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SCT Records Double Digit Growth

Another year of Success for Sharjah Ports

Queen Mary 2

Docks in Khor Fakkan



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Eneil Hajana





There are always **alternatives**. This is the principal that great people are holding. It is a desperation killer weapon, a promising instrument and hope booster that is well examined and approved for patience and persistence. An alternative requires searching another way if the one you have selected will lead you to a closed door and to try again if the second attempt fails for there is always another door and access.

When a person asks me to acquaint him with certain knowledge, I would, from the very beginning, inspire his soul with this principle. If I ask him a question to which he cannot give an answer, then I will request him not to reply to avoid my having to correct him.

He has to find the way by himself in another place and by other endeavours, thus he will discover the alternatives, one by one, until he gets what he is **looking for**. Realizing that he had preserved patience, tried hard and considered carefully, he will be certain that in each time he is capable of finding a way by himself.

Editor

Editorial







Queen Mary 2 docks in Khor Fakkan

The luxury cruise liner, the Queen Mary 2, docked in Khorfakkan on Wednesday January 28th on its maiden visit to the port.

Queen Mary 2, which cost 2.5 billion AED to build and is operated by Cunard Line, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year.

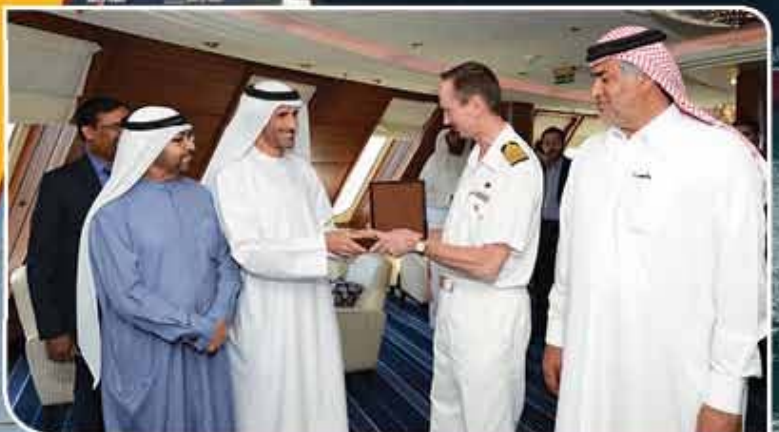
Mohammed Meer Al Sarah, Director of the Department of Seaports and Customs and H.E. Khalid Al Midfa, Director General of Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority along with Khamis al Budaiwi, Director of Khorfakkan Customs Centre, Jarsh Mohammed bin Jarsh, Director of Sharjah Creek Customs Centre, Mohammed Kareem, Administration Director of Port Khorfakkan and Tariq Al hamadi, Administrative officer of the port and officers from from Resident and Outlets Department – Sharjah , including General Ali Juma, Colonel Ali Zamzam, Head of Media Section, Colonel Omar Al Awais met with Captain Chris Wels , the captain of the vessel to welcome him.

Captain Wells expressed his pleasure at being in Khorfakkan and thanked the port staff for the professional services rendered in berthing the vessel and also thanked immigration staff for the fast visa service for the 2600 tourists who embarked to visit the beautiful sites around Khorfakkan.

Mohammed Meer exchanged commemoration presents with Captain Wells wishes a speedy return to the port.

The liner, which had sailed from the Jordanian port of Aqaba, is carrying around 4600 passengers and crew and visited Khorfakkan as a prominent tourist destination in the United Arab Emirates.

After its stopover in the port, the liner continued its voyage to Dubai on the same day.



Queen Mary 2 is the only transatlantic ocean liner in line service between Southampton and New York, which operates for part of each year. The ship is also used for cruising, including cruises in Mediterranean Sea, the Caribbean Islands, the Pacific Islands and other yearly cruises.

Queen Mary 2 cost was AED 3.2 Billion and replaced the famous Queen Elizabeth 2 when she entered service in 2004. She is 345 meters in length, of 150,000 tonnage , with much space on board and array of state of the art facilities including a 3D Cinema, planetarium, theater, conference room, 15 restaurants and a superb spa.



