



The Shipping Association of Trinidad & Tobago

Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2012

Members Making News

SEABOARD HOSTS FLORIDA'S LT. GOVERNOR

Seaboard Marine Trinidad Limited welcomed Florida's Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carrol with a reception at the Hyatt Regency on 7 August. Serving as the evening's host was Seaboard Miami Senior Vice President, Jose Perez-Jones.

Ms. Carrol visited Trinidad and Tobago with a delegation of executives from the United States interested in establishing business relationships with entities here.

Seaboard regularly hosts trade ambassadors at their locations throughout the United States, Caribbean Basin and Central and South America.

Source: Trinidad Express

NGC SUPPORTS COMMUNITY FILM SHOWS

Not many people may remember the local cinematic classic "Bim" which starred former Minister Ralph Maraj, but thanks to the NGC-sponsored Independence Film Series held recently, people were introduced to and reminded of the blockbuster which was the talking point for many in the 70's.

NGC's sponsorship supports and helps facilitate the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival's initiative to take to communities films which have been produced locally, or which have a local dimension and is part of the company's gift to the nation to mark the 50th anniversary of Independence.

Source: Trinidad Guardian

NEW MARKETS
Forging Relationships
EXPAND INTO BUSINESS AREAS



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Stakeholder's Forum

EC COUNCIL MEETS WITH CUSTOMS COMPTROLLER

Mr. Ashley Taylor and Mr. Rhett Chee Ping met with the Comptroller of the Customs and Excise Division Mr. Fitzroy John this month to discuss continuing matters of concern related to Customs Administration. One of the main items on the Agenda was the status of Standard Operating Procedures and the implementation of ASYCUDA eManifest.

The Comptroller advised that the Division is in the process of implementing more changes within their routine operations which will become apparent in the near future and significantly improve Customs' efficiency.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE





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In Other News

TERMINAL HANDLING CHARGES ...*ETAL*

The Shipping Industry at large has had to face a number of rate increases over the course of 2012—particularly General Rate Increases (GRIs) . The month of August ended with announcements; locally, regionally, and internationally, of more increase come September 2012. On the local front, the announcement of increases in THC by a number of lines has met with a huge outcry from manufacturers in particular.

The Shipping Association has attempted to bring some temperance to the situation by providing factual information to both the TTMA and the media regarding how THC is derived and what drives its costs—at least in formal international trade.

In our Press Release dated 9 March of this year we explored the environment for the then imposition by the Caribbean Shipowners Association of a fixed THC increase and concluded that, though, *“premature and wholly unjustified,”* port inefficiency and a fluctuating local and regional economy will always be justification enough in the shipping business.

Effective 1 September 2012, a 12% increase in terminal handling charges will come into effect, and as usual, the consumer will bare the brunt of the charges. The same applies now as it did in March, *“Two major factors which impact costs in shipping are trade volumes and efficiency. In the case of the former, when volumes are significant, importers have significantly more bargaining power with shippers. In the case of efficiency, the country needs to make far heavier investments in port equipment and infrastructure and reduce the reliance on labour.”* In an effort to *“...ensure the long term viability and competitiveness of shipping locally.”*





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In Other News

CUBA: TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO CARGO SHIP HAS GONE BEFORE

International Port Corp. (IPC) with almost forty years in maritime shipping is learning the ropes in what it means to ship goods to embargo strapped Cuba. As the first company in more than 50 years to offer direct maritime service from Miami to Havana, IPC has been in regular contact with the Cuban government about what's acceptable and what's not.

Flat-screen TVs, Froot Loops, laptops, bedroom sets. No problem. Pretty much anything is allowed by the U.S. government under the umbrella of family aid, the Cuban government is pickier. It rejected a pool, which the shipper said was to be used as an emergency well. On an island with a severe water shortage, personal pools are not encouraged. The government will accept fans but not air conditioning units. Clothes washers are fine but not energy-gobbling dryers. While bicycles are popular items to ship, the Cubans recently said no to a motorcycle chassis and a car transmission.

IPC, whose delivery service is licensed by the U.S. government, uses a leased 300-foot freighter, the Ana Cecilia, and makes one 16-18 hour trip to Cuba per week. Offloading occupies an hour or so and then the Ana Cecilia turns around and returns to Miami. The eight-member crew is not allowed to leave the ship. It's been an experience for IPC, which must guard against people trying to ship commercial quantities. But the biggest learning experience for the fledgling operation is yet to come. It is Cuba's plan to impose even more Customs fees on family aid packages. After three hurricanes walloped the island in 2008, Cuba suspended the Customs fees charged on family aid packages. That was true until mid-June, when Cuba reinstated the tariffs. At this point, the fees are affordable and are charged in moneda nacional, the currency used by Cubans in their everyday transactions. A plasma TV, for example, carries a Customs fee of 150 pesos (\$5.66) and the fee for a 21-pound package of miscellaneous merchandise is approximately \$6.40.

