

Ports chart a future path – the year in brief



Fiji Ports CEO Vajira Piyasena.

WITH the festive season now around the corner and as 2012 draws to an end, it is a fitting time to briefly review the past year. This year can be summarised in a few words: In the face of considerable challenges, Fiji Ports made significant progress.

Modernisation

The organisation's vision statement, 'to be the regional leader in providing world class port services and ship repairs', has guided the vision for change and modernisation that has been a focus of 2012. Fiji

Ports has met the challenge of adapting to changes necessary for making progress in achieving targets set out in the Corporate Plan and in our strategic initiatives.

Commitment to change

These improvements have been achieved through the commitment that Management and staff have made in working towards organisational goals central to creating a regionally competitive business and excellence in service delivery.

Process ownership

Equally important has been the staff's conviction that change is good for the organisation, and who for the first time, have been consulted and given the opportunity to take ownership of change and contribute to the Fiji Ports strategic planning process. According to staff feedback, 80% of all staff are convinced

that change is beneficial to the company, a positive outcome that makes change possible.

Thank you

I would like to begin by acknowledging the noteworthy contributions made by our Board over the past 12 months, a significant input towards the development of Fiji Ports.

A heart-felt thank you to all staff, whose hard work helped in achieving our goals and to bring about these changes. There are more steps along this pathway to modernisation, but the acceptance that has already occurred abides well for implementation of the next Strategic Plan once we obtain necessary approvals.

Best wishes to all staff members and your families, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a safe and happy New Year. Lastly, let us not forget those who have been affected by

Cyclone Evan. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Vajira Piyasena
CEO Fiji Ports



Safe in cyclone

WITH the threat of Cyclone Evan, safety precautions at Muaiwalu I and II Wharves saw six passenger ferries and 30 fishing vessels directed to anchorage in the harbour, to ride out the hurricane.

At the time of going to print there were no reports of damage to local vessels.

Passenger schedules will resume as soon as possible.

PMTA addresses global challenges



Front row: Bim Tou (G.M. Cook Islands Ports Authority), Vajira Piyasena (CEO Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd), Rev Dr Ahio (Wesleyan Church of Tonga), Stephen Edwards (Board Chairman, Ports Authority Tonga), Lord Tu'ivakano (Prime Minister of Tonga), Rubee Eromanga (G.M. Kiribati Ports Authority), Richard Prima (Board member, Tonga Ports Authority), Mosese Lavemai (G.M. Ports Authority Tonga), Carl Sanji, (Board member, Ports Authority Tonga). Standing 2nd row, 7th from left, Commander Joeli Cawaki. (Apologies to those not named due to lack of space.)

THE 37th conference of the Pacific Maritime Transport Association (PMTA), held in Tonga mid-October, saw

representatives of regional ports authorities participate in high level discussions on topics such as Port

Business, Shipping, Port Operations, Infrastructure and Environmental Issues.

The theme, 'Pacific Ports Creating Opportunities in Global Challenges', was a reminder that while often challenges faced by Fiji and other regional port authorities are global in their origin, such as the economic recession, the impacts of climate change, and natural disasters, all port authorities need to seek opportunities to continue to contribute to their national economies by developing their business.

PMTA aims to promote such development by providing

a platform for regional cooperation between member ports and port users and through mutual association, the exchange of knowledge and the dissemination of information.

Representing Fiji Ports at the conference were Fiji Ports Board Director Commander Joeli Cawaki and CEO Vajira Piyasena, at which eight participating Pacific Island port authorities, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati, took the opportunity to present country reports on their operations.

2012 transshipment growth

2012 brought a lot of challenges to Fiji Ports in terms of the changing patterns in vessel arrivals where 'vessel bunching' is quite prevalent. "At the same time the increase in container numbers had a rippling effect on our storage capabilities," said Eminoni Kurusiga, General Manager Port Operations.

"Of course, there is always room for further improvement, and this is one of our aims for the new year," said Mr Kurusiga. "But a highlight for 2012 has been the increase of transshipment cargo from 5315 TEUs in 2011 to 6329 TEUs as at the end of November 2012.

