



# PORTS NEWS



VOLUME 23 THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIJI PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED

MAY-JUNE 2015

## IAPH Conference addresses global ports' challenges

THE 29th International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) World Ports Conference, the most important international conference regarding the port industry, met in Hamburg, Germany, 1st-5th June, to discuss and suggest solutions to the enormous technological and logistical challenges ports are facing globally.

### International symposium

Representing Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL) at the high-level international symposium were FPCL Board Chairman, Mr Tevita Kuruvakadua and CEO Mr Vajira Piyasena.

Mr Piyasena said that the high-level conference provided an opportunity to strengthen international relationships while focusing on resolving global issues of concern to the international port and maritime industries.

With the conference theme "Smart Port Concept", these issues included the development of world trade and cruise shipping, the efficient and prudent use of resources, energy consumption



FPCL CEO, Mr Vajira Piyasena and Board Chairman Mr Tevita Kuruvakadua at the IAPH Conference in Hamburg, Germany.

and pollution mitigation, legal issues, the importance of technology, its role in recording and coordinating the organisation of freight transport and the management of the flow of goods.

### Smart ports

It will take the latest cargo handling equipment and intelligent IT systems to cope with these increasing demands and

cooperation between public and private sectors is essential if "smart ports" are to have any chance of success.

Small ports can also create smart systems at a reasonable cost and effort. For example, the use of video systems that record truck movements can identify and remedy congestion, which affects normal processes.

### Environmental protection

Public awareness of environmental protection has grown enormously in the last 10 years. In the past, shipping was seen as a major contaminator of the environment, but the international environmental regulations at sea that have been passed contributes to a more positive view. Discussions at the conference were dominated by three main issues, sewerage, ballast water and air emissions.

### Increasing vessel size

With the largest container vessels carrying more than 19,000 TEU capacity,

...continued on P2

## FPCL leads Green Port Initiative at PMTA Council

FIJI Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL) was "one of the front runners" taking the Green Port Initiative forward in the annual meeting of the Council of Pacific Maritime Transport Association (PMTA) held in Suva in May.

This was according to the PMTA Secretariat's Mr Sitalingi Payne, Maritime Port Security Officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), who said that FPCL support on the Green Port Initiative was "much appreciated."

The PMTA subcommittees on Environment and Training met during the week-long regional Council meeting. As well as the Green Ports



The PMTA Council in session, with FPCL CEO, Mr Vajira Piyasena, (3rd from right) and FPCL Port Engineer, Mr Ronald Sue (4th from right) in attendance. (Photo courtesy of SPC).

focus of the Environmental Subcommittee, the Training Subcommittee seeks to revise the Pacific Port Workers training standards to include the International Labour Organisation (ILO) standard.

Mr Payne said that the PMTA Council meeting was "especially fruitful", with PMTA meeting for two days

with the executive committees of other regional maritime associations during that same week.

This resulted in the selection of a working group to investigate the feasibility of merging PMTA with these maritime associations, following the endorsement of such a move by the Transport

Ministers' Meeting, held in Nadi, 31st March-4th April 2014.

It is proposed that by bringing different associations and organisations together, duplication of work in various areas can be eliminated, making for greater efficiency and cost effectiveness.

SPC provides Secretariat services for PMTA which is comprised of 14 member countries. Six member countries serve on the PMTA Council: Papua New Guinea, Chair; Cook Islands, Vice Chair, with other Council members being Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and Solomon Islands.



Mr Kirtan Lal, FPCL Manager Finance.

## Kirtan Lal appointed FPCL Manager Finance

Mr Kirtan Lal has been appointed to the position of Manager Finance at Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL).

Chief Financial Officer, Mr Shyman Reddy, said he welcomed Mr Lal's appointment, where he will oversee the company's day-

to-day financial operations and provide managerial support to the Executive Management.

"As well as FPCL's growing work requirements, with operations in Suva, Levuka and Lautoka, we have a subsidiary company, Fiji

Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd, and an associate company, Fiji Ports Terminal Ltd," said Mr Reddy.