Sharjah Ports and Customs Discuss Operation- facilitation in Sharjah Creek

A delegation from the Department of Seaports and Customs participated with other Sharjah Government Partners in a meeting held on January 27 2015 at Port Khalid Passports Office.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Jarsh Mohammed bin Jarsh, Director of Sharjah Creek Customs Centre and included Mr. Mohammed Hamed Al Qubaisi, Director of Environment and Creek Marine Operations, Mr. Mohammed Mothafar, Customs Officer. Several officers from Sharjah Police Department and Coast Guard have participated in the meeting.



Jarsh said that several topics were discussed to facilitate the operations at the creek namely boosting cooperation & communications with partners, best ways of monitoring operations in the creek and rendering best service for the creek users and traders.

He added that the meeting was held amid continuous increase of vessels calling in the creek as their

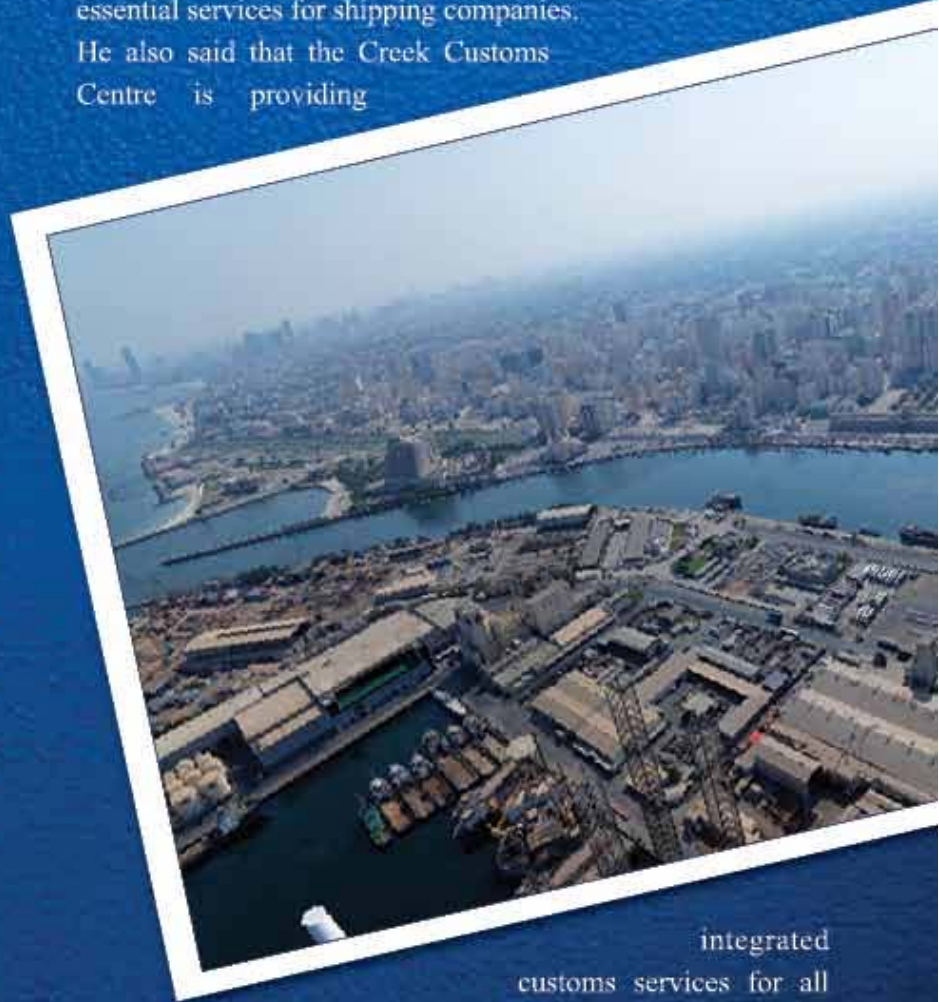
number increased from 4055 in 2013 to 4184 in 2014 recording an increment of 2.30%. He said that the Creek is harbouring dhows and traditional wooden vessels. Other vessels, such as fishing boats, tug boats, crew boats, barges, pontoons, supply boats, yachts and utility boats are the principal users. These vessels cannot be seen in the main three ports of the Emirate

