

CLOSE WINDOW



March 2002

AROUND THE PORT

The New Year is starting off much like the last with economic sluggishness in the United States and the Far East slowing container cargo shipments at the Port of Long Beach.

Shipping terminals at the port moved the equivalent of 344,645 twenty-foot-long container units in January, a 2.8 percent decline from January 2001.

“The winter season is typically our slowest quarter,” said port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke.

“The January numbers indicate that the U.S. economy remains weak and that the sharp rise in the value of the dollar is hurting U.S. exports.”

Both imports and exports declined in January. Imported container cargo fell 7.3 percent to 180,528 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), a sign of slumping consumer spending. The port’s leading imports include electronics, clothing, toys and shoes.

Exported container cargo decreased 8 percent to 70,944 TEUs. The port’s leading exports include factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, cotton and chemicals.

The number of empty containers shipped through the port jumped 12.8 percent to 93,173 TEUs. Nearly all of the empty containers were shipped overseas to be refilled with cargo that is then shipped back to the United States.

The port has redesigned its web site -- www.polb.com -- with the pages given a fresh, colorful look, an updated layout, new photographs and improved, easy-to-use navigational tools.

Better navigation was the primary goal of the web site redesign,” said port Executive Director Steinke. We wanted our web site to be more accessible so that it would be easier for people to learn about the port. We have always had lots of very useful information in our web site. Now it will be much easier to find.”

The web site now features drop-down menus, a search engine and a site map so that visitors can quickly find the latest news release, cargo statistics, the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners agenda, construction projects, a directory of tenants or anything else within the

site.

The individual pages of the port's redesigned web site now can be book-marked so that regular visitors can return to their favorite section more easily.

The various sections – About the Port, Port Stats, Commission, Environment, Facilities and Contacts – are color-coded to make them more easily distinguishable.

The web site was redesigned with the help of Jensen Design Associates Inc. of Long Beach.

Port Executive Director Richard Steinke, who is also chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities, told a Senate subcommittee in Washington last month that “the \$93.3 million provided by Congress is a good start, but significantly more money is needed” to adequately provide security at the nation's ports.

Steinke also told the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Government Information that it was not practical to inspect all cargo containers. “...We don't have the technology,” he said. “We also have to strike a balance between commerce and security.”

Transportation Department administrator William Schubert testified that the ports would have to shut down for four months for the U.S. Customs Service to inspect all the cargo on their docks.

The Board of Harbor Commissioners have agreed to sell the 12.4 acres of land at downtown Long Beach's 27-story World Trade Center building, 393-room Hilton Hotel and adjoining parking complex.

The port sparked a high-rise building boom in downtown Long Beach in the 1980s when it acquired the land and cleared the site for downtown's tallest office building.

In a \$20.4 million deal, the port is now selling the land to Commercial Developments International/West Inc., a subsidiary of Japan's Kajima Corp. – the company that built the World Trade Center. CDI has been leasing the land from the port.

With its acquisition of the land, CDI/West plans to sell the land and buildings to Phoenix-based Ensemble Investments LLC, which owns other high-rises in Long Beach and elsewhere.

The World Trade Center building will retain its designation and logos as a “World Trade Center” under the terms of the port's sale agreement with CDI/West and Ensemble.

Ensemble also has agreed to continue leasing about 3,000 square feet of office space to the World Trade Center Association at a nominal fee of \$1 a year for at least the next 10 years.

The bulk-carrier Sheila Ann has delivered the first of 12 loads of rock to form a dike around a planned 12-acre landfill at the south end of the International Transportation Service's Pier J terminal.

The Sheila Ann, a self-unloading vessel operated by Canada Steamship Lines, brought more than 50,000 tons of rock from the Texada quarry in British Columbia. More shipments are scheduled during the next six months.

The landfill is to be built during the next two years under a \$38 million contract with Manson Construction Co.

The first two cranes for Hanjin Shipping Co.'s new 375-acre Pier T container terminal are scheduled to arrive during the first week of April.

The bright red-orange cranes, being built by Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. (ZPMC) at a cost of about \$7 million each, are among the world's largest. They will arrive aboard ZPMC's Zhenhua 6

fully erected, standing 350 feet high with their booms raised.

The latest schedule calls for the second shipment with four cranes, aboard the Zhenhua 1, to arrive in mid-April. A third shipment with four cranes is set to arrive in early June, and a fourth shipment with two cranes is to arrive in early August.

