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Issued By The Department Of Seaports And Customs-Sharjah-Issue 63 July - October 2018



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«Delaware» Sign Sister
Port Agreement**

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A quarterly Magazine Issued By
The Department Of Seaports And Customs-Sharjah
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Economy GulfTainer
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**World Maritime Day theme 2019:
«Empowering Women in the Maritime Community»**

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Art Production

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Customs administrations need to continuously assess strategies to respond to the challenges of the ever-changing world. This requires the administrations to seek an efficient policy to equip its working forces with skills and knowledge corresponding to their roles, responsibilities and specific tasks.

By this approach, the Department of Seaports & Customs spares no efforts to arrange adequate opportunities to train its staff in all fields of specializations, ensuring that the administration's policies are well translated in effective operational activities. To that end, the Department maintains conducting training courses through the year in different domains including customs inspections, customer satisfaction, customs clearance, customs law and technologies related to the developed scanning equipment.

By emphasizing on training, the DSPC enhances skills and knowledge of its staffs to present the best services to traders, transporters, port users and passengers; to protect the community and tackle with the challenges of a fast-changing environment and contribute to the vision of the UAE in being one of the best states in the world.







Sharjah Ports & «Delaware» Sign Sister Port Agreement

Sheikh Khaled bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Seaports & Customs, Sharjah Airport International Free Zone and Hamriyah Free Zone Authority, and Jeffrey Bullock, Secretary of State of Delaware (USA), signed Sister Port Agreement at the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on October 10 2018.



According to the deal the Department of Seaports & Customs and the Diamond State Port Corporation, a corporate entity of the State of Delaware, are mandated to cooperate in the development of international trade and logistics, exchange information, and build mutually beneficial commercial, technological partnership. The agreement also enables private companies within the catchment area of the respective port authorities to collaborate on trade and investment prospects.

The signing took place following the official handover of the Delaware-based Port of Wilmington from the Diamond State Port Corporation to Gulftainer to operate and develop the port over a 50-year concession period. Gulftainer is Container Terminal Operator in the Emirate of Sharjah, one of the world's largest privately-owned independent port operator and logistics company based in the UAE.

In attendance were high officials including H.E. Marwan Jassim Al Sarkal,

Executive Chairman of Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq). H.E Philip Frayne, Consol General to the United States Consulate in Dubai, H. E. Mohammed Meer Abdul Rahman, Director of the Department of Seaports & Customs, H. E. Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of the Free Zones in Sharjah, Peter Richards, Group CEO of Gulftainer, Badr Jafar, Chairman of Gulftainer's Executive Board, and an American delegation.



Badr Jafar, Chairman of Gulftainer's Executive Board, said: "In line with Gulftainer's commitment to generating cross-border socio-economic impact across the globe, this sister-port agreement facilitates strategic trade and knowledge exchange between the UAE and the USA, and further boosts bilateral relations between our countries."




Jeffrey Bullock said: "The agreement is a highly significant step in boosting economic ties between the UAE and the USA. We see this as a great opportunity to bolster the overall economy of Delaware through productive partnerships and the sharing of industry best practices."



For his part, Peter Richards said: "Gulftainer is proud to be part of this historical moment for the UAE-US trade alliance. The strengthening of diplomatic relations between our two nations has set the stage for promising business opportunities in the years ahead."



Having begun operations in 1923 as the first major port on the Delaware River, the Port of Wilmington is the top North American port for fresh fruit imports into the USA and has the largest dockside cold storage facility in the country.

The Department of Seaports & Customs had signed in 2015 a similar Sister Port Agreement with Port Canaveral in which Gulftainer operate the port for 35 years. 



Port Khalid Develops the Northern Wharf

The Department of Seaports & Customs recently commenced the development works at the northern wharf of Port Khalid, the First modern part in the Emirate of Sharjah. The development works of the Wharf, which includes five berths, are taking place within the sustainable plan of the Department of Seaports and Customs to upgrade the port facilities and infrastructures to further provide best services to port users at all seaports of the Emirate.