of Sharjah because they are more specialized in accommodation of larger vessels such as container carriers, vehicle carriers, general cargo vessels, tourist cruisers and passenger ships, oil & gas tankers, bulk carriers and other vessels with deeper drafts and trans-ocean vessels. Jarsh stated that the waterway is vital for its role in providing opportunities for a wide



range of vessels and boats which take it as their base to launch their services. The Department of Seaports and Customs is facilitating the navigation of vessels in the creek and providing essential services for shipping companies.

He also said that the Creek Customs Centre is providing



integrated customs services for all vessels and boats that are entering to the port. The existence of Port Khalid Passport Office which is managed the Sharjah Seaports Authority within the same place is contributing to providing more facilities for the creek users. Jersh said that vessels are importing goods from GCC States, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Comoro Islands, Indian Peninsula and countries of East Africa. Those vessels are mainly importing vegetables, fruits, gypsum, charcoals, salt and other commodities. They are going back loaded with export shipments of various goods, including those which have seen higher exports for the first two thirds of the year such as vehicles, tyres, furniture, air conditioners, various equipment, construction materials and food stuff.



Another year of **Success** for Sharjah Ports

2014

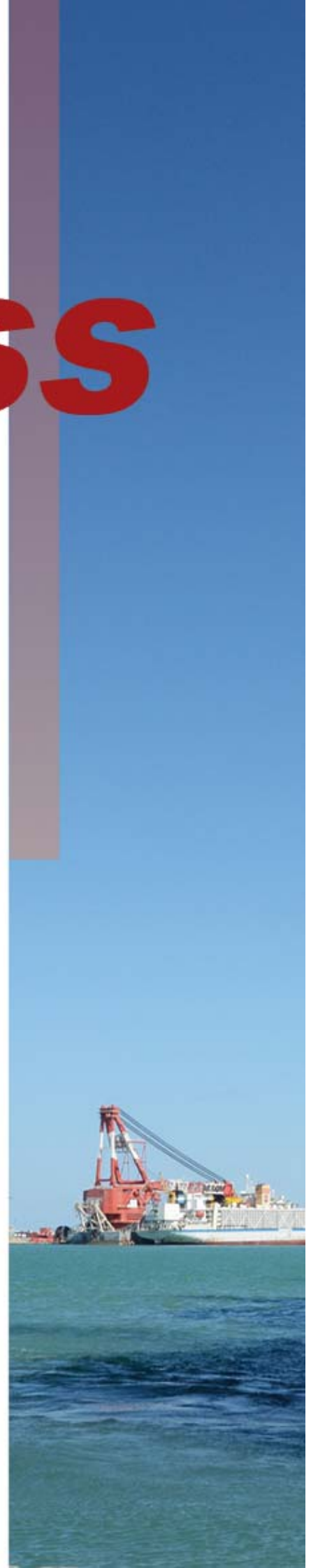
The year 2014 was a successful one for all ports of the Emirate of Sharjah, namely, Port Khalid, Hamriyah Port and Port Khorfakkan, as they witnessed new records in statistics of Sharjah's Ports. The new records are a reflection of the advancement in ports performance and productivity as a whole and a manifestation of the commitment of the visionary leadership of the Government of Sharjah as it fulfilled its commitment in developing the infrastructures of the ports which led to increment in productivity.

The most significant progress was recorded in the field of container handling at Sharjah Containers Terminal which reached 400,000 TEUs, double the container handled during the year 2013. This accomplishment embodies further improvement for the future.

