

HEADLINES

VOLUME 2 THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SOLOMON PORTS

JANUARY - APRIL 2020

Solomon Ports launches 45th PMTA Official logo and Website

Solomon Ports officially launched the 45th Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance Conference (PMTA) logo and website on the 18th of March. The 45th PMTA 2020 conference is scheduled for 8th to 10th July later this year in Honiara, and this year's conference theme is "Climate Change-Sustainability and Resilience of Pacific Ports".

This will be the first time Solomon Ports will host such prestigious event after 26 years, which is an opportunity for the SOE to promote the City of Honiara and the country.

It will also be the first ever PMTA conference to have its own logo and website.

The website will be the home for all relevant technical papers and information's about the conference, the logo signals the unity between Pacific ports and maritime associations.

The Pacific Maritime Transport Alliance (PMTA) is a regional group that promotes regional cooperation, friendship and understanding between member ports and port users through mutual association, exchange of knowledge and the dissemination of information useful to port administrations.

This year we expect more than 125 guests to attend, ranging from regional and international port authorities and companies to international port service providers and observers.

Honorable Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare graced the occasion and was



Ports staff members with CEO Eranda Kotelawala standing with the 45th PMTA

given the honor of officially unveiling the logo and launching the conference website.

Speaking during the event, Solomon Ports CEO Mr. Eranda Kotelawala said the conference was very significant for Pacific Ports, where they can get together every year to discuss challenges, issues, progress and development strategies.

He also gave assurance that Solomon Ports will ensure this year's conference will be conducted in international standards.

"There are a lot of speculations

that Solomon Islands can't host such events, but I want to assure you my team is all geared up and ready to host this conference," he said.

"We will ensure this conference will give regional and international confidence in the country and to promote Solomon Ports, City of Honiara and the country."

Meanwhile, Chief Guest and Prime Minister, Hon. Manasseh Sogavare thanked the Board and Management of Solomon Ports in bringing this key regional conference to the

country.

He said he has confidence that Solomon Ports will conduct the conference successfully and prove to the rest that the country can do it.

"The question is can we do it? Umi save duim (yes, we can), and as a first-time host, there is a lot of expectation on us to deliver," he said.

"This requires us to be well advanced in our preparatory work, among the early preparatory milestone is to have a logo and website, these two items provide the public icons for the meeting."

SOLOMON PORTS COMMISSIONS FIRST EVER MOBILE X-RAY MACHINE

Solomon Ports on February commissioned its first ever mobile X-Ray machine at Honiara Port marking another milestone for the SOE.

The new machine was fully funded by Solomon Ports which costs SBD\$16 Million, which makes Solomon Ports one of the few ports in the Pacific region to own such machines.

The machine was built by 'Nuctech Company' of China, and it uses state of the art imaging technology to analyze containers as well as vehicles and is one of the most sophisticated mobile container scanner models available in the market.

The new machine is expected to remain in service up until 2030 and will be operated by customs and Bio-Security officers to inspect containers to identify suspicious items quickly and efficiently.

The machine will be used to identify hidden goods, inconsistencies with cargo, manifest and other anomalies requiring further investigation, it can also be deployed to any part of the country based on operational needs.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, Solomon Ports Chief Executive Officer Mr. Eranda Kotelawala said one of the main reasons for acquiring the new machine was to tackle the spread of illicit drugs and tobacco.

He said the strategy was to target the supply of illegal products coming into the country with a view of disrupting the supply chain.

"The illicit tobacco problem is also very much a global one, now it has become a local problem, this is driven by many importers with clever concealment of cigarettes inside containers," he said.

"The illicit drug trade is a huge global business and the illicit drug trade in Solomon Islands is becoming very significant among the challenges we jointly face."

Meanwhile, Hon. Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare was given the opportunity to officially commission the new machine and was deeply impressed with the technological advancements made by Solomon Ports. Mr. Sogavare congratulated Solomon Ports for the vision that underpins this investment that will bring huge benefit customs and agricultural quarantine.

"Let me thank the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Solomon Ports for taking the country to a new era in enhancing the efficiency and security of our port operations in Honiara through this magnificent technology," he said.

"I am confident that this technology which needs to be expanded to our other international ports will greatly assist the efficiency and effectiveness of port operations, revenue collections and strengthen our bio-security capabilities."



Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Sogavare poses in front of X-ray machine, flanked by SIPA CEO Eranda Kotewala, MID Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga (2nd left), SIPA Chairman, Johnny Sy and Finance Minister Hon. Harry Kuma.



SIPA Management and Senior Staff in front of the X-ray machine.



The New X-ray Machine.