This figure should change as we still have to record the transshipment figures for December 2012.

"As the Head of Operations, I wish to acknowledge all Operation Division employees especially those who are responsible for the physical work. They are the ones who deliver the goods, working in all weather patterns, 24/7, whilst some of us enjoy the comfort of air conditioned offices and at times having good rests whilst these hardworking people need to continue regardless," he said.

Mr Kurusiga said that he also wanted to thank their



Despite storage space challenges, Fiji Ports has continued to improve in productivity.

respective families for their support, as often they had less family time than other people.

With the festive season a few

days away he also would like to wish every Operation Division family a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

A good year for cruise vessel visits

"THIS has been a very good year for cruise vessel arrivals at Fiji Ports," said Captain Jeke Vakararawa, Senior Port Facility Security Officer.

He said that many of the 33 cruise vessels on the 2012 schedule returned to Fiji more than once during the year, with most making more than one port of call on each occasion.

Captain Vakararawa said that this increase in cruise vessel visits was a testament to Fiji Ports consistency in maintaining the International Ships and Ports Security (ISPS) Code.

"From the inception of the ISPS Code in 2004 until now, we are proud that all of Fiji's international Ports of Entry continue to be recognised as safe, secure ports for tourism, as well as for trade.

"The future looks very bright for cruise vessels visiting Fiji. 2012 was a very good year, but the schedule for 2013 indicates that next year could be even better."

New ideas from Singapore course

MELI VOLAU, Fiji Ports Officer in Charge Levuka, has returned from Singapore with new ideas on streamlining operations at the Port of Levuka.

Mr Volau, who comes from Doi Village, Ono-i-Lau, spent three weeks in Singapore as a guest of the Singapore Port Authority, attending a Port Management and Operation Course.

"It's all about having a 24 hour plan in place before a vessel arrives, how many workers and what equipment will be needed, the total number of moves to load or unload, all the details that need planning before a vessel leaves for the next port of call."



Mr Meli Volau, Officer in Charge Levuka, observes the operation of the fully automated system at Penang Port, Singapore.

Selected from five who were short-listed, Mr Volau saw first-hand in Singapore how a large international port can function quickly and efficiently.

"It's all paperless in Singapore, it's all machinery and programmed computers," said Mr Volau. "Trucks enter the

port eight at a time. The drivers swipe a card in an electronic device that tells them where to go to collect their containers. They can complete the pick-up and be leaving the port within 38 minutes."

Mr Volau is the only permanent Fiji Ports employee at the Levuka Port. He is capable of carrying out all necessary work, from tying up a ship's lines to issuing the paperwork charging the vessel for the port's services. While the operation at Levuka is considerably smaller than at the Singapore Port, Mr Volau is using his new skills and knowledge to complete his tasks in a shorter time.

Security maintained at undeclared ports

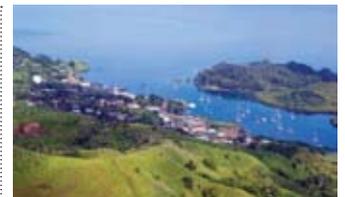
WHEN a cruise vessel makes first landfall at an undeclared port, such as Denarau, Kadavu, or in the Lau group, the strict border controls that apply at declared ports of entry must also be maintained.

Although the ship's Master and Security Officers take responsibility for their own security arrangements when first entering Fiji at an undeclared port, Fiji authorities such as Customs, Biosecurity and

Immigration still have to meet the incoming vessel so that all clearances can be arranged.

While this is easily accommodated at the Port of Denarau, Border Control officials are flown to Kadavu, for example, at the expense of the shipping company, to clear the vessel, its passengers and crew.

If a cruise vessel is scheduled to leave Tonga and enter an undeclared port in eastern Lau, the Border Control agents



An undeclared port of entry, Savusavu is sometimes host to international cruise vessels.

will be flown to Tonga, again at the expense of the shipping company, where they conduct all appropriate clearances before the vessel sails for its Fiji destination.

