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Evergreen establishes its own agency in Spain

EVERGREEN Group has established its own liner agency company, Evergreen Shipping Spain (ESS), in Valencia, Spain, with another branch in Barcelona.

EES's sub-agents will operate in Portugal, Algeria, Tunisia and other cities in Spain, such as Madrid. The new agency of the Taiwan-based shipping company will ensure that customers have sufficient service to meet their requirements, said a company statement.

EES will represent the interests of Evergreen Marine Corp., Hatsu Marine Ltd., and Italia Marittima and is a joint venture between the Evergreen Group and the Green Iberica.

Albert Ko will be the president of the new joint venture.

Arnold Wang, president of Evergreen Marine Corporation, expressed his thanks to the Romeu Group, of which Green Iberica is a member, for its excellent performance as Evergreen's agent for nearly 30 years.

Said Mr Wang: "Evergreen first entered the Far East-Mediterranean trade in 1977 and selected Romeu & Cia as its agent. We are delighted to report that the Romeu family will continue their relationship with Evergreen and that the current staff in Green Iberica in Barcelona and Valencia will be transferring to EES."



Wenzhou-Hong Kong direct shipping route opens

A NEW container shipping route has been opened between Hong Kong, Shanghai and Wenzhou, marking the launch of the first direct shipping service from the city in Zhejiang province to Hong Kong.

Before opening the new route, cargo originating in Wenzhou had to be transshipped via of Ningbo or Shanghai before being sent to Hong Kong with shipment times taking five or six days compared to two days with the new service, Xinhua reports.

The new container shipping route nearly cuts in half trucking costs to Hong Kong, which means that about CNY1,500-2,000 (US\$192.10 - US\$ 256.13) is saved during each journey per container, the report said.

The new service is expected to be used by manufacturers of light industrial products, such as spectacles and leather goods, manufactured in Wenzhou for retail in Hong Kong.



Port of Montreal cargo volume rises to record 25m tonnes in '06

THE Port of Montreal experienced a 3.3 per cent increase in cargo volume last year to handle more than 25 million tonnes of cargo in 2006, its highest throughput ever.

The 2006 tonnage was said to have surpassed the previous record of 24.9 million tonnes reached in 1980.

The increase was largely driven by the growth in container traffic, which represents nearly half of the port's total tonnage. In 2006, box throughput rose 2.1 per cent year on year to 11.4 million tonnes.

Petroleum products and grain also contributed to the record year, and along with containers, are expected again to be the main movers in 2007.

In a separate development, the Bermuda-flagged Glory container ship that set sail from Lisbon on December 21, 2006 was the first ocean-going vessel to enter the port in 2007 at 0013 hrs.

The Indian captain of the vessel, Oswald Pascal Saldanha, was awarded the annual gold-headed cane in recognition of clinching this honour, a tradition dating back to times - as late as 50 year ago - before icebreakers kept the port open year-round.



Cargo volumes on Taicang-Taiwan container route surges

THE volume of cargo carried on the Taicang-Taiwan container shipping route has surged ahead 22 per cent between January and November 2006 to 269,000 tons, Xinhua reports.

It said the value of this trade rose by a tremendous 280 per cent during the reporting period to US\$420 million.

Within this total, Taicang imported 185,000 tons of cargo worth \$290 million and exported 84,000 tons of cargo valued at \$130 million.

The report added that the container shipping route from Taicang port to Kaohsiung and Keelung is the first of its kind win approval from China's Ministry of Communications to operate between ports on the Yangtze River and Taiwan.



Pakistan's government plans to build fourth port

THE Government of Pakistan intends to build a fourth port in the country to cope with the growth in cargo volumes.

Construction of the new facility is expected to begin in 2008, although a report in the Gulf News said that no site has yet been chosen.

This comes as the nation's sea freight volumes recorded 12 per cent growth between July 2005 and June 2006 to amount to 53 million tonnes, compared to the corresponding prior year period. Container volume during this period was up 20 per cent to 1.75 million TEU.

The first phase of the new port of Gwadar in Balochistan province is expected to begin operations in March.

It said a new port, which will have an annual handling capacity of 4.5 million TEU and a 4.5 kilometre quay when all three phases are completed, is also being developed in three phases at Karachi.

Nine major terminal operators, including DP World and a consortium that includes Sharjah's Gultainer, are also said to have been short listed to manage Pakistan Deepwater Container Port.

The report cited Karachi Port Trust (KPT) chairman Ahmad Haya saying that projects worth US\$2.5 billion to expand the port of Karachi are also taking shape, including a \$1.2 billion deepwater port at Keamari near Karachi, which is expected to commence operations in 2009.

The KPT are providing 60 per cent of funding for the deepwater port and the remainder of the bill will be footed by the three port operators that will manage the three container terminals. Other projects include development of a cargo village and an industrial zone in Karachi.

Finally, DP World is reported to be spending \$211 million on building a new container terminal at Port Qasim.