SOLOMON PORTS COMMISSIONS NEW TRUCKS

Solomon Ports has commissioned and welcomed its brand-new trucks on the 19th of March this year. A total of two dump trucks, 1 sewage collection truck, 1 garbage truck and two new 30-seater buses were officially commissioned in front of ports staff at the international terminal. The new trucks and buses are part of the company's ongoing effort to develop and increase capacity. Chief Executive Officer Mr. Eranda Kotelawala had the opportunity to officially cut the ribbons, invited various staff members to join him in cutting the ribbons instead. Mr. Kotelawala said this was an achievement that was a result of the ongoing hard work and team effort shown by Solomon Ports staff. He encourages fellow staff to continue their good work and ensure the company moves forward and be useful in the coming years.



The New Trucks during the commissioning ceremony.

"Plenty of new equipment's and investments have been done over the years, and for 2020 onwards we have plenty projects lined up," he said. "This is something that we should be proud of, this is all 100% complete effort of all SIPA staff, and I encourage you to use these trucks wisely and continue to excel in your daily work routine."

SOLOMON PORTS INTRODUCES MEASURES TO CURB COVID-19

With the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, Solomon Ports is taking measures to control/delay the possible spread of 'Covid19' (Coronavirus) in all port areas and maintain essential port operations.

As of March, this year, Ports staff had been provided and encouraged to use face masks and frequently cleaning hands with hand sanitizers.

Customers and members of the public entering port facilities in both Honiara and Noro are now required to take precautionary measures such as wearing face masks and practicing social distancing.

On 30th March 2020, Solomon Ports completely removed all domestic charges to all ships berthing at the Honiara domestic terminal for one calendar month.

The removal of all domestic charges was in force for one month, commencing 30th March and ending on 30th of April.

This action was taken to support the Government's request to the general public to repatriate to their respective provinces and islands as the country is embracing the impact of COVID-19 global pandemic. With the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, Solomon Ports is taking measures to control/delay the possible spread of 'Covid19' (Coronavirus) in all port areas and maintain essential port operations.

As of March, this year, Ports staff had been provided and encouraged to use face masks and frequently cleaning hands with hand sanitizers.

Customers and members of the public entering port facilities in both Honiara and Noro are now required to take precautionary measures such as wearing face masks and practicing social distancing.

In addition, as part of the port's emergency plan, a new facility has been built inside the port to house staff in case of a possible lockdown.

The new facility consists of new prefab container houses, equipped with air-conditioning, beddings, kitchen areas, and other essential necessities.

Emergency rations have been stocked in the port to cater for staff who will be working in the possible likelihood of a lockdown, to ensure port operations continue.



Enforcement officer wearing face mask.

On 30th March 2020, Solomon Ports completely removed all domestic charges to all ships berthing at the Honiara domestic terminal for one calendar month. The removal of all domestic charges was in force for one month, commencing 30th March and ending on 30th of April. This action was taken to support the Government's request to the public to repatriate to their respective provinces and islands as the country is embracing the impact of COVID-19 global pandemic.



The Newly Built Covid-19 Emergency facility.



Honiara Port at Night

SOLOMON PORTS WORLD PORTS SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM (WPSP) FINALIST

Solomon Ports is proud to announce we are now a finalist of the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) World Ports Sustainability Program (WPSP) for our Green Port Project.

Guided by the 17 UN SDGs the program wants to enhance and coordinate future sustainability efforts of ports worldwide and foster international cooperation with partners in the supply

chain. The World Ports Sustainability Program builds on the World Ports Climate Initiative that IAPH started in 2008 and extends it to other areas of sustainable development.

Other finalists include some of the biggest port in the world such as the Port of Rotterdam and Port of Marseille and 5 other major ports around the world.

Solomon Ports is the only port in the Asia Pacific

region to make it to the finals, where a total of 45 eligible projects were submitted as candidates for the WPSP awards.

Solomon Ports was selected by the Pacific Community (SPC) to champion the South Pacific's first ever 'Green Port Pilot Project' back in 2018, and so far, has been improving efficiency, resilience and reducing carbon footprints.

NEW SOLAR POLES AND PERIMETERS FENCING IMPROVE NORO PORT SECURITY

Newly installed Solar lighting poles and perimeter fences have boosted security measures at Solomon Port's Noro facility in the Western Province.

The new lighting poles and perimeter fencing were completed at the end of 2018 as part of Solomon Port's ongoing master plan to modernize Noro port and developing it to meet international standards.

A total of 46 solar poles have been installed Noro and the whole port facility is now fully fenced.

Noro Port Pilot Chris Sade said these new developments were a way forward in ensuring Noro Port meet and maintain ISPS Standards. He said both the fencing and lighting poles have made a difference in the Port's day to Day operation.

