

## International platform for Ports strategies

FIJI Ports CEO Mr Vajira Piyasena has identified key strategies that are vital to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of company's operations.

### Key strategies

"These strategies include improving the collaboration with key stakeholder agencies such as MSAF, Customs and Biosecurity Authority, catering to the growing cruise ship industry, facilitating transshipment trade into the region, and improving aggregate productivity.

"Aggregate productivity is the cumulative benefits of labour and machinery productivity, combined with building productivity, which means the maximum utilisation of available space."

### International platform

The CEO made these observations as a part of his address, "Fiji Ports – Maximising the operations across the four major ports in Fiji", made to the Australasian Ports and Harbors Congress 2012. This was the first time



Delegates from the International Maritime Community at the 12th IAPH Forum meeting in Sri Lanka.

that Fiji has been invited to attend this conference, held in Brisbane this year.

The Chairman of Ports' Board of Directors, Mr David Kolutagane and the CEO also accepted invitations to participate in the 12th Asia/Oceania Regional Meeting of the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), recently held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. IAPH is a global alliance of the world port community, representing some 200 ports and 140 port-

related organisations in 90 countries around the world.

Mr Piyasena said that the exchange of ideas and information at international conferences is useful to apply to the steps Fiji Ports is taken to optimise aggregate productivity.

### Multi-skilled workers

These steps include the plans that are being drafted to up-skill the significant part of the stevedore workforce that consists of Registered Relief Workers,

so that as well as train as stevedores, they can also become multi-skilled workers and can be employed in other areas such as machinery and maintenance sections.

### Dashboard reporting

Already in place is the dashboard reporting system, comprising performance indicators such as machinery downtime, productivity rates and ship delays. This generates daily and weekly reports that allow the senior management to make informed decisions to improve productivity, enhance Planned Maintenance Systems (PMS) and to track down ineffective processes causing delays.

### Transshipment targets

"Discussions are taking place with shipping lines and shipping agents, an essential part of Ports' strategy, as to how the transshipment trade can be improved, as well as how to meet the transshipment volume targets that management has set for the company," said Mr Piyasena.

## Special security for cruise vessels

WITH millions of dollars invested in cruise vessels and passenger safety of paramount importance, each time a liner visits a port of entry in Fiji, special security procedures come into play that are standard practice as required under the International Ships and Ports Security code.

This was the case in Levuka recently, when the cruise liner

MV HANSEATIC paid a visit to the old capital of Fiji early in April this year.

Forty-eight hours before arrival in Fiji, the vessel's master notified Senior Port Facility Security Officer Captain Jeke Vakararawa, through the vessel's agent, of the security status of the previous ten ports that the vessel had visited. As soon as the cruise liner berthed in Levuka, Captain Vakararawa

boarded the ship and signed a Declaration of Security document.

This document stated that the port was safe to visit, the duties of Ports and the Security Team, and those of the vessel and crew while in port.

Both Ports' and the ship's Security Officers made a tour of



MV HANSEATIC at Levuka Port.

the wharf to physically check the security arrangements that were in place. It is at this time that any additional measures would be put in place, if required.

## Ports briefs shipping companies



SHIPS, containers, cargo; all are part of the daily business taking place at Fiji's international ports of entry. But whose business is it that the Ports team is handling?

The simple answer is, the shipping companies and shipping agents that make use of the Ports' facilities, and who comprise the Fiji Ship Owners and Agents Association.

At a recent meeting, Ports CEO Mr Vajira Piyasena, General Manager Port Operations Mr Eminoni Kurusiga and General Manager Technical Services Mr Waqa Bauleka, briefed the Association's members on the strategic initiatives introduced to improve the services available to them.

"Amongst the initiatives being implemented in the dashboard reporting system and already giving immediate feedback to help Ports improve services to its clients, are the Vessels Delayed Report, the Cargo Handling Productivity Report and the Customer Complaints, Customer Claims, and the Customer Satisfaction Index Reports," said Mr Piyasena.

Other reports generated by the system will become operational throughout the year.

# Security training by US Coastguard

ALTHOUGH the U. S. Coastguard has conducted independent audits of Fiji's ports of entry under the International Ships and Ports Security (ISPS) code, the weeklong security training seminar they held in Suva was "a first," said Fiji Ports Senior Security Officer, Captain Jeke Vakararawa.

Attended by employees from the Ports of Suva, Lautoka and Levuka the training was facilitated U.S. Coastguard officers, Mr David Negron-Alicea, Ms. Kimber Bannan and



Ms. Kimber Bannan (standing) of the U.S Coastguard emphasises a point during the security training.