The new fee schedule is apparently the Cuban government's attempt to get control over a torrent of merchandise from the United States that has turned into a business for some Cuban-Americans who regularly ferry goods to Cuba to sell for profit. The amount of merchandise being sent to Cuba has escalated enormously - so much so that Cuban state media said the airport had begun to resemble a cargo warehouse. So IPC is telling its customers to ship as much as they can by an Aug. 26 cutoff, which would assure their packages be delivered before the new rates go into effect.

Source: McClatchy Newspapers



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JUSTICE LUCKY LECTURES ON SEA BOUNDARIES

Justice Anthony Lucky, a member of the Germany-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), lectured in Tobago this month on a proper definition of the sea boundaries of Trinidad and Tobago.

This has been a matter of interest for Tobagonians, causing the All-Tobago Fisher folk Association (ATFA), the Buccoo Reef Trust, and Environment Tobago to launch a public education outreach.

Justice Lucky, has been a member of ITLOS since 2003 and is slated to speak at Senate House, London on "Interpretation of Legislation Drafting: the Interface" in September 2012.

An acknowledged international expert in the law of the sea, he is also president of the Chamber for Marine Environment Disputes.

Source: Trinidad Express



LAW OF THE SEA

BRIEFING BOOK





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Did You Know?

TRIBUTE TO INSPIRATIONAL MAN OF MARITIME WORLD

On the 3 August 2012 hundreds of people congregated in Kingston Upon Hull, England to celebrate, remember and honour an "inspirational" man who helped transform the world of shipping.

Frank Berry dedicated 46 years of his life to the pilot service and was a popular, leading figure behind the modernization of the shipping industry. Mr. Berry began his career in the shipping industry at Pilotage authority Trinity House best known for providing expert navigators for ships trading in northern European waters. Mr. Berry reached the pinnacle of the service when he was named as Commodore of Humber Trent and Goole pilots before retiring in 1988.

He was labeled an inspiration by his colleagues for his work to modernize the pilot service, and was seen as a key figure in developing new fiberglass vessels to replace less efficient steam powered cutters he was also heralded for his role in persuading the Government to introduce a pension scheme for the service; (a move that took 10 years of his life to establish).

His continued devotion to his work led to him being awarded the highest accolade in the service, the Fellowship of the Nautical Institute award in 1987.

Mr. Berry's coffin was dressed with his Pilotage cap.

Source: Hull & East Riding





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On the Horizon

SATT / TTMA - A TRADE FACILITATION FORUM

SHIPPING 101



SHIPPING ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
IN COLLABORATION WITH
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

"A TRADE FACILITATION FORUM"

DATE: 12TH SEPTEMBER 2012
TIME: 7:30AM - 11:30AM
VENUE: HYATT REGENCY TRINIDAD

PANELISTS INCLUDE

THE HON. CHANDRESH SHARMA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
THE HON. VASANT BHARATH, MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY &
INVESTMENT

To register, please contact Ms.
Yolande Arthur (SATT) at 623-3355 or
email om@shipping.co.tt; Ms. Julie
Ramlal (TTMA) 675-8862 or email:
events@ttma.com

Cost:
Members - \$450.00
Non-Members - \$650.00
Prices are VAT inclusive

Breakfast will be served



THE SHIPPING ASSOCIATION
OF T&T
presents...



SHIPPING 101 -

Seminar on Maritime & Shipping Fundamentals

Lead by Dr. Carrol Pickersgill & supported by a panel of local & regional experts

Who will benefit?

- Documentation, Administrative, CSR, Junior Supervisors & Managers at Customs Authorities.
- Manufacturers, Importers & Exporters
- Multi-National Corporations, Energy, Oilfield & Related Companies
- Port, Customs, Maritime Authorities, Shipping Agents, Freight-Forwarders & more...

Topics to be Discussed:

- Why Do We Ship?
- The Parties Involved
- The Process & Documentation
- HSSE Role
- Case Study Session

DATE: 21 September 2012
TIME: 7:00am - 3:00 pm
COST: Members - \$1250.00 / Non Members - \$1500.00
LOCATION: TBA
BREAKFAST & LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

For further information please contact:
Tramaine Daly: admin3@shipping.co.tt
Yolande Arthur: om@shipping.co.tt
Telephone: 623-3355 / 3352
Fax: 623-8570
Address: 15 Scott Bushe Street, POS

CSA's AGM & EXHIBITION

If you missed the Early Bird Registration there's still time for you Late Birds to make it to the Caribbean Shipping Association's 42nd AGM, Conference and Exhibition, in Puerto Rico on October 15 - 17, 2012.

Members

Registration Fee - US\$900

Non-Members

Registration Fee - US\$1,100

Follow the link to register - [CSA 42nd AGM Registration](#)



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Thought of the Month

“Endless conversation about

CHANGE

is the barrier.

Actually committing to doing
something and then **acting**
is what **is required.**”

David Jakes

