

PMTA Governing Council holds first meeting

FIJI Ports CEO Vajira Piyasena said that the Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance (PMTA) made important progress when the first ever meeting of the Governing Council, of which Fiji Ports is a member, took place in Suva in mid-May.

“With the five-year Strategic Plan endorsed by PMTA’s member countries at the 2011 annual conference, the Governing Council, composed of high-level private sector and government officials, is in a position to approve and implement the Strategic Plan,” said Mr Piyasena.

The Strategic Plan is designed to implement PMTA goals and objectives within the existing regional structures, and for the direct benefit of the Pacific maritime sector, from

2012 through to 2017.

The PMTA Constitution was endorsed at the 36th PMTA Annual Conference in Suva, Fiji last year. Recognising the need to enact by-laws to complement the constitution, the recent Governing Council meeting focused on finalising by-laws that will be endorsed at the 37th PMTA Annual Conference later this year in Tonga. An election of office holders is also due to take place at this Conference.

Other issues that were discussed by the Governing Council included determining the calendar of events, member countries’ requests for assistance in training in areas as diverse as carbon footprint, IT, insurance and tariffs, and the training of managers of regional ports.



Back row, left to right: Fagaloa Fagalo, Samoa Port Authority; Vajira Piyasena, CEO Fiji Ports; William Barile, General Manager Solomon Islands Port Authority; Capt. Hakaumotu Fakapelea, SPC and Rubee Eromanga, General Manager Kiribati Ports Authority. Front row, left to right: Megan Steeter, SPC; Brian Riches, former CEO PNG Port Corporation Ltd and Bim Tou, General Manager Cook Islands Port Authority.

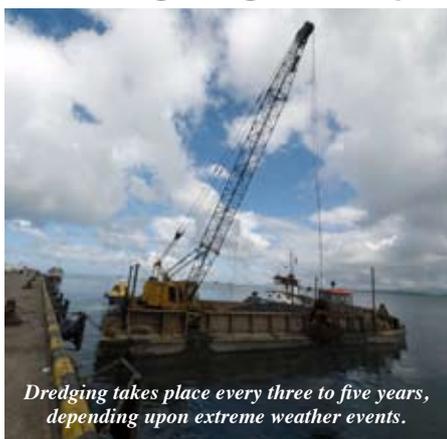
PMTA also aims to address the imbalance between the member Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and the more developed nations, whose decisions can impact the smaller Island states.

“By having a strong, collective, regional voice, PICTs

would be in a better position to negotiate at these decision making processes, and have input at international transport forums,” said Mr Piyasena.

Since 2006, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Transport Programme has provided secretariat services to PMTA.

Dredging keeps harbours open



Dredging takes place every three to five years, depending upon extreme weather events.

“FIJI Ports maintains a minimum depth of 12 metres at Kings Wharf, and a depth of 9.5 metres at Walu Bay,” said Mr Waqa Bauleka, Ports General Manager, Technical Services.

“This requires budgeting for continuous maintenance work, an ongoing dredging programme, to keep the depth sustainable, especially to facilitate the berthing of larger

vessels that have a deeper draught.”

Dredging takes place every three to four or five years, depending upon what extreme weather events have occurred in that period.

“Cyclones and extremely heavy rainfall causes erosion of topsoil from the mountains, down the rivers and creeks and into the harbour. The silt is dredged by a heavy bucket and crane, placed on a barge, and, with approval of the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji and the Fiji Ports Pilots, relocated outside the reef at a depth of almost 200 metres,” said Mr Bauleka.

The dredging work that has just been completed from the Centre to the South Kings Wharf is the final of three stages that began in the first quarter of 2011, with North Kings Wharf and Walu Bay already completed.

“The contractor is just waiting for hydrographic verification of the harbour depths from the Fiji Navy,” said Mr Bauleka.



Mission to Seafarers

AT the end of a building on the Kings Wharf is one of Fiji Port’s tenants, the Suva branch of the Mission to Seafarers. Here, Mrs Viti Whippy and co-worker Ms Marie Lee create a home-away-from-home, under the Flying Angel logo, for the friends they have made from foreign lands such as the Philippines, China, Poland, Croatia, Myanmar, the Ukraine, Sri Lanka, and India.

“Off-duty seafarers phone or email their families or use the little shop that sells basic necessities if they don’t have time to go to town before the ship turns around in 24 hours,” said Mrs Whippy.

