

Press Clipping

1st quarter rise in box volume

WESTPORTS Malaysia has notched an impressive achievement in the first quarter of this year after it recorded a 28% growth in container volume.

The port also notched two world records for productivity in March.

Compared with the last quarter of 2005, Westports' container business grew by 12% with volume amounting to 860,419 TEUs.

With this achievement, the port is confident of achieving its 2006 target of 3.5 million TEUs. Last year, Westports' total volume was 2.91 million TEUs.

"One month after clinching our latest world record of 421 moves per hour, the Westports operations team did it again when it managed to hit crane productivity of 452 moves in a single hour of operations with an eight-crane deployment," said Westports executive chairman Tan Sri G.Gnanalingam.

He said this feat was achieved on March 9 and with the port's efficiency and good teamwork, they had once again raised the bar of excellence in a single hour by 31 moves to 452 moves.

"Though we have just within a month made another milestone achievement, this is only the beginning.

"We stand among the top five ports in the world to have achieved such a remarkable rate of productivity.

"With continuous improvement in productivity, we will be able to double our volume from three million TEUs to six million in the next five years," he said.

In March, he said Westports also introduced its e-billing, a custom-made system, designed and innovated inhouse, to cater to the needs of the port's customers with the aim of streamlining and improving billing systems.

Gnanalingam said E-billing was one of the modules that appeared in the port's electronic submission and tracking link - WestportLINK.

He said the distinct advantage of this new mode of billing was the fact that customers could now log on to www.westportlink.com.my to view their bills anywhere, anytime.

"This puts an end to the endless wait of the bills to arrive by post, and the delays that may be caused.

"Using technology to optimise efficiency, Westports has indeed made

great strides in improving its customer service facilities, most of which are now just a click away."

Gnanalingam said Westports, located at Pulau Indah, stands to gain by the soon-to-be-opened Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ), which would pave the way for the emergence of many industries that would be a boon for the future growth of the port.

He said the duty-free zone, located within the corridor of Pulau Indah and the government's continuous backing to attract Main Line Operators and forging alliances with international ports especially for Port Klang would ensure that Malaysia remains as one of the top 10 countries in terms of handling containers and logistics business.

"The recent unveiling of the Ninth Malaysia Plan, which placed importance on the transportation industry, had set the right priorities for seaports for the next five years.

"It calls for the growth of containers from 12 million TEUs to 18 million. To achieve this, Port Klang has to double its volume growth from six to 12 million TEUs.

"I am confident this can be achieved through consistent performance and efficient services as well as proper marketing efforts," said Gnanalingam.

He said over the last decade, Westports had grown by leaps and bounds to become one of the leading ports in the region.

Today, he said Westports handles about 22% of the total container volume in the country and more than half of Port Klang's cargoes go through Westports.

For the next decade, Gnanalingam said Westports would continue to grow by leveraging not only on its world-class facilities and services, which is being constantly upgraded, but also through the development that is taking shape within its vicinity.

He added that the two exciting developments are set to propel Westports further this year.

Gnanalingam said besides the PKFZ, the Halal Hub Centre would be a boon for the growth of Westports, as these multi-million ringgit projects would create economic stimulus, especially from new industries that will emerge from PKFZ.

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Association of Productivity (MAP).

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"Therefore, don't be confused by any misleading information."

Gopal said CILTM was prepared to offer advice to all aspiring candidates who want to further their career in logistics and transport.

For details, call the institute at 03-22739623.