Mr Lal said that he appreciated the opportunity to use his extensive background in audit, assurance and financial compliance to contribute to the commercial environment of FPCL.

## FPCL empowered to enforce Seaport Management Act

FPCL is empowered to order the removal of derelict vessels from its harbour boundaries under Part 8, Section 27, Subsection (1) of the Seaport Management Act (2005), but such an order is to be "delivered to the owner or master of the vessel, if their identity and whereabouts are known..." [Subsection (2) c].

"Locating vessel owners so they are fully aware of what is taking place can be very time consuming. Often they are based overseas and we have great difficulty in locating them, not to mention the difficulties we sometimes face with language barriers," said Mr Ajit Narayan, FPCL Risk &



FPCL has enforced its powers invested by the Seaports Management Act to order the removal of the Lau Trader.

Compliance Analyst.

Even when vessel owners are locally based and known to FPCL, there can be delays in removing a derelict. A recent example of such a case being successfully pursued by FPCL involved the local vessel, the Lau Trader.

By exercising its

powers under the Seaport Management Act, FPCL issued a removal order to the owners, to be actioned within a month. The mortgaging bank requested, through proper channels, the opportunity to find a buyer for the vessel, but when this proved unsuccessful, FPCL put it up for tender.

A successful bid for the Lau Trader has been made and the new owner has been given three months to remove the vessel from the port's boundaries.

"Removing a derelict vessel can cost between \$50k and \$500k. It is not budgeted for as it is not part of FPCL's core business, but we do have legal procedures we can enforce," said Mr Narayan.

A derelict vessel is one that is abandoned in a harbour or port for 21 days and has insufficient manpower on board to operate. FPCL follows set procedures to strictly enforce the powers invested in the corporation by the Act.

## FPCL and FNU sign environmental research MOU



Lautoka Port will also benefit from the students' research.

RESEARCH reports by Fiji National University (FNU), students are to contribute to the Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL) environmental monitoring programme.

This follows the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between FPCL and FNU on the 23rd of April this year to promote cooperation in the field of scientific research for the students enrolled in the FNU Bachelor of Science Degrees in Environmental Science and Environmental Management.

Dr Ajantha Perera, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science, FNU, said that the students have been given permission by FPCL to obtain samples of flora, fauna, water and sediment for testing and analysis from the environment adjoining the Ports of

Suva, Lautoka and other wharves under the authority of FPCL.

The students' reports resulting from this training assistance will be used by FPCL to ensure that the Corporation is following the Department of Environment's regulations.

"Such collaborations also provide opportunities for students to gain expertise in the field of environmental monitoring, which will increase their chance of gaining a position once they graduate," said Dr Perera.

## IAPH Conference addresses global ports' challenges ...continued from P1

already restrictions exist in width and draft in international ports' navigation channels and seaport infrastructure. Yet shipping lines seeking savings through further economies of scale, are ordering 21,000 TEU capacity vessels.

Whether such savings actually accrue was raised as an item for discussion, as was the future need for a global

discussion on this continuing trend as it impacts terminal operators who face increasing costs in providing higher gantry cranes, stronger wharfs and larger container terminals.

### Global alliance

With headquarters in Japan, IAPH is the global alliance of the world port community representing more than 200

ports and some 140 port-related businesses in 90 nations that handle more than 60% of the world's sea-borne trade and nearly 80% of the world container traffic.

IAPH has consultative status with five UN agencies including the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

# Chief Operating Officer appointed at Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd

NEWLY appointed Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL) Chief Operating Officer Eranda Kotelawala sees his role as an opportunity to make a contribution to Fiji and FPCL by assisting the CEO and the Board of Directors achieve the corporation's organisational goals.

He believes that Fiji is strategically located, allowing for further development as the transshipment hub of the South Pacific and that FPCL can contribute to this by offering services that are efficient, productive, competitive and profitable.