"In the past, members of the public usually wander around freely inside the port area," he said.

"Now people know where are the local (Domestic) ships areas, and where are the international ships areas."



Noro Port Entrance

SOLOMON PORTS PARTNER WITH JURONG PORTS SINGAPORE

Solomon Ports is proud to be part of the global publication on Best Practice Guidelines for Stowage and Securing of Steel Cargo to spearhead improvements for steel cargo handling in ports, launched by Jurong Port Pte Ltd in Singapore on Wednesday November 27th, 2019.

This set of industry best practice guidelines has received global support from port authorities, shipping associations, maritime insurance groups and regional ports who have participated in the drive for enhanced safety best practices.

Solomon Ports was represented at the launching by Chief Executive Officer Eranda Kotelawala and Chief Human Resources and Capital officer James Gere. Participants includes, Jurong Port (Singapore), Port Klang(Malaysia) , West ports (Malaysia), Johor port(Malaysia), North port(Malaysia), Solomon Ports. Solomon Ports was the only port participated outside of the Asia region for this guideline development and launch.

During this initiative which started in early 2017, Jurong Port partnered international marine consultant, Brookes Bell, and the Witherby Publishing Group in this endeavour.



Solomon Ports CEO Mr. Eranda Kotelawala poses with Captain Vincent Leo of Jurong Port.

The publication provides comprehensive guidelines on loading, stowage and securing, and advice on bundling, lashing, dunnage for various types of steel cargo such as rebars, coils, plates, pipes, structural

steel etc, offering guidance that can help overcome years of overlooked shortcomings in stowage of steel products onboard cargo vessels that has caused safety and productivity concerns during cargo discharge operations.

PORTS STAFF VISITS NRH SICK PATIENTS

Solomon Ports Staff visited the National Referral Hospital over the 2019 Christmas period to share gifts to patients.

Over 300 gifts were given to patients from all the wards, which brought warm smiles from the patients.

Ports staff shared words of prayers with the patients and gave them encouragement as they await recovery.

Chief Executive Officer Mr. Eranda Kotelawala, senior managers and other staff were part of the team.

Mr. Kotelawala said Solomon Ports was happy in giving and visiting the patients, saying he hoped this would bring smiles and hope to them.

He thanked the rest of the ports staff

who took time off just to visit the patients, and to distribute the gifts.

“This is a time of sharing and giving, we thanked the hospital for giving us this opportunity, and we are looking forward to next year,” he said.

“Thank you everyone for being here, this is truly a worthy cause which we want to share with the patients and thank God.”

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of NRH, Nursing Manager Ishmael Davi thanked Solomon Ports staff for this wonderful gesture.

“Giving your time and commitment to our sick patients is rewarding, your presence as an organization is a blessing to us all,” he said.



SIPA staff pose after handing out gifts to sick patients at NRH.

“Thank You for sharing the spirit of Christmas and giving, and we want to thank you and wish you a merry Christmas as well.”

SOLOMON PORTS JOINS PORTS AUSTRALIA



Solomon Ports is proud to announce it is now a member of Ports Australia, commencing on 1st of December 2019.

The new partnerships will promote Regional connectivity, Knowledge sharing, opportunity to participate in working groups for mutual benefit and improvement of port standards. Solomon Ports Chief Executive Officer, Mr Eranda Kotelawala said partnering with Ports Australia will Strengthen regional ties, improve knowledge sharing and training opportunities for development.

“This is a leap step forward connecting the ports and maritime sector across the pacific region and we feel welcomed to be accepted as a member.”

Ports Australia’s Chief Executive, Mike Gallacher said “this relationship is the start of something greater for the region’s maritime industry, Ports Australia can’t wait to begin a long and strong partnership with Solomon Ports.

“Our local Australian members will look forward to learning from the knowledge of Solomon Islands Port Authority, just like they’ll be keen to share their own.

“Welcome to Solomon Islands Port Authority, we’re excited to help grow our region together,” Mike ended.



Honiara Port

Solomon Ports has this year hosted its first ever 'Agent's appreciation night' on the 5th of March to recognize major shipping agents servicing the country.

The appreciation night was purposely held to appreciate and bring together shipping agents in a forum to get to know each other.

A similar event was hosted last year, which was the customer appreciation night, which Solomon Ports gave gifts in recognition of our top importers and exporters.

A total of seven shipping agents were invited to the night, which includes Tradco Shipping Limited, Express Freight Management, Carpenters Shipping Agency, Sullivans Shipping Limited, BJS Shipping Agency, GS Agencies and Genesis Agency.

The event was held at the Mendana Hotel in Honiara, where gifts were handed to representatives of the shipping agents by Solomon Ports representatives.