The first 290 acres of the Hanjin Terminal is on schedule to open by July.

The port's Trade and Maritime Services Division is recruiting for a new marketing manager.

The duties include maintaining contacts with current and prospective tenants, analyzing industry trends, forming marketing plans and briefing port visitors.

The port is looking for applicants with a college degree and at least five years of experience in maritime industry marketing or operations. The deadline for applications is March 22. For more information, call (562) 901-1750.

Toyofuji Shipping Co. Ltd.'s environmentally sensitive car-carrier ship, the New Century 2, made its maiden call on Feb. 15 at the Toyota Pier B terminal.

The New Century 2 features a cleaner-burning engine, an advanced propeller and stator fin design and solar-powered lighting that enable the ship to travel at a service speed of 20 knots while using 16 percent less fuel than the previous generation of car carriers.

The New Century 2 is among the world's largest car carriers, able to hold 6,000 sub-compact automobiles. Its sister ship, the New Century 1, made its maiden call to Long Beach in September.

Port officials welcomed the 5,500-TEU Hanjin Cairo during its maiden call on Feb. 26 at Hanjin Shipping Co.'s Pier A terminal.

Hanjin has deployed the new container ship in its main pendulum service calling in Europe, Asia and the U.S. West Coast.

The 901-foot-long Hanjin Cairo is the 15th vessel in the 5,500-TEU class acquired on a long-term charter from the German leasing company Conti Rederei.

International Transportation Service is planning early this month (March) to switch the three gantry cranes from its northern-most berth, 232, with the cranes at its southern-most berth, 234, to accommodate "K" Line's new 5,600-TEU vessels.

The Paceco cranes that had been at Berth 232 are larger.

An all-day music video shoot with the alternative rock band "No Doubt" was scheduled for early this month in Channel 3 with vessels from Nielsen Beaumont Marine Inc.

No Doubt," whose recent hits include "Hey, Baby," features singer Gwen Stefani.

Copies of the updated and redesigned 2002 Port of Long Beach Reference Guide and Tide Tables are available in the lobby of the port Administration Building, 924 Harbor Plaza.

The free booklet is published by the port and Jacobsen Pilot Service.

Long Beach Harbor Commission President Carmen Perez and Orient Overseas Ltd. Chairman C. C. Tung were among the scheduled speakers for the Journal of Commerce's 2nd Annual Trans-Pacific Maritime Conference March 3-5 in Long Beach.

James Castle, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia, will be the

speaker at a March 7 breakfast hosted by the Foreign Trade Association and the IBEAR Executive Program at the University of Southern California.

The event will be held at the USC Faculty Center in Los Angeles. For information, call (323) 730-1011.

Increasing productivity at port shipping terminals amid heightened security is the focus of the fourth annual trade and transportation industry town hall meeting March 13.

The Center of International Trade and Transportation will hold the free event from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at Cal State Long Beach.

The scheduled speakers include Assemblyman **Alan Lowenthal**, U.S. Maritime Administration administrator **Margaret Blum**, economist **Jack Kyser**, U.S. transportation security Undersecretary **John Magaw**, and U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port **John Holmes**.

USC professor Baizhu Chen will give an update on the WTO at a March 19 luncheon hosted by the International Trade Club at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 434-7393.

The topic at the March 22 luncheon meeting of the International Business Association will be Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal's proposed legislation to penalize terminal operators that keep trucks waiting in line with their engines idling for more than 15 minutes. Terminals would be exempt if they opened for extended hours.

The speakers will be terminal planner Peter Vandermat of JWD Group and legislative analyst Stephanie Williams of the California Trucking Association.

The IBA luncheon will be held at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

PORT PEOPLE

Edward Yau, the overseas representative in Hong Kong for the Port of Long Beach, has been re-elected as treasurer of the U.S. States & Ports Association in Hong Kong.

The association promotes trade development, investment and increased business activity among the United States, Hong Kong, China and Southeast Asia.

Terry L. Harbour, who rose through the ranks during a 31-year career in the Long Beach Fire Department, has been named to succeed Skip Beck as fire chief.

James Hankla, the CEO of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority and a former Long Beach city manager, will be honored as Entrepreneur of the Year by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The presentation will be made during the chamber's annual Economic Outlook Conference March 14 at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 436-2810.

E-MAIL NEWS BULLETINS!

The port issues a free Internet version of Tie Lines and e-mail "news flashes" on breaking news.

To sign up, send a blank e-mail to
polb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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