"For any company to achieve its goals, a bottom-up approach is necessary. We can have all the top tier strategies, goals and visions, but these cannot be achieved without the right



(Back to camera, left - right,) Mr Waqavesi Wara, Property Assistant; Mr Dinesh Lingam, Acting Property Manager and Mr Ajit Narayan, Risk & Compliance Analyst, participating in the strategic review process with (facing camera, left - right), Chief Operating Officer, Mr Eranda Kotelawala and Chief Financial Officer, Mr Shyman Reddy.

people in place.

"I do not believe in people working in isolated silos, as the functions of all departments are interconnected. I aim to engage with all employees in all departments so that we can all align ourselves individually with our departments' core goals and so link with FPCL's organisational goals," said Mr Kotelawala.

Mr Kotelawala took an initial action towards achieving this

aim during his second week with FPCL when he met with senior executives, managers and supervisors from all FPCL departments as part of the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan Review process.

Mr Kotelawala, who holds a Masters Degree in Management from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland, brings to his role at FPCL management experience

gained in companies with core business activities as diverse as Pharmaceuticals, IT, Marketing, Publishing and Business Process Reengineering. More recently, he has worked for the Colombo Plan Secretariat, an organisation involving inter-governmental relationships with a member portfolio of 25 countries.

He has consulted on Business Process Re-engineering Projects at ports in South Africa, Oman and, in 2011, in Fiji.

"Management is not just sitting at a desk. I believe it is more performance and activity orientated, by getting involved and seeing exactly how I can assist in streamlining and improving operations," said Mr Kotelawala.

## Positive client feedback on automated invoicing system



Ms Taufa Bola, Operations Clerk, entering data into the Automated Invoicing System in the Pilots' Office.

AUTOMATED invoicing, greater efficiency and improved accuracy are benefitting both Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd and the company's clients.

FPCL Chief Financial Officer, Mr Shyman Reddy, said that with the commissioning of the Automated Invoicing System, SB Client, in April this year, the company was already receiving positive feedback from clients who

appreciated the streamlined, convenient service.

"The service process begins at the Pilots Office, where the data relating to all pilotage movements is electronically entered. This information is then retrieved at the click of a button in the Finance Department. The data is captured by the operations charge-out software, which then generates the client's invoice."

"The charges are based on real time data such as the size of the vessel, the number of containers and other cargo details," said Mr Reddy.

"With the automated system, we avoid the possibility short charges based on inaccurate estimates, there is no manual posting, which is both time consuming and potentially error prone, there is no

revenue leakage and there are no manual invoices.

With automation of 70% of the service charge-outs at the Port of Suva achieved in Phase 1, Phase 2 will see the remaining 30% of ancillary charges as well as the Port of Lautoka brought on-line before the end of the year. Phase 3 would see the inclusion of the local wharf service charge-outs.

Also contributing to a speedier, more efficient wharf is the removal of the out-dated, 'cash-up-front' system for individual consignments and waiting for the paperwork for these to be stamped prior to removal. Instead, all charges are now 'on account' to the authorised shipping agencies handling the containers.

## Port of Rotuma reopens food crop trade with Tuvalu

AS part of the reinvigoration of a trade initiative first trialed in 2010, a shipment of Rotuman-grown produce will depart the Port of Rotuma on 4th June 2015, bound for Tuvalu, a half-day trip.

Captain Jeke Vakarakawa

, FPCL Senior Port Facility Security Officer, who conducted a security assessment at the Port of Rotuma prior to the Tuvaluan ship's arrival, said that the time for the delivery of the perishable cargo compares favourably with the 40 hours it takes to reach Suva from Rotuma by sea.

The Port of Rotuma was declared a Port of Entry in 2008 under the provisions of the Seaport Management Act of 2005 and the International Ships and Ports Security (ISPS) code. Registered by the Government of Fiji and administered



An FPCL security assessment took place prior to the Port of Rotuma resuming its food crop trade with Tuvalu.

by Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd (FPCL) for statutory requirements, the Port of Rotuma is a second-tier port; that is, one with a specialised function that supports

## Regional engineers on attachment at FSHIL



(Left – right), Mr Stephen Taroniara, Mr Anthony Dimu and Mr Massiah Veremaito on attachment at FSHIL.