Speaking during the event, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Eranda Kotelawala thanked the agents for their continuous work with Solomon Ports and the ongoing service they provide to customers.

He said it good to get together in such programs to get to know each other and to get to know the concerns of stakeholders.

"Most of the time we only know each other through emails, and now it's a good time to get to know and talk to each other," he said.

"You are also an integral part of our work and we appreciate your support, and for the last 60 or so years, we have been working hand in hand with our shipping agents to move the port forward."

FIRST EVER SHIPPING AGENTS APPRECIATION NIGHT.



SIPA chairman Johnny Sy handing over gifts to Tradco rep.

Solomon Ports leading the way in women in leadership

Solomon Ports is now paving the way for gender equality in the country with the promotion of two women to senior roles in the company.

Now thirty percent of the total workforce are now female, and currently there are female staff in all departments, ranging from previously male dominated roles such as security officers, electricians, and engineers.

On Wednesday 4th 2019, 10 female staff from various departments attended a 1 weeklong "Waka Mere" women in leadership training.

The Waka Mere Commitment to Action is a two-year initiative which aims to promote gender equality in the private sector in Solomon Islands. It was launched in July 2017 at the Australian Solomon Islands Business Forum and includes 15 of the largest companies in Solomon Islands, with nearly 6,000 employees combined.

Speaking on behalf of Solomon Ports Female staff who attended the training, Lorraine Simon from Human Resources said the waka mere program was a huge boost to their careers as women working at SIPA.



Solomon Ports female staff pose after the 'Waka Mere' closing program.

Ms. Simon said now women are gaining more recognition for their abilities more than ever before and are also taking roles traditionally dominated by men.

She said the training will enable female staff to have more confidence in delivering key expectations in their daily duties.

"When I first started working here in 1994, there weren't as many women working here, but today we have women working as managers, engineers,

electricians, security guards, and other key areas inside ports," she said.

"This is a positive sign that women are now being recognized than ever before, and I believe this is beneficial for Solomon Ports as having various perspective and ideas from men and women are key ingredients for success."

Computer Security Awareness

IT DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS COMPUTER SECURITY AWARENESS

Solomon Ports' IT department conducted two weeks computer security awareness for all computer users in February early this year.

The aim of the awareness was to provide information on how computer users can identify and avoid online security threats posed by hackers that may potentially harm company information and data.

Solomon Ports now currently has over 90 computers, whom some were not properly equipped with necessary knowledge when it comes to computer security.

The awareness serves as a platform for Solomon ports employees to be equipped with knowledge to protect company security information and data.

IT Support Officer Elvina Gani conducted the security awareness, said employees who attended the sessions were glad and more equipped with computer security information that ever before.

She said most of the common security threats that can be disguised in the forms of scam emails, or pop ups, used by hackers to infiltrate company data.



A Solomon Ports staff using the Port manager Software.

"We've already had attempts by hackers to breach some of our staff information security, which we encourage them to look out for in the future" said.

"We encourage staff to report suspicious emails to IT department or just delete it straight away, this is the right way to protect company data and information."

SOLOMON PORTS FAREWELLS LONGEST SERVING STAFF MEMBER

Solomon Ports has farewelled its longest serving staff, Mr. Chris Tugumana at SIPA headquarters in Point Cruz, Honiara on April 23. Members of SIPA's finance department organized the event to farewell their colleague, who served as the SOE's paymaster for 38 years before retiring this year.

Mr. Tugumana, who hails from Vara Village in Santa Isabel Province, joined the ports authority on 19th January 1982 as a 'Clerk' in the pay clerk Office (Payroll Office).

He was promoted to the position of paymaster in 1985, a position he held until he officially retired in 2017, but was given contract for three years, which lapsed this year.

Mr. Tugumana was also the pioneer of change for Solomon Ports as he was one of the first employees to use computers when it was first introduced in 1985.

His colleagues described him as fun person to work with, and a person who showed leadership and commitment throughout his time at Solomon Ports.

Speaking during the farwell ceremony, SIPA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Eranda Kotewala hailed Mr. Tugumana's loyalty and faithfulness to the Ports Authority for such a long period of time.

He said Mr. Tugumana was a witness to the development and progress of Solomon Ports over the decades and years.

"He was here for 38 years and has been through the port authority's ups and downs but was still determined to serve and contribute to the progress of Solomon Ports," he said.

"I want to thank Chris for serving this place with a good heart, and I would like to say he is a role model to current staff, with the commit-



Mr. Tugumana cutting his farewell cake with Chief Financial officer George Rausi.

ment he has shown for the past 38 years, and we wish him all the best."

X-mas Party Highlights