Ports plans strategy

FIJI Ports' strategic planning for the next three years took place with 20 participants, comprised of Directors, the CEO, General Managers and Line Managers of Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd, Ports Terminal Ltd and Fiji Ships and Heavy Industries Ltd meeting to discuss the way forward for the company and its subsidiaries.

"There was active participation, with everyone contributing to an open and free debate on the way forward for Fiji

Ports," said Ms Karalaini Tukana, Fiji Ports Board Secretary.

Facilitated by Philip Gerlach, assisted by Paul Evers of Tahila Group, the two-day workshop included presentations by Fiji Ports Chairman David Kolutagane; CEO Vajira Piyasena; Human Resources Consultant, Mrs Indira Sharma; President of the Fiji Shipowners and Agents Association, Mr Benny Hong Tiy, and Captain Philip Hill of the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji.



The Strategy Planning Work Team take a break during the workshop in Nadi.

The expected outcomes from this workshop were the 2013 to 2015 Strategic Plan, the 2013 Linked Corporate Plan and the 2013 Human Relations Plan.

Ms Tukana said that during

the workshop a review of previous years' Corporate Plans, Statements of Corporate Intent and Human Resources Plans showed a need for these documents to be combined.

FSHIL looks ahead



FSHIL is prepared for the development of the heavy industry arm of the business.

A major focus in the coming year for Fiji Ships and Heavy Industries Limited (FSHIL) will be on the development of the 'heavy industries' section of the company business.

FSHIL General Manager

Raneel Mudaliar said that FSHIL aims to expand activities so that there is an alternative source of income, running parallel with the ship repair business.

"By going into the market place and doing heavy industrial

work for clients other than ship owners, FSHIL will optimise the use of man power and equipment, and not be dependant upon one revenue stream for income," said Mr Mudaliar.

He said that all FSHIL employees are working hard towards this, with systems and procedures being put in place during 2012 to comply with company policies.

As a result, during the past year, there had been a variety of training sessions that included Occupational Health and Safety, first aid with Red Cross, emergency response procedures with the National Fire Authority, and certification in welding and

hot works.

Mr Mudaliar said that there had been a drive to improve conditions for employees with FSHIL. This includes the introduction of the first medical insurance scheme for all workers, an ongoing changing room refurbishment programme, the continuous renewal of diving gear, and the upgrade of all computers to Dell P.C.s, accompanied by the rewiring of the whole FSHIL network.

"It is a matter of finding that fine balance between maintaining the company's human resources - the workers - and the equipment we use," said Mr Mudaliar.

Muaiwalu meets holiday demand

DURING the Christmas and New Year holidays, people take the opportunity to return to their villages on outer islands and children who have been schooling on the main island return to their families.

"The wharf gets very crowded, with the wharf attendants having extra work in controlling traffic, passengers, and the loading and unloading of cargo. Fortunately, there is a security fence, which helps us keep everything under control," said Fiji Ports Supervisor, Local Wharf, Marika Koroi.

The attendants at Muaiwalu Wharf will work extended

hours over the holiday season to keep the important shipping links between Viti Levu and the outer islands functioning efficiently.

"We have to collect all the schedules from the shipping companies or their agents. Then we work out how we will prepare and rotate the availability of berth space for all of the ships coming in to berth," said Mr Koroi. "It is a cooperative effort between Fiji Ports and the shipping companies."

Mr Durga Prasad, Managing Director of Seaview Shipping, said that with effect from the beginning of December, his company had increased the

number of scheduled trips to Rotuma from one to three a month, to cater for the increased demand.

All of the eight local contracted shipping companies using the Muaiwalu berth spaces have scheduled additional voyages for their 12 vessels, so scheduling the use of these becomes a carefully planned exercise in logistics for Mr Koroi and his team of eight wharf attendants.

In addition, charters to outer



Additional trips are scheduled in the holiday season.

islands and Suva harbour cruises have been scheduled, and fishing vessels coming in to refuel and re-provision will also use the Muaiwalu facilities.

The increased demand on the available berth space will continue until the end of holiday season, late January 2013.