THE three Marine Engineering students currently on attachment at Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd (FSHIL) appreciate the opportunity to gain land-based, practical experience in the industry.

Mr Massiah Veremaito, Senior Marine Engineering Officer, Vanuatu Police Maritime Unit, Mr Stephen Taroniara, Senior Marine Surveyor (Underwater), Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration and Mr Anthony Dimu, Marine Engineering student, also from the Solomons, agree that the work at FSHIL more than meets the practical requirements of their Fiji

National University (FNU) course.

All three believe that by applying themselves diligently to their studies and their work at FSHIL they will help to open doors for other students seeking to further their careers in the maritime engineering industry.

FSHIL Operations Manager, Mr Lopeti Radravu, said that the company welcomed the opportunity to assist in fulfilling Fiji's obligations to the development of the regional maritime industry by having the three engineers on attachment.

## Staff News

Welcome aboard to; **Mr Eranda Kotelawala, FPCL Chief Operating Officer, (see Page 3),** **Mr Kirtan Lal, FPCL Manager**



**Finance, (see Page 2), Mr Inoke Cakautini, IFS & RND Officer and**

**Ms Aashni Priya, FPTL HR Coordinator. Farewell to Mr Ratu Isikeli Naqasima, Engineering Assistant, who has resigned after 9 months.**

## Air quality measuring at Kings Wharf

SCIENTIFIC research is being carried out by equipment secured to the roof of the Harbour Master's tower building on the Kings Wharf in Suva.

These two Air Quality Measuring Devices do just that - sample and measure the quality of the air.

PhD student, Ms Cynthia Isley, of Macquarie University, New South Wales, Australia, is spending a year collecting data as part of her research to characterise Suva's air quality.

She said that one of the devices uses laser technology to continuously measure the dust levels in the air, while the second physically collects a dust sample on filters

two days a week. It removes the larger particles and re-samples the smaller ones, those that can travel greater distances and enter our lungs more easily.

With this equipment, it is possible to test for 21 different elements in the air and to detect, within broad categories, the sources of these elements. Sources would include automobile exhaust transmissions, bio-mass burning (burning garden rubbish) and manufacturing and industrial processes.

The end result will be the identification of the major sources of fine particles in the air, which would allow for air quality management in Suva.



One of the measuring devices identifying air particles at Kings Wharf, Suva.

She has also installed measuring devices at Kinoya and the University of the South Pacific (USP) in order to compare air quality on both sides of the Suva peninsula.

Ms Isley's project is coordinated with Fiji's Department of Environment, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme.

## Fire Wardens train with NFA



Fire Wardens engaged in discussion of safety procedures.

TWENTY-SIX Fire Wardens from Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd and Fiji Ports Terminal Ltd came together for the six-monthly training with the National Fire Authority (NFA) of Fiji that is an Occupational

Health and Safety requirement. Training includes how to fight different types of fire, how to conduct an evacuation, knowledge of emergency facilities

and equipment and risk management. During the training, a fire evacuation drill was conducted as these regular, unannounced fire drills are also part of a Wardens' responsibility.

## NZ certification for First Aid Officer

FPCL ensures that the company meets its duty of care obligations as set out in the Occupational Health & Safety Act, with 18 First Aid Officers completing certification with Fiji Red Cross Society Training Officer, Mr Eviame Leilovo.

Assessed on a comprehensive range of potential first aid scenarios in both the work place and the home,



Mr Seru Bulai, Radio Device Tracker, practices his slinging skills on Mr Samuela Vesi, Security, observed by Mr Isimeli Siga, General Purpose Assistant.

they are certificated to the internationally recognised New Zealand Red Cross Standards.

## Mercy T-AH 19 visits Fiji

US Navy Ship, Mercy T-AH 19 berthed at the Port of Suva as part of the USA Government's Pacific Partnership 2015 intended to build regional relationships. As a part of FPCL's corporate social responsibility, FPCL offered a substantial concession for dockage charges of the vessel. The ship will also visit six other Pacific host nations.