Mrs Whippy said that the Mission to Seafarers, founded in Britain in 1856, is a charitable organisation that is funded solely by donations.

FSHIL aims for ISO 9001 certification



Left to right: Mr Lopeti Radravu, FSHIL Work Manager; Ms Ameeta Raj, NPTC Quality Management Training Officer; Mr Navitalai Ratukalou, FSHIL Senior Estimator and Ms Emeleen Kasanibuli, FSHIL Accounts Clerk at the ISO 9001 training.

Fiji's bulk cargo future "promising"

"AS a whole, the future for Fiji and bulk cargo looks promising," said Mr Eminoni Kurusiga, General Manager Port Operations.

Mr Kurusiga said that grain for Fiji's flour mills was arriving every three weeks from Australia, and imports from Asia of concrete aggregate for Fiji Industries Limited arrives about five times a year, on ships that averaged 26,000 metric tons of cargo.

"There has not been as much importation of bulk fertilizer, given the downturn in the sugar industry, but even so, I understand that two shipments of 14,000 tons are due in June."

As well as the dry bulk cargo, Fiji's main liquid bulk import is fuel, which arrives in eight vessels a month, on average, at both the Port of Suva and at the Vuda Terminal.

The monthly wood chip exports of between 32,000 to 40,000 metric tons to Japan

out of Lautoka will soon be augmented by wood chip exports from the Tropic Woods-managed Port of Wairiki.

"When the Amex purpose-built wharf at Lautoka becomes operational, it is envisaged this will boost the exportation of dry bulk especially with the supply of magnetite from the Ba River for the steel industry in China. The average shipment will be known once the operation commences. It is estimated that up to two ships of up to 30,000 tonnage will supply magnetite from the Ba River delta for the steel industry in China," said Mr Kurusiga. "We will see growth in the bulk cargo industry."

In the meantime preliminary investigations, including the logistics in moving copper from the highlands, are still being undertaken by the Namosi Joint Venture. The average shipment has been pegged at 30000 metric tons.



Wood chip exports to Japan out of Lautoka contribute to Fiji's promising bulk cargo future.

ONE of Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd's (FSHIL) strategic objectives for 2012 is to achieve International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001 certification.

"The National Productivity Training Department of the Fiji National University is assisting FSHIL with a training and workshop programme to achieve this objective," said Ms Makereta Taoui, Human Resources Officer for FSHIL.

ISO 9001 is a set of guidelines to assist companies in improving their processes, which in turn improves operating procedures, so they become regionally competitive.

The first phase of the

training saw a steering committee established and trained to implement the 5S Concept.

"The 5S Concept is about keeping workshops and sites clean, having everything organised and labeled, and making sure that there are work instructions for all tasks and procedures. This process also addresses any gaps in FSHIL processes and enhances safety in the workplace," explained Ms Taoui.

The steering committee is organising their own departmental meetings, and ensuring that all projects will be completed by the end of June.



Vehicles are permitted on Muaiwalu II Wharf after all passengers have disembarked and collected their luggage.

BOTH the Muaiwalu I and Muaiwalu II wharves in Suva are subject to security procedures.

"At Muaiwalu I, security is maintained 24 hours a day. Locally registered fishing vessels, some of which fish outside Fiji's 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone are moored here. These vessels are subject to Customs laws and the crew need to have passports," said Captain Jeke Vakararawa. Fiji Port's Senior Port Facility Security Officer. "Other ships gather their catch from within Fiji's waters."

All crews must be on the crew lists that the shipping agents supply for security officers to check at the gate.

"The area is always full and always busy, with ships offloading their cargo and

refueling and resupplying; there is a fish processing plant and shipping agents' offices in the area. Everyone with business on the Muaiwalu Wharf must present proper identification to gain access."

At Muaiwalu II Wharf, Fiji Ports staff maintain security between 8am and 5pm, during the arrival and departure times of the local passenger boats plying the outer islands.

"The wharf area is strictly controlled. No vehicles are permitted to enter the wharf area until all passengers have disembarked and collected their luggage.

"This prevents the theft of personal luggage or goods, such as voivoi, kava and food crops, destined for the Suva Market," said Captain Jeke.

The modern-day stevedore



The modern stevedore needs a good head for heights.