FSHIL ready for busiest time

"THE approaching year's end does not mean a slowing down of business. This is our busiest time, because many fishing vessels schedule repairs before their next season," said Makereta Taoi, Human Resources Officer of Fiji Ships & Heavy Industries Limited (FSHIL).

"It has been a challenging and busy year, with many major projects successfully completed, such as the life extension programme that has given the Fiji Navy vessel RFNS Kula another 15 years of seaworthiness."

Throughout 2012, FSHIL has consistently maintained 90 to 95% of slipway use, with the only 'down-times' being for routine maintenance and repair of facilities.

"Christmas Day is the only day off, otherwise FSHIL continues to



The slipways have been kept occupied with local vessels as well as by regional ships throughout 2012.

work as a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week business," said Ms Taoi.

She said that FSHIL has introduced shift work, so if a project comes in that requires a lot of hot works, machinists are rostered to work, as and when required. The rostering of shift work to optimise the use of specific machinery also takes place if there is a vessel on each of the four slipways.

"These measures improve the turn-around time, ensuring that

vessels are completed on time," said Ms Taoi.

"Recently there were three regional vessels up on the slipways; one from Tonga, one from Kiribati, and the third from the Marshall Islands. It was a very proud moment to see this regional occupancy.

"The FSHIL team of workers could see the faith that our clients have in the quality of their work and the services that the company delivers."

Fleet maintenance



Following strict Occupational Health and Safety standards, the team working in the Mechanical Services and Special Projects Department follows a schedule of repair and maintenance of all machinery and gear that is used to move cargo and containers around the wharf.

Maritime charts modernised

IF larger vessels vital to Fiji's trade, and increasingly, cruise liners, are to visit our ports, then for both economic and safety reasons, nautical charts need to meet the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) standards of navigation and safety.

The two-week IMO-funded Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting Workshop that recently took place at Fiji's Naval Headquarters aimed at building capacity in mapping of the seabed (hydrographic surveying) and nautical chart production.

As well as Fiji, participating countries included Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma), Cook



Modern seabed mapping methods are essential for up-to-date charts that assist in the reduction of risk to life at sea.

Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The workshop was conducted by trainers from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office as a regional initiative for Asian and Pacific nations, supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Help for those in need

THIS year Fiji Ports made its annual charity donation to a family, not an organisation when Social Committee members visited Mr and Mrs Tebano who lost their family home in a fire at Savutalele Settlement, Tacirua.

"It is appropriate to make this donation as a part of the company's corporate social responsibility," said Mr Anare Leweniqila, Fiji Ports Training

Officer.

The \$900 donation was made up of the company contribution of \$500.00, and \$400.00 that was collected during the Fiji Ports annual thanksgiving church service that followed the Family Sports day in August.

Mr Iobeta Tebano, who comes from Rabi, thanked management and staff of Fiji Ports Corporation and subsidiary companies PTL &



Mr and Mrs Tebano with the donation.

FSHIL for "the timely donation that is a great relief and joy."

Staff News

New IT team member



Mr Vijit Prasad.

"I love the working environment and the staff are very friendly," said newly appointed **IT Administrator Vijit Prasad** who has joined the **Fiji Ports IT Team** at Muaiwalu House.

Mr Prasad holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computing Science Information Systems and since his graduation from the University of the South Pacific in 2009 has held a positions in his field with WebMedia, Coca Cola, and most recently, the Fiji Development Bank.

Twenty years' service

FOR more than 20 years, **Mr Isimeli Siga** has taken care of the offices, and their occupants, at the Fiji Ports Headquarters. He is the **Caretaker and Cleaner**, under the **Engineering Department**.

If people are working late, then Mr Siga patiently waits until they leave, so that he can ensure that the building is securely locked. And no matter how late he has to stay, he will be the first one back the next morning to unlock the doors again.

The father of five who comes from Gau said, "I really appreciate working at Fiji Ports. It has made it possible for me to provide a house for my family, and an education for my children. But Fiji Ports has become like a



Mr Isimeli Siga

second family, as I spend more time at work than at home."