The civil works are going on in Berth No. 5 (including renewal of deck furniture), to boost shipping, loading and unloading operations.

On February 27 2018, the port has witnessed the inauguration of a completely new developed berth of 373meter length, literally berth No. 21, and commenced loading/

unloading operations since then, thus increasing the port facilities further.

Port Khalid which was established in the mid seventies of the last century, is one of the pioneer seaports in the Gulf region, which adopted the earliest container and Ro-Ro terminals.

The Port facilities consists of a number of berths with a variety of shipping applications, ranging from general, reefer, dry, liquid and bulk cargo to container and oil and offshore support services. There are two alongside cold stores, customs bonded stores, and competitively priced road haulage. 🇦🇪



DSPC Strengthen Ties with Sharjah Civil Defence





Within its continuous cooperation with the strategic partners, the Department of Seaports & Customs (DSPC), held a coordination meeting on the second of October 2018 at the Creek Customs Centre with a delegation from Sharjah Civil Defence.

The delegation was formed by Captain Emad Ali Al Murshidi and lieutenant Majid Sultan bin Harmoul, while the DSPC was represented in the meeting by Jarsh Mohammed bin Jarsh, Director of Creek Customs Centre, Captain Saif Aldeen Mustafa Al Ameen, In Charge of Sharjah Creek and Abdulrahman Saeed Bu Ghanim, Director Assistant of Creek Customs Centre.

They discussed matters of mutual concern and plans to further strengthen ties and collaboration between the two entities and providing best services to the users of the ports of the Emirate especially in field of safety. 🇦🇪



To Boast Sharjah's Economy Gulftainer Invests in Crucial Road Extension to Fuel

Gulftainer, Container Terminal Operator in the Emirate of Sharjah, will host a ceremony to commence the construction of the Saja'a Permanent Access Road. The company's AED11 million investment in the road extension aligns with its objective to play a key role in driving Sharjah's economy.

The highway will extend over two kilometres to link the Saja'a Industrial Investment Park (SIIP), Gulftainer's first-ever leasehold initiative, via the Emirates Road (E611), to the three major seaports in Sharjah – Port Khalid, Hamriyah Port and Khorfakkan Port. Spanning an area of 750,000 square metres, SIIP is set to become a fully bonded logistics facility with goods imported under bond exempt from duty or VAT until released to the local market. Moreover, the mixed use development will also offer convenient access to premier air and sea hubs as well as connectivity within the UAE and beyond.

Speaking on the importance of the project, Peter Richards, Group CEO of Gulftainer, said: "We are delighted to announce the start of construction of the crucial road extension that, once completed, will significantly improve transport links between the Saja'a Industrial Investment Park and the three seaports

of Sharjah. Gulftainer has been part of the emirate's growth story for over four decades. Our investment testifies to our commitment to fuelling Sharjah's economy and enhancing the emirate's global competitiveness ranking."

SIIP is being designed with the scalability and flexibility to accommodate warehouse space of varied size, modern light industrial units, offices, employee accommodation and multiple other options. The industrial park aims to address the growing demand for logistics facilities in the UAE in the run-up to mega events such as Expo 2020.

Gulftainer's operations in the UAE currently include the Khorfakkan Container Terminal and the Sharjah Container Terminal at Port Khalid and the Sharjah Inland Container Depot on behalf of the Government of Sharjah.






New Service at Port Khalid

Port Khalid announced recently that their customers now have a choice with a new Ro/Ro Passenger service operated by Karaneh Lines operating to and from Iran with the vessel M.V. Sunny calling the port three times a week.

M.V. "Sunny" arrived on its median voyage to Port Khalid on September 24, 2018.

Mr. Ahmed Salem Al Suwaidi, Head of Traffic Department (Sharjah Seaports Authority), Captain R. Devathirajan, Harbour Master of the port, Mr. Sunil Gangadharan, business Development Manager received Captain Bougelis Ioannis, Master of the vessel on the occasion.

The vessel's overall length is 159 metres, 24 metres beam, 8.16 metres draft and 52422 gross tonnage.

The additional service at Port Khalid reflects the keenness of the Department of Seaports & Customs to provide opportunities for the traders and passengers. 