Imports of edible oils which were 275,932 tons in 2014, registered an increment of 16.22% from 237,411 tons for the year 2013, while imports of grains have increased from 397,373 tons in 2013 to 463,274 tons in 2014 raising the total by 16.60%.

Another progress for the year 2014 was recorded by imported and exported vehicles which reached 85,401 various units from 77,846 for the year 2013 recording an increment of 9.70%. These vehicles were transported by 73 pure car carriers in 2014 whilst it was 55 in 2013 recording an increase of 32%.

Quantities of imported reefer cargoes increased sharply by 486.16% from 1,019 tons in 2013 to 5,963Mt in 2014.



The number of passengers using Sharjah Ports has increased by 17.80% from 31,086 in 2013 to 36,619 in 2014.

Vessels (dhows, barges and supply boats and others) that called at Sharjah Creek have also increased from 4055 in 2013 to 4184 in 2014 registering an increment of 3.18%.

THE PROVIDENCE







Khorfakkan Port



The Joint IRU and UAE Automobile and Touring Club Visit Port Khalid

A joint team of the International Road Transport Union IRU(Union Internationale des Transport des Transports Routiers) and Automobile and Touring Club of the United Arab Emirates visited Port Khalid on February 19 2015.



**International
Road Transport
Union**

Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman Al Sarrah, Director of the Department of Seaports and Customs received at his office Mr. Rani Wehbe, Senior Advisor for the Middle East at the Road Transport Union and Ms Rawan Shukri, TIR Manager at The Automobile and Touring Club of the UAE. Mr. Abdullah Hawkal, Head of Clearance Section attended the meeting.



During the meeting, the constructive efforts of the Department of Seaports and Customs in supporting road transport operations and its vital role in facilitating trade in the United Arab Emirates and also the achievements of the UAE Automobile and Touring Club in enhancing TIR system in the United Arab Emirates were discussed.

Wehbe expressed his thanks and appreciation for the welcome and said that his team is looking forward for a stronger cooperation with the Department of Seaports and Customs.

Mr. Al Sarrah presented to the team a plaque in commemoration of the event.





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SCT Records Double Digit Growth

Gulftainer, the official operators of container terminals on behalf of Government of Sharjah marked another significant milestone with the Sharjah Container Terminal (SCT) surpassing 400,000 TEUs in annual throughput during 2014. SCT has again recorded double-digit growth compared to last year's volumes. The achievement was reached with an impressive safety record under challenging conditions including space constraints.



Iain Rawlinson, Group Commercial Director of Gulftainer said that the professional approach of Gulftainer's management, along with consistently high productivity levels, was a driving force behind the Terminal's success. "SCT has always marketed itself as 'The Flexible Alternative' and the individual attention we extend to our customers offers us an advantage over competitors."

The 400,000th unit was discharged from Mag Container Lines' vessel, 'Mag Success', one of the

Terminal's regular callers, which considers Sharjah as her base port. Speaking on behalf of Mag Line's CEO, BDM Jamal Saleh congratulated the Terminal on its achievement.

He said: "The announcement today reflects how Gulftainer and MCL have grown together over the years and, in partnership, managed to reach this target. The continuous support, flexibility and excellent operational performance MCL receives

from Gultainer, both operationally and logistically, has contributed greatly to this achievement.”

The milestone was achieved on the shift of Duty Superintendent Mehmood Malik, the longest serving employee at over 38 years at the Terminal and part of the team when the first TEU crossed the quay. Mehmood has witnessed several records and milestones and recalls handling 2,500 TEUs in 1976: “At that time we could not imagine reaching the levels of throughput we have today, so this is a very special moment for me.”

SCT, which is managed and operated by Gultainer on behalf of the Sharjah Port Authority, has the honour of being the site of the first container terminal in the Gulf. It commenced operations in 1976 and is located in the heart of Sharjah being an ideal gateway for import and export cargo with direct links throughout the Gulf, Asia, Europe, Americas and Africa.

The strong performance of the Sharjah economy has supported the growth of many of SCT’s customers, enabling them to increase their throughput and contribute to a record year for the Terminal.