THE modern day stevedores at the Kings Wharf are the people working to load and off-load containers of cargo for import and export.

It probably helps to have a good head for heights, as part of the work entails being lifted up in a safety cage by crane to the

containers that are stacked four or five in height above the ship's deck. Here, the stevedores go about the business of unsecuring incoming containers, or securing export containers to each other and to the ship.

Stevedores who have had

the appropriate training also operate the derricks and cranes on the ship as well as the huge container cranes on shore.

Because they are responsible for moving the containers from the storage area to the crane to offload, and from the crane to the storage area to load they need to be able to follow the ship's plan to make sure cargo is loaded in the correct place.

Although modern technology has altered the way in which stevedores work, it is still potentially hazardous, and each stevedore needs to be aware of his own and his workmate's safety, whether working high up on the containers or moving them around on the wharf with heavy forklifts.

Intranet Share Point nearly complete

"THE IT Department's work to develop an intranet Share Point for Ports' staff is nearly complete," said IT Department Head, Mr Deepak Singh.

"The project that began in February this year should be ready to roll out to the Ports staff by the end of June."

Mr Singh said that the Share Point will allow staff to be better informed and better able carry out all their work through the intranet as all departments, staff and contacts, company-wide and departmental policies and forms will be accessible on-line, with all memos and letters bearing the correct Ports letterhead.

It will be possible to share pictures, diagrams, documents, and to hold on-line meetings and discussion forums. Projects can be assigned on-line to specific people, showing the project's priority, description, start, review and finish dates.

"Of course, the information contained in company intranet will only be accessible to people with the appropriate access codes," said Mr Singh.

South Seas' services at Ports

OVERSEAS vessels arriving at the Ports of Suva and Lautoka are able to berth and unberth safely, in a timely manner, and without damage to Fiji Ports' wharf infrastructure, with the assistance of tugboats provided by the South Seas Towage company.

"As well as these harbour towing services provided by four tugboats in Suva and two in Lautoka, the company also maintains a safety watch service for all tankers without a gas free certificate entering both ports. A gas free certificate means that there is no volatile gas inside the tanker," explained Ports Harbour



South Seas Towage provides services in the Ports of Suva and Lautoka.

Master Captain Saiasi Buliruarau.

"Should a ship catch on fire at one of the ports, part of South Seas Towage's responsibility is to tow the burning vessel away from the wharf, again to prevent damage to Fiji Port's property,"

said Captain Buliruarau.

Captain Victor Fatiaki, General Manager and Executive Director of South Seas Towage said, "Renewing the contract with Fiji Ports is a milestone achievement for the company."

Dashboard changes reporting for Ports

THE introduction of the dashboard method of reporting is changing the way staff report to their General Managers, and in turn, the way management reports to the Board of Directors.

"Instead of presenting thick stacks of paper at Board meetings, General Managers are able to gather information collated by their staff, which has been entered into a template for monthly reporting," explained

Mr Vajira Piyasena, Ports CEO. "This is very empowering for the staff who collate the data, as they get the credit for gathering the correct information."

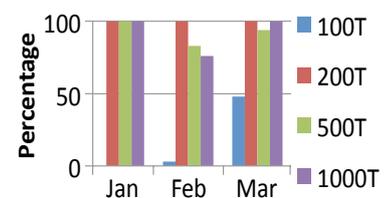
Once entered into the template, the data is presented by the IT Department in a chart form that clearly shows trends for the current and preceding months.

For example, for the first time, Ports' customers have been asked to rate

the Company in areas such as efficiency in customer service, safety and security at its premises, schedule of charges, communication with Fiji Ports personnel, and their overall satisfaction level. This data becomes the Customer Satisfaction Index.

"The Board can see trends and can evaluate at a glance important Key Performance Indicators such as Human Capital Value Added, Project

Capacity Utilisation



Important KPIs can be evaluated at a glance.

Cost Variance, Capacity Utilisation, Cargo Handling Productivity, or Cost and Consumption of Energy," said Mr Piyasena.

New OHS Committees train for role

THE newly elected Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committees at the Ports of Lautoka and Suva have completed their three days of training conducted by the Ministry of Labour's Mr George Beckham, during which they visited the wharves to gather photographic evidence of areas of potential risk. These they later discussed and made recommendations on how risks could be addressed.