Mr Roberto Rivera, who agreed that the high standard achieved by the participants was "humbling", but that an "equally important outcome was the

development of partnerships and communication across the security sector with everyone using the same language to communicate better."

## Aitken Spence Maritime conducts a "Work Study"

FIJI Ports hosted a team from Aitken Spence Maritime Limited, a Sri Lankan based company that has extensive experience in Productivity and Efficiency Enhancement Management programmes in Ports and Terminals.

The team conducted a Work Study in Ports of Suva and Lautoka. "We appreciate the opportunity to share in the expertise that Aitken Spence has to offer, said Ports CEO Mr Vajira Piyasena. "This visit will contribute to the ongoing development of Ports' key strategies to maximise



Ports CEO Vajira Piyasena (left) with the team from Aitken Spence Maritime Ltd, Mr Anwar Isafahan, General Manager Finance, Mr Iqram Cuttilan, Vice President & Director and Mr Eranda Kotelawala, Consultant Business Process Re-engineering.

operating efficiently and improving productivity, as well as suggest other possible future developments."

Aitken Spence Maritime Limited is a subsidiary of Aitken Spence

PLC, established in 1868, the only Sri Lankan company ranked by the prestigious Forbes magazine as amongst the 200 best companies outside the United States, for three consecutive years.

# Biosecurity standards vital

FIJI Ports and the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) have begun discussions on the best way forward in order to strengthen their working relationship and to ensure high biosecurity standards are maintained at Fiji's ports.

CEO Ports, Mr Vajira Piyasena said that Ports provides the facilities for BAF's operations and the two organisations are considering a Memorandum of Understanding to streamline operational activities and strengthen their already "close relationship."

Under the Biosecurity Promulgation 2008, BAF is



Biosecurity officers check incoming yachts to protect Fiji from foreign plant and animal diseases and pests.

responsible for the biosecurity clearance of all incoming overseas vessels, crews, passengers, accompanied goods, and vessel waste. This is to

ensure that all arriving vessels comply with Fiji's biosecurity laws and that any quarantine risks posed by these vessels are adequately managed.

# Stevedoring, physical and demanding work

WHEN we watch stevedores, crane operators and truck drivers move cargo on and off ship, and in and out of Fiji's ports, it is hard to imagine how different the scene is from sixty years ago.

Railway tracks crisscrossed the wharf, and the stevedores pushed carts laden with sacks of cargo, to and from the shipside.

As can be seen in these photos (courtesy of Williams & Gosling Ltd and thought to be of Lautoka in the 1950s), sugar would be put into sacks at the mill, and then sent across the road to the wharf, where they were pushed by hand on rail carts to the ship's side.

The sacks were then unloaded from the



*Sacks of sugar were pushed by hand on rail carts to the ship's side.*

carts into nets in loads of about two tons at a time, before being slung on board and unloaded onto grilles above the ship's open hatch. The sacks were then split open, and the contents emptied into the hold, where gangs of workers worked

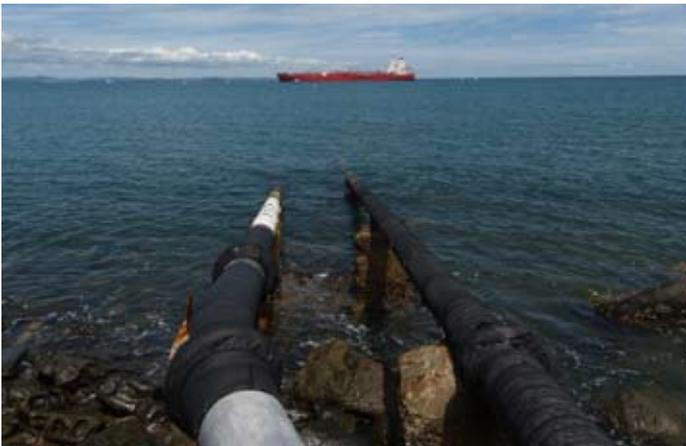


*Stevedores worked in the ship's hold to trim the sugar. (Photos courtesy of Williams & Gosling).*

below decks to 'trim' and pack the loose cargo.

The work was physically demanding, dirty, and potentially dangerous, as all the activity took place at an extremely fast pace.

## Border Police play vital role in national security



*The Border Police are responsible for the security of the pipeline at Vuda Port.*

THE role of Fiji's 98 strong Border Police is to ensure the safety and security of the nation.