UAE to block ships from blacklisted countries



Saeed Al Maskari, CEO of Tasneef (Emirates Classification Society) said, "We strongly support the FTA's decision to prohibit entry of vessels that are not guaranteed to be in compliance with international standards in terms of safety regulations. Entry of such vessels may threaten the marine environment or cause marine accidents due to their poor conditions. They can also cause damage to ports and facilities, hindering maritime traffic.

In an international maritime hub such as the UAE, there is no compromise in implementing the highest quality and safety standards."

"We really appreciate the FTA for recognizing the classification and conformity certificates issued by Tasneef on par with certificates issued by the IACS members. This recognition is the result of meeting all the FTA's technical and professional requirements to recognize our certificates.



There is no room for favouritism here as this is something that affects the safety of ship crews and our marine environment in general.

“We are proud that our efficient technical teams and experts are capable of performing these tasks with the highest level of effectiveness. This trust is another milestone towards our goal to be the national house of expertise for excellence in the maritime sector and a reference for building a sustainable maritime economy in the UAE,” he added.

Waleed Altamimi, general manager of Tasneef Maritime, Tasneef’s maritime arm for issuing

ship classification and statutory certificates, said: “At Tasneef Maritime Services, we have a professional team specialized in ship inspection. It includes Emiratis who are highly trained to issue certificates according to class and flag requirement.

“In the inspection process, we adopt state-of-the-art technologies that make use of artificial intelligence. Recently, we signed an agreement with Abyss Solutions, which specializes in developing remotely-controlled equipment enhanced with sophisticated data-analysis algorithms for underwater examinations and inspections of ships and marine installations.” 🌊



World Maritime Day theme 2019: «Empowering Women in the Maritime Community»

“Empowering Women in the Maritime Community” has been selected as the World Maritime Day theme for 2019. This will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, in line with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to highlight the important contribution of women all over the world to the maritime sector.



The Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), meeting for its 120th session at IMO Headquarters in London, endorsed the theme, following a proposal by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim.

“IMO has a strong commitment to helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and continues to support the participation of women in both shore-based

and seagoing posts, in line with the goals outlined under SDG 5: <Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls>,” Mr Lim said.

“This theme will give IMO the opportunity to work with various maritime stakeholders towards achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG 5, to foster an environment in which women are identified and selected for career development opportunities in maritime

administrations, ports and maritime training institutes and to encourage more conversation for gender equality in the maritime space," Mr. Lim said.

While shipping has historically been a male dominated industry, IMO has been making a concerted effort to help the industry move forward and help women achieve a representation that is in keeping with twenty-first century expectations. This work has been focused through IMO's gender and capacity building programme, which is now in its thirtieth year.


Back in 1988, few maritime training institutes opened their doors to female students. IMO was in the vanguard of United Nations specialized agencies that forged a global programme known as the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector. Carried out over several phases, it put in place an institutional framework to incorporate a gender dimension into IMO's policies and procedures, with resolutions adopted to ensure access to maritime training and employment opportunities for women in the maritime sector.

"Today, IMO's newly renamed, Women in Maritime programme is going strong. Empowering women fuels thriving economies across the world, spurs growth and development, and benefits all of us working in the global maritime community as we strive towards safe, secure, clean and sustainable

shipping," Mr. Lim said.

Female graduates of IMO's global training institutes, the World Maritime University (WMU) and the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) are today working as maritime administrators and decision makers. They have a positive impact as role models in encouraging new female recruits. IMO also supports the empowerment of women through gender-specific fellowships; by facilitating access to high-level technical training for women in the maritime sector in developing countries.

IMO has supported the creation seven regional associations for women in the maritime sector across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific Islands. Access to these regional networks have provided members with a platform to discuss gender issues; a golden thread of worldwide maritime communication and improved implementation of IMO instruments.

The selection of the theme, «Empowering Women in the Maritime Community» will ensure a renewed focus on the IMO women in maritime programme, and on achieving the goals of SDG 5, throughout 2019. 

Source: www.imo.org