship. Afterwards, the audience was treated to a slide show of traditional East Indian garments, presented by Laura Akal-Jawahir of the Public Relations Office.



Participants Judy Campbell, Racquel Ramsaran, Jean Marc Mc Intosh and Theresa Marquis in a happy pose

Next was an audience activity, where the question was asked - Is the future of the East Indian heritage in good hands? To answer this question a game show was conducted where Team 'Young' (comprising Ramona Khillawan, Annaliza Massy, Sheyenne Lutchman and Racquel Ramsaran) came up against Team 'Experienced'- represented by Chandra Rampersad and Chandanie Sankar. A series of questions pertaining to the East Indian culture was posed to Team Young. If they were unable to answer, then the question was given to Team Experienced.

In the end, Team Young finished with a total of 8 correct answers out of 10, proving that the future of our East Indian heritage is in good hands.



Team Young members ponder before answering

From as early as 3:30am (yes!) on race day, Saturday 31st May, teams took off on the first leg of the race. The last legs comprising: swimming, riding and running took place in the afternoon at the picturesque Pigeon Point.

Photographers were on hand throughout the day to capture both the agony and the joy of participants. A special edition of Portside, featuring the day's events, will be published within the next two weeks.

Look out for the commentary and the photos!



Hayden Hurdle, Finance Dep't, receives an audience prize

The East Indian Fashion Segment saw Jean-Marc Mc Intosh of the Human Resources Department copping first place in the male category, while Theresa Marquis of the Public Relations Office was the winner among the female participants.

◆◆ **SPECIAL** ◆◆
PORTSIDE *FUSION* EDITION - SOON

The annual FUSION VIII Adventure Race took place in Tobago over the Indian Arrival weekend. There were 83 teams of four persons that participated in this year's event.