

PMTA promotes Pacific prosperity

IN order to continue to be the premier provider of sea port services and facilities it is 'critical' that Fiji Ports be proactive in four key areas: Infrastructure Development and Master Plan Consultancy, Environmental Management, IT Development, and Networking with Pacific Ports.

On his return from the 38th Pacific Maritime Transport Association (PMTA) Conference, with the theme "Our Gateway to Pacific Prosperity", Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL) CEO, Mr Vajira Piyasena, said that these are areas to be addressed, preferably without delay.

Senior Executives representatives of the Ports Authorities of Cook Islands,



CEO FPCL, Mr Vajira Piyasena, seated far right, at the PMTA Conference, which was well attended by Senior Executives of regional Ports Corporations and Authorities, and Maritime Industry stakeholders.

Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Papua New Guinea Ports Corporation Ltd and Port Autonome de Papeete, French Polynesia, participated in the conference.

Over 30 presentations and forums were conducted on topics pertaining to key areas of Port Business, Shipping,

Environmental Issues, Infrastructure Development and Maritime Transport. Ports New Zealand and Ports Australia also attended.

A number of senior representatives from key strategic partners to the Ports and Maritime Industries also attended.

PMTA promotes regional cooperation, networking

and understanding between member ports and port users, through mutual alliances and the exchange of knowledge, as well as the dissemination of useful information. It also promotes measures that aim to increase efficiency, safety and facilitate harmonious development of Pacific regional ports.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community has provided secretariat services for PMTA since 2006. Fiji Ports is a member of the PMTA governing council, and along with the other regional ports, presented the country paper that highlighted the current developments, including the recent PPP and the challenges faced by Fiji Ports.

New PTL Directors introduced



Mr Hasmukh Patel
Chairman

THE first-ever Ports Terminal Limited, (PTL) Board meeting took place on 30th September, followed by a function for all major stakeholders.

The Chief Guest was the Attorney General and Honourable Minister for Public Enterprises Mr Aiyaz



Mr Neil Cook
Director

Sayed-Khaiyum. Chairman Mr Hasmukh Patel, CEO Fiji Electricity Authority, and fellow Directors Mr Neil Cook, CEO Fiji Roads Authority and Mr Vilash Chand, General Manager, Unit Trust, represent FPCL on the Board. Also in PTL Board are



Mr Vilash Chand
Director

four other Directors appointed by Aitken Spence PLC.

Mr Patel asked the stakeholders for their assistance and cooperation as Ports' operations continue to improve, and "our country... truly becomes the hub of the South Pacific."

FSHIL celebrates



Taking time to celebrate and socialise at FSHIL.

MANAGEMENT and staff of Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd held a social evening to celebrate meeting productivity and revenue targets so far this year.

FPCL Board member Commander Cawaki attended as a Special Guest, joining with staff in the evening's festivities.

Lautoka upgrades under way

A programme of prioritised repair and upgrading is being carried out, according to management approval, at Lautoka Queens and local wharves.

FPCL Harbour Master Lautoka, Captain Penitiko Yauvoli, said that some of the planned \$1 million works are nearing completion, and include repairs to infrastructure.

Most of these repairs are to damage incurred during the onslaught of Cyclone Evan in December last year, including the roof of the bonded warehouse, and the roof of



Repairs to cyclone damage are near completion at Lautoka Port.

the large shed occupied by GILONTAS.

There are also planned upgrades to the perimeter fencing, to ensure continued compliance with the

International Ships and Ports Security (ISPS) Code and the company's security regulations.

"Tar sealing of all access roads to the wharf is also on the agenda, and there is the need for

cement pavement on the entire container yard. The building of the local wharf passengers' waiting shed and food vendors' stalls is near completion," said Captain Yauvoli.

The rental properties will provide FPCL with another revenue stream, and there are other potential investors interested in doing business at the waterfront.

"We will treat these on a case-by-case basis, depending on their long term viability and sustainability," said Captain Yauvoli.

Complex conditions a challenge



Each derelict presents a unique challenge.

"THE complexities of each case must be considered individually, as each vessel presents a different set of circumstances, a unique set of conditions and challenges," said FPCL Suva Harbour

Master Captain Joji Takape.

Captain Joji was commenting on the Tenders to remove derelict vessels from the Suva Harbour, saying that these are in the process of being analysed by the

Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF).