As well as having personnel

stationed at the Nadi and Nausori International Airports, there are 12 Border Police stationed at Denarau and six officers based in Vuda.

Acting Commanding Officer for Border Police Denarau, Shiu Chand, said that their duties include working alongside Customs and Immigration at these ports of entry, on every vessel that comes in.

"Our main areas of concern are criminal elements such as bringing in illegal goods or drugs," said Special Officer Chand.

The Border Police are also concerned with terrorism, transitional crime, money laundering, counterfeit travel and related documents, and arms smuggling.

"We also work with Customs

and Immigration when the tankers come in to Vuda, and we police the security of the offshore pipelines. These are used to discharge petroleum products without the tankers coming in to berth at Vuda. We also work very closely with the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji," said Special Officer Chand.

With other de facto ports of entry such as Vuda Marina and Musket Cove on their watch list, the Border Police also work closely with Biosecurity, Agriculture and Health, to minimise all criminal activities in their areas of responsibility.

## Lautoka and Wairiki, wharves for wood chips

THE mountain of wood chips that towers above the Port of Lautoka has become a familiar sight. It is expected that soon, an equally high pile will develop at the new Wairiki Port on the southeastern side of Vanua Levu.

Between 20,000 and 40,000 metric tons of chips are loaded on a bulk

container for the Japanese pulp and paper industry every month at the Lautoka wharf, and exports from Wairiki are expected to begin in July this year.

Wairiki is a declared Port of Entry, under the jurisdiction of Fiji Ports Ltd, and will be managed by Tropic Woods Fiji Limited.



*Between 20,000 and 40,000 metric tons of wood chips are shipped to Japan each month.*

# New OHS committee ready to serve



The OHS Committee employees' representatives meet to discuss their duties with the Ports' Training Officer. From left, Apete Camaibau, Apete Tamani, Sera Ieli (Secretary), Rusi Lacarua, Anare Leweniqila (Training Officer), Meli Volau, Naca Mekemeke (Chairman), Emosi Tabu, Inia Kevetibau and Jashneel Prasad.

THE newly formed Occupational Health and Safety Committee is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for all workers, suppliers, customers and members of the public.

"Safety and security are of paramount importance to all of Ports' operations," said newly elected OHS Committee Chairperson, Mr Nacanieli Mekemeke. "Among the committee's roles is ensuring

that rules and regulations are complied with. We plan to meet every three months, or more often if the need arises.

"The committee recognises the right of every person to a safe and healthy working environment, and intends to drive OHS awareness for all staff, customers and port users."

The committee will stand for two years and is comprised of nine workers' representatives who are elected by Ports employees, and eight employers' representatives, nominated by the CEO. The committee has elected Ms Sera Ieli as Secretary.

## Human Resources farewells NEC recruit



Ms Taraivini Bilo (left) and Ms Sera Ieli at work.

THE staff of Fiji Ports Human Resources Department gathered to farewell Ms Taraivini Bilo at the end of her three month attachment under the National Employment Centre work experience scheme.

Ms Bilo, who hails from Kadavu and holds an Auckland (New Zealand) Unitech Diploma in Management, said that she had been lucky to have the opportunity to work at Ports, and appreciated the friendly and helpful staff in the HR Department.

"I would love to work here permanently if there was a position available. This experience has given me confidence and has prepared me for entering the workforce," said Ms Bilo.

# Certification for crane operators

THE eleven crane operators from the Suva and Lautoka Ports have received certification in their field after successfully completing an intensive training course in the latter part of last year.

The theoretical, practical and safety components of the course were conducted by Mr Roger Sullivan of New Zealand.

Upon presenting them with their certificates, Ports CEO Mr Vajira Piyasena congratulated the operators for achieving this internationally recognised qualification.



Mr Sullivan (4th from left) with ten of the crane operators during last year's training. The eleventh operator is controlling the blue crane in the background.

## Elegance and style



MORE commonly seen cruising the northern islands of the Fiji Group, the Tui Tai maintains its seaworthiness with regular maintenance checks at FSHIL, ensuring that the elegance and style experienced by its customers is matched with safety at sea.

# Qualified to train others

CONGRATULATIONS to Ports Training Officer, Mr Anare Leweniqila, who has successfully completed his HIV/AIDS Awareness Trainers Certification course, conducted by George Beckam of the Fiji Ministry of Labour.

Along with his 14 fellow

participants from other industry sectors, Mr Leweniqila is now qualified to train others to become trainers and workshop facilitators in HIV/AIDS awareness.



Training Officer Anare Leweniqila (left) receives his certificate from Mr George Beckam.