

## Press Clipping

# Use Port Klang as base, China shipping lines urged

**SHANGHAI:** Westports Malaysia has promised to deliver better, cheaper and faster services to Chinese shipping lines.

Westports executive chairman Tan Sri G. Gnanalingam said this to some 230 people from the maritime and shipping industry at a gathering here on Monday.

He is part of a delegation of business and government officials that is travelling to China this week to entice more Chinese shipping lines to use the services at Port Klang.

“Shipping lines should not only use Port Klang as a stepping stone to reach the 550 million people in South-East Asia and the 500 ports worldwide, but also as a base for their business,” he said.

“Port Klang will be a one-start centre for Chinese shipping lines, not a one-stop centre because this is where their business can start,” he added.

China shipment going through Westports is expected to go up to more than 600,000 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) this year, compared with 500,000 TEUs last year.

Also present was Port Klang Free

Zone (PKFZ) newly-appointed managing director Noel Gulliver William and officials from the Port Klang Authority.

PKFZ is the Government’s biggest investment in the port industry since 1990 and is managed by leading free trade zone operator, Jebel Ali Free Zone International Authority.

Other than allowing companies that set up there with 100 per cent foreign equity ownership, the free trade zone offers a wide range of products and services without any payment of Customs duties.

Companies that are eligible for “pioneer status” are also given a tax holiday for 10 years.

It is the only free trade zone in Malaysia that houses industrial and commercial operations in the same area to boost co-ordination and smoother supply chain management.

Last year, trade between China and Malaysia increased to US\$25 billion (RM92 billion) and Malaysia is China’s largest trading partner in the South-East Asian region.

— *From Presenna Nambiar*