MOL president urges all to be safe in 2007

APOLOGISING for MOL's "regrettable" accident-prone year, the Japanese shipping giant's president, Akimitsu Ashida, urged a new emphasis on safety upon the industry in general and in his own company in particular.

In a New Year's message, Mr Ashida said: "I am sincerely sorry not only for causing inconvenience to customers and communities affected by these incidents," referring to four accidents suffered by the company, "but even more so for the loss of seafarers who are valued members of the MOL family. The feeling of grief and heartbreak is not over, but ensuring the safe operation of our vessels is MOL Group's top priority."

Mr Ashida said he had directed the company's deputy president Hidehiro Harada, as the chairman of the Emergency Task Force for Enhancement of Operational Safety, to "analyse the four vessel incidents from all aspects, and to formulate strong new countermeasures" to improve the safety of vessel operation.

"Safety First is not a mere slogan," he said. "It must be the most important criteria in our decision-making. Safety should always be the primary concern. Constantly challenge yourself to think: safety," he said.



Yoshitani selected as new Seattle port head

INDUSTRY veteran Tay Yoshitani will be replacing Mic Dinsmore as the new chief executive officer at the Port of Seattle.

Mr Yoshitani has led ports in Oakland and Baltimore and was deputy executive director of the Port of Los Angeles.

Born in Japan, he is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and holds an MBA from Harvard.

"We are thrilled to have found a candidate with Mr Yoshitani's great experience in the complex areas we focus on as a port," said commission president Patricia Davis. "He has run a seaport and an airport, and has broad experience in real estate development."

Mr Yoshitani said in a statement from port authorities that he is looking forward to "one of the most interesting jobs in the country". He is expected to report for work in March. Mr Dinsmore, who resigned after being the port's CEO for 16 years, is expected to remain during a transition period.



Allcargo Global Logistics buys out Hindustan Cargo

TRANSPORT services provider Allcargo Global Logistics is buying the air cargo subsidiary of Thomas Cook (India) for INR89.1 million (US\$2 million) to expand its service mix, a company official told Reuters.

Hindustan Cargo, now wholly owned by Thomas Cook (India), would be made an independent airfreight services subsidiary of Allcargo, COO Ashit Desai said.

"We were on the lookout for a strong airfreight company to supplement our portfolio," he said.

The report said the deal would be funded through internal accruals.

For the year ended October 2006, Hindustan Cargo reported a revenue of INR320 million and a pre-tax profit of INR13 million.



Reed buys Air Freight Asia, plans '07 HK event with Asian Aerospace show

EXHIBITION and conference organiser Reed Exhibitions has taken charge of the Air Freight Asia show, which it will hold alongside its flagship the Asian Aerospace expo in Hong Kong this September.

This development follows Reed's acquisition of Hong Kong-based Asian Media Services, organiser of the Air Freight Asia show. The deal also includes its monthly trade publication, Payload Asia, which covers the air cargo industry in the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East regions.

The next staging of the biennial Air Freight Asia Conference and Exhibition, along with the Asian Aerospace International Expo & Congress will be held at AsiaWorld-Expo Hong Kong from September 3-6.

Nol van Fenema, the organiser of Air Freight Asia and editor and publisher of Payload Asia, will continue to be responsible for the management of the event and the publication.

"This development will expand significantly the reach, readership and coverage of Payload Asia and solidify its position as the leading air cargo magazine in the region," said Mr van Fenema.

"The air cargo industry in Asia and the Middle East will continue to enjoy significant growth in the next 10 to 15 years. In particular China, India and the Middle East will be at the forefront of unprecedented expansion in airline fleets, airport facilities, logistics, IT and infrastructure," he said.



Texas airport's cargo passenger traffic increases in Nov '06

AUSTIN-BERGSTROM International Airport (ABIA) in Texas handled in November 2006 19.4 million pounds of air cargo, an increase of five per cent over the same month a year ago.

Within this total, international air cargo amounted to 347,595 pounds, down 25.5 per cent, reported the Austin Business Journal.

Federal Express carried 9.9 million pounds, up 3 per cent from November 2005; Airborne Express 3.6 million pounds, an increase of 33 per cent and United Parcel Service hit 2.6 million pounds, up eight per cent.

From January to November 2006, air cargo passing through ABIA totalled 209.4 million pounds, down six per cent from the same period in 2005.

With regard to passenger traffic, the November total came to 699,526 people, up six per cent compared with November 2005.

Southwest Airlines flew the highest number of passengers at 243,750 for November, up 8.5 per cent compared with November 2005. American Airlines had 191,168 passengers, up two per cent. Continental Airlines' passengers totalled 86,320 for the month, an increase of seven per cent over November 2005, and U.S. Airways/America West Airlines carried 24,410 passengers, up seven per cent.

Total passenger traffic at ABIA between January and November 2006 was about 7.6 million, an increase of 7.4 per cent compared with the same period in 2005.



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