It is a legal requirement under the 1996 Health and Safety Accord that OHS Committees are aware of their responsibilities and the role they play in keeping the workplace accident free.



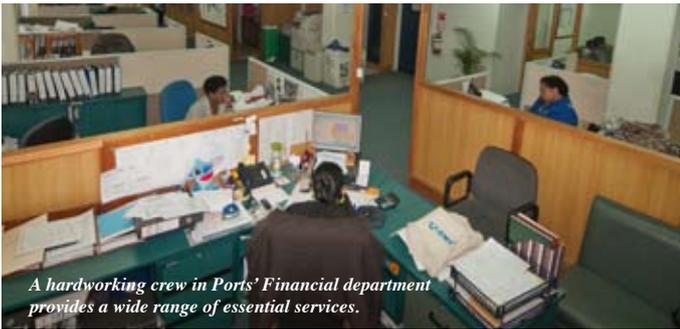
From left: Mr Emosi Tabu, Ms Mele Moala, Mr Anare Tuidraki and Mr Lagi Qalulu discuss potential risks on the Kings Wharf.

"It is important that the Ports' OHS Committees address accident prevention, worker safety, and possible damage to machinery or clients goods," explained Ports Training Officer Mr Anare Leweniqila. "As well as the human cost of any accident, there is also a financial cost. It is a part of good financial management to reduce

insurance costs and payouts by having a clean OHS record."

The Committee members have also begun a review of the OHS policies of Lautoka and Suva Wharfs, and are working towards producing a standard OHS Policy for Fiji Ports and its subsidiaries, Ports Terminal Limited and Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Limited.

Finance department essential to efficiency



A hardworking crew in Ports' Financial department provides a wide range of essential services.

WHEN we think of Fiji Ports we think of wharves and cranes, seafarers and stevedores, cargo ships and containers, cruise vessels and tourists; all the people and activities be found at an international trade and passenger gateway.

But behind the scenes there is a hardworking crew who quietly and efficiently provides a range

of financial services, essential to the smooth running of Fiji Ports and its subsidiaries, Ports Terminal Limited (PTL) and Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Ltd. (FSHIL).

"Financial management is a very broad term that describes the Department's core function," said Mr Asit Sen, Ports General Manager Finance. "This

includes internal and external financial reporting, internal financial control through the management of financial policy and budgetary controls, managing cash flow through debt monitoring and collection, providing the 100% in-house payroll services, the receipting and daily banking, credit payment and the management of loans, asset management, and insurance and financial risk management.

Headed by Mr Sen, the Department also consists of three accountants, one each for Fiji Ports, PTL and FSHIL, as well as an assistant accountant at each of the Suva and Lautoka Ports. Also helping to carry out the all important work of the Finance Department is a team of 26 clerks and other administrative support staff.

Staff News

Graduations:

Congratulations to recent graduates of the Fiji National University, **Ms Karalaini Tukana**, Board Secretary, who completed a degree in Human Resources and Industrial Relations and **Ms Mohini Lingham**, Accounts Clerk, of who obtained a Diploma in Accounting.

Retirements: Best wishes to **Mr Taniela Driu**, Wharf Attendant, and **Mr Kasimiro Rayasi**, Registered Relief Worker who have retired after 30 years of service.

Farewell and best wishes to:

Ms Riteshni Rita, PA to GM Finance, in April this year.

Mr Akeef Khan, Systems Administrator, in June this year.

Feasibility studies for Labasa

"It is hoped that all stakeholders will have their feasibility studies in place by the end of June, ready for assessment and what the future direction will be from there."

Mr Waqa Bauleka, Ports General Manager Technical Services, was commenting for the proposed construction of a new port of entry at Naduri, on Vanua Levu, a project that is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Works.

"Stakeholders include Fiji Ports, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji, Commissioner Northern and Divisional Surveyor Northern, the Navy's Hydrographic Department, iTaukei Land Trust Board, and the landowners in the area."

Mr Bauleka said that the Labasa Chamber of Commerce would like to see a port of entry develop "to entice international cruise ships to visit and to also open up trade possibilities. Decisions about the next steps would be made after all the studies have been assessed."

Turning the Kings Wharf into a veritable festival of lights is the Yuan Wang 5, one of the sophisticated Chinese satellite tracking ships that has become a regular visitor to Suva, where the crew come ashore for rest and recreation.