"Before removing a vessel, we need to be sure that there is no danger of causing any damage to the environment.

"For example, is there any oil on board that needs to be removed first? If the ship breaks up during removal, will it block any navigation channels? Nothing is gained if in attempting to remove derelict vessels a greater hazard is created than already exists," said Captain Takape.

Tidy stores for fast repairs



Everything in its place for efficient repairs.

THE time saved by having a well-organised and tidy Parts Store can be as much as half an hour, if not more.

For example, a tyre can be changed immediately, instead of searching for the right-sized replacement.

In keeping with best practice, staff in the Mechanical Division have completed a major 'spring clean and sort' of spare parts and other equipment needed for keeping machinery operational, thus contributing to the company's on-going improvement in efficiency.

IMO meets to progress capacity building

SENIOR FPCL and PTL Management had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) who spent two days at the Ports of Lautoka and Suva to observe the security arrangements and their implementation under the International Ships and Ports Security Code.

This was the first visit to Fiji by senior IMO officials since 2004. As well as observing the interpretation and exercise of



(Back, l-r) IMO officials, Ms Tracy Peverett, Head of Maritime Security & Safety; Ms Kelly Edwards, Department of Infrastructure & Transport of Australia and Mr John Platts Maritime Security Consultant, Canada. (Front, l-r) Mr Hasthika Dela, PTL Chief Operations Officer, Captain Jeke Vakararawa, FPCL Senior Ports Security Officer and Mr Vajira Piyasena, FPCL CEO during the meeting at Muaiwalu House, Suva.

the ISPS Code, the meeting was an opportunity for FPCL and PTL to make a proposal for IMO assistance with future capacity building to be conducted in Fiji.

It is hoped that this capacity building would be available to personnel from Fiji's 16 privately owned port facilities, as well as staff of FPCL and PTL.

Putting policy into practice with patrol boat

SAFETY patrols, detecting illegal garbage dumping, oil spill deployment, these will be just a few of the responsibilities of the captain and crew of the FPCL Safety/Pollution Patrol boat that will soon be seen patrolling the waters of the Suva Harbour.

“As well as the safety and environmental monitoring that can now be regularly carried out, the boat itself is the result of a recycle, re-fit and re-use project,” said FPCL Harbour Master, Captain Joji Takape.

“Taking a 12-year-old rusting structure that had

been out of use for five years the team at Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd have made the boat safe and serviceable.”

Holes on the bottom have been patched, the bottom plate has been doubled, an engine pad fitted, and wiring to the engine insulated. Once it is fitted with appropriate oil-spill equipment, such as an oil boom, scoop, skimmer and absorbent pads, the Safety/Pollution Patrol boat will assist in the practical application of aspects of the FPCL draft Environmental



The Safety/Pollution Patrol boat after repairs were completed.

Policy, such as:

- carry out a programme of environmental monitoring,
- drive to reduce waste disposal and promote waste reduction,
- prevent pollution and

maintain high level of preparedness to cope with any incident.

The boat will be officially launched when the details of captain and crew have been finalised.

Vanuatu prepares for 2014 audits



Port Luganville staff consider security and border control issues during the pre-audit.

RECENT preliminary audits conducted at the Vanuatu Maritime Authority, based in Port Vila, and at the Port of Luganville, and the Vanuatu Maritime School, located on the outskirts of Luganville, prepare these organisations for their five-yearly Certificate of Compliance audits taking place in 2014.

Assisting in the audit

process were Team Leader Alobi Rigam, Maritime Technical Security Officer, Secretariat of the South Pacific Community (SPC) and FPCL Senior Port Facility Security Officer, Captain Jeke Vakararawa,

who also undertook the Team Leader role during the Port Luganville audit process as a part of his own capacity building towards qualification as an external audit Team Leader.

The Vanuatu pre-audits are part of the obligation FPCL undertakes as a member of the Pacific Maritime Transport Association (PMTA).

Vessel variety at Muaiwalu



The Tama will carry construction material to Kiribati.

MUAWALU II is well-known locally as Suva’s wharf for domestic shipping, plying the outer islands of Fiji. It is also sometimes a berth for fishing vessels when anchorage is not available at Kings Wharf or Muaiwalu I.

More unusual is the recent berthing of the Tama from the Cook Islands, which has been loading with materials purchased in Fiji for use in

construction of the Kiribati, International Airport.