The relationships built with our customers have been strengthened by the joint efforts of Gultainer’s sales and marketing team and the high levels of service and operational efficiency at the terminal, “When looking at the Sharjah market, the dedicated team at SCT listen to and address the many requirements of our diverse and interesting customer base,” said Iain Rawlinson.

SCT’s figures have been further boosted

with the arrival of new services throughout the year, including UASC’s Gulf India Service (GIS1), which now connects Sharjah with Sohar in Oman, Mundra in India and Karachi in Pakistan, which has boosted the national carrier’s volumes through SCT in November and December.

Gultainer’s current portfolio covers UAE operations in Khorfakkan Port and Port Khalid in Sharjah as well as activities at Umm Qasr in Iraq, Recife in Brazil, Jeddah and Jubail in Saudi Arabia and in Tripoli Port in Lebanon, which will be operational in April 2016. It also marked another milestone in 2014 with its expansion to the US by signing a long-term agreement to operate the container and multi-cargo terminal at Port Canaveral in Florida. With a current handling activity of over 6 million TEUs, the company has set an ambitious target to triple the volume over the next decade through organic growth across existing businesses, exploring green field opportunities and potential M&A activities.





IMO Secretary-General launches 2015

World Maritime Day theme: **“Maritime education and training”** at **World Maritime University**

IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu has launched this year’s World Maritime Day theme, “Maritime education and training”, telling students and staff at the World Maritime University (WMU) that maritime education and training was essential for the long-term sustainability of the sector, both at sea and on-shore.

“Effective standards of training remain the bedrock of a safe and secure shipping industry, which needs to preserve the quality, practical skills and competence of qualified human resources,” Mr. Sekimizu said, adding that the 2015 World Maritime Day theme provided the opportunity to highlight the importance to everybody, not just within the shipping industry, of there being sufficient quantity and quality maritime education and training available to meet the sector’s needs, now and into the future.

“The 1978 STCW Convention and Code, as amended, has set the international benchmark for the training and education of seafarers. While compliance with its standards is essential for serving on board ships, the skills and competence of seafarers, and indeed, the human element ashore, can only be adequately underpinned, updated and maintained through effective maritime education and training,” he added.

Addressing the class of 2015 post-graduate students, who have begun their first semester at WMU, in Malmö, Sweden, Mr. Sekimizu said that the university was a cornerstone of global maritime education and training and a vital and integral part of the IMO family.

“At IMO, we are unique among UN agencies to have two affiliated educational institutions – the World Maritime University and the International Maritime Law Institute (in Malta). We are very proud of these and of the many graduates they have produced who now hold positions of responsibility and influence within the maritime community,” he said.

Without a quality labour force, motivated, trained and skilled to the appropriate international standards, the maritime industry cannot thrive. Not only that, but all the many advances that have been made, in terms of safety and environmental impact, are at risk if those at the “sharp end” are unable to implement them properly. While seafarer training falls to training institutions



recognized and authorised by national authorities to meet STCW standards, IMO as an organization supports skills-based training events and the sharing of technical knowledge, through national and regional Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) training events and workshops, which provide short up-grading courses, based typically on the IMO Model Courses.

On another level, the World Maritime University and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute are at the forefront of IMO's capacity-building strategy,

supporting post-graduate training in order to maintain a cadre of high level managers, policy makers and other key personnel.

While in Malmö, Mr. Sekimizu also made a site visit to the future home of WMU in Tornhuset, the centrally located, historic harbor master's building that is being enhanced by a dramatic new addition designed by renowned architect Kim Utzon in collaboration with Tyrone Cobcroft of Terrior Architects (Australia). The new building will be inaugurated in May 2015.

World Maritime Day

The World Maritime Day theme provides a focus for year-round activities while the day itself is celebrated at IMO Headquarters and around the world in the last week of September. Since 2005, a formal parallel event has also been held, hosted by an IMO Member State.

In 2015 the Parallel Event will be held in Japan.



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