“This regional vessel is part of the variety we see at Muaiwalu II,” said Marika Koro, Fiji Ports Supervisor, Local Wharf. “The face of local shipping is also undergoing change, with Consort Shipping’s SOFI currently out of service, and the Venue Shipping-owned Sulven now plying the Suva-Savusavu-Taveuni route.”

World Maritime Day in Lautoka

BANNERS waving, youth bands playing, 400 marchers: for the first time, Fiji Ports took the annual World Maritime Celebrations to the port city of Lautoka, where Suva-based staff of Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL) Ports Terminal Ltd (PTL), and Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd (FSHIL) joined their Lautoka

colleagues and representatives of other maritime organisations and industry stakeholders in a morning march from Shirley Park to the AMEX Complex, next to the Lautoka Queens Wharf.

Here, the day-long Expo showcased maritime careers and activities, that had a focus on youth and safety.



Youth bands led the World Maritime Day march through the Sugar City.

Policy controls checked by Compliance Unit



Mr Chand checks that policies have established operational controls.

TO ensure compliance with the company's policies and procedures, a designated Compliance Unit has been

created as part of the FPCL Finance Department.

Appointed to the new position of Compliance Analyst is Subhag Chand whose role includes ensuring that all policies have established, operating controls, and if any breach of policy occurs, that immediate action is taken to rectify the matter.

Mr Chand said that this new role was in addition to his on-going work in maintaining accountability in all insurance claims, and overseeing Credit functions.

Although he is supervised

by the Acting General Manager Finance, Mr Chand's position as Compliance Analyst also gives him direct reporting access to the CEO and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Directors.

"This Unit was established on the directive of the Board of Directors, and was facilitated with the review of the Finance Department structure and other changes. This establishment coincides well with the revision of the Finance Policy," said Mr Shyman Reddy, FPCL Acting General Manager Finance.

Fit to play, fit for work

TEAM Manager, Aminiasi Natoga said that "energetic" women from the Port of Lautoka Administration and "enthusiastic sporting gentlemen" from the Maintenance Division form the Fiji Ports Mixed Netball team, in response to the Ministry of Health invitation to "Engage a Healthy Workforce".

Mr Natoga, ably assisted by Mr Semi Navatu, Coach, and Team Captain, Ms Fulori Ravatu, said



The Fiji Ports Team with Coach Semi Navatu, standing third from left, Aminiasi Natoga, Team Manager fourth from left, and Fulori Ravatu Team Captain, kneeling, second left.

that the support of the FPCL CEO and Management with tournament fees and uniforms made participation in the weekly Lautoka -Nadi business house competition, possible.

The team has managed a 40% win rate so far and report an improvement in their fitness levels making it "a win-win for the company and the staff," said Mr Natoga.

ESS roll-out by HR Department

ON taking over the helm as the new Human Resources Manager at Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd, Mr Jovilis Biukoto says he wants to see all employees upskilled, especially in computer literacy.

This would set the scene for the new project that the IT Department is getting ready to roll out, which would see all employees have access to their leave and other details via the Employee Self Service (ESS) system.

"By year's end, the internal Share Point network should be completed, where employees will have access to information about their departments, as well as information about other departments relevant to their



Mr Biukoto prioritises computer literacy.

work," said Mr Biukoto.

"Literacy, including computer literacy, is one of the most important things, and we are attacking that over the next few months,"

A family man himself, Mr Biukoto emphasises the importance of family. "Work is important, but if your family is in order, your work will be in order."

Regional auditors train

THE nine regional senior and experienced maritime auditors attending the Train the Trainer course for Internal Maritime Auditors improved their competency to train internal maritime auditors to conduct internal audits within their own organisations.

The Internal audits are in preparation for external compliance audits such as the International Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), International Ships and Ports Security (ISPS) Code, and the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, FPCL Senior Ports Facility Security Officer, Captain Jeke Vakkarawa said.

Staff News

Annual Sports and Church Service

Officially 'kicked off' by FPCL General Manager Port Operations, Mr Eminoni Kurusiga, the annual in-house



sporting competition took place with staff and families of FPCL, PTL and FSHIL gathering at Furnival Park to participate in a fun-filled Saturday.



The traditional thanksgiving service and soli was held at Jubilee Hall the next day.



Staff News

Farewell to Nilesh Sharma PTL Foreman Mechanical who has left the company after two-and-a-half years' service.