



THE PORT TWITTER

THE MAN BEHIND THE VISION

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. NOEL A. HYLTON, OJ

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It is not very often that one gets to have a casual chat with The Hon. Noel A. Hylton, President & CEO of The Port Authority of Jamaica. I, however, had the distinct pleasure and thought to share with you highlights of the conversation.

Q. How long has your association with the port been and what was it like then in terms of activities and resources?

A. Since 1975. There were no cranes at that time. One



The Hon. Noel Hylton, OJ, President and CEO of The Port Authority of Jamaica.

side of the ship had to be worked, then the ship turned around and the other side worked. Two Paceo Gantry Cranes were then bought through a loan from Japan.

Q. What spurred the decision for development to take place in the way it has?

A. We recognized that the geographical location of Jamaica would be key as containerization had just come into effect. The larger ships would stop at one port to distribute within the region and we thought Kingston should be the port.

Q. What was the vision you had for the port and would you say it has been achieved?

A. We have a vision to make this port the largest distribution hub of this region. You will notice that our expansion is in tandem with the types of vessels being built, hence we were probably the only port in the region that could handle the Zim Antwerp and Zim Rotterdam at this time. We have also been successful in creating a harmonious labour relationship with no strikes in more than thirty years be-

cause of the vision to create that relationship between workers and the unions.

Q. Over the years some tough decisions have had to be made, with strong opposition, I imagine. How have you been able to handle this?

A. The difficulties we had over the years is to convince the authorities to secure lands for future development. We were always criticized for wanting too much land, but as we move towards crystallizing the vision we realize that we need to acquire more land.

Q. Your responsibilities go even wider than cargo terminals, i.e. they extend to cruise ship ports and management of the HWT Transport Centre. Do these responsibilities wear you down?

A. (In one of his lighter moods he jokes that his PA, Gillian Polack, wears him down). No, the parts of the portfolio are interconnected. The operation of a cruise pier is related to shipping as is the operation of a cargo pier. One of my main functions is to ensure that all these terminals are operating at an efficient level, measured by international norms.

Q. Everyone needs a little time to unwind. When time allows, what are the things you like to do?

A. I never really think of unwinding - I always have other things to do. I have a number of other portfolios such as membership of other boards, but I like to unwind by listening to music, being alone and sometimes playing dominoes.

Then, with phones ringing and heads peeping around the door, I knew it was time to depart and allow this visionary to get on with the business of the day.



An aerial view of Port Bustamante, showing the on-going expansion at the Western end (inner section of the highway).

Compiled by Janet Smith
PA to the Managing Director

KCT MAKING WAVES IN 2010

“Thirty-six moves per hour is the highest productivity achieved on any vessel to ever dock on this port”

“Other ports are scrambling to get prepared for 2014, but Jamaica is ahead of them”

“Zim did not wait for 2014 for the expansion of the Panama Canal, but decided to bring the ship here ahead of that time”

A new year brings new hope for most of us and new hope it was for KCT as the company certainly started out the year on a positive note.

Recession or no recession, there were a few activities worth mentioning, that got the KCT year off to a flying start. Let’s take a moment to reflect on some of these.

It is fitting to begin with the historic visit of the Zim Antwerp on her maiden voyage to Kingston on February 2. This mega liner, one of four of Zim’s mega



The Zim Antwerp in the process of being docked on its maiden voyage to Kingston on February 2.

vessels, is an example of the new generation of vessels now being constructed that can only traverse the Panama Canal on completion of its expansion, scheduled for the year 2014. This vessel has however been able to make the journey to the port of Kingston at this time, as this port is the only one in this region that is capable of accommodating a vessel of this size.

And speaking of size, this vast ship is an impressive 334 metres long and 63.5 metres in height with a capacity of 10,000 twenty-foot container equivalent units (teu) and has the ability to carry containers up



Guests getting ready for the start of the welcome ceremony for the Zim Antwerp. Foreground from l - r: Cliff Stone - Chairman, KCT Board; Hon. Noel Hylton - President & CEO, Port Authority of Jamaica; Capt. Chaim Shacham- Snr. VP Operations, Zim; Rt. Hon. Pearnell Charles - Actg. Prime Minister.

to eighteen wide on deck.

Among the specially invited guests on hand to welcome the vessel on its arrival was the then Acting Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Pearnell Charles, who commended the operations team on the remarkable achievement of 36 moves per hour, the highest productivity achieved on any vessel to ever dock on this port. He congratulated the KCT management team for enabling a ship such as this to come to the port. To the Zim executive team he said “we value the long term relationship we have with you and we call on you to continue making Jamaica a partner in the shipping industry and shipping business”.

The Hon. Noel Hylton, President of The Port Authority of Jamaica stated that, with the exception of a few ports capable of handling a ship of this size, others are scrambling to get prepared for 2014, but Jamaica is ahead of them. Capt. Chaim Shacam, Snr. Vice President, Operations - Zim Lines, also added his comments, stating that Zim did not wait until the year 2014 for the expansion of the Panama Canal, but instead decided to bring



The KCT Choir doing an entertaining dramatization of the work carried out by gangs at shipside. The tremendous effort of the teams resulted in an unprecedented 36 moves per hour on the Zim Antwerp.

the ship here ahead of that time, as the terminal was prepared for it.

A joyous event such as this could definitely not go ahead without a celebration to mark the occasion. Among the activities planned was an afternoon of food and fun, with the KCT choir being the main attraction. They, as is customary, did not disappoint, with a witty rendition, which gave a humorous account of the shipside activities of port workers, sung to the melodies of well-known folk songs.

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Diana Williams of Caribstar (Agents for Zim) hands over a plaque to Capt. Felix Khanchin of the Zim Rotterdam on her maiden voyage to Kingston.

And so we said goodbye to the Zim Antwerp, but not for long as she returned yet again in April. But, as if that wasn't enough, the news arrived of yet another mega vessel due to grace our shores.

The Zim Rotterdam, the second of this class of vessel, arrived June 6 and, as was the case with the Zim Antwerp, the KCT team once again rose to the challenge of working this giant in record time. An impressive twenty-five moves per hour solidified the claim that the terminal is ready for the future and indeed has the capability to handle the additional business



Zim Rotterdam docked at Gordon Cay. This is the second of the Zim mega vessels to visit the port of Kingston.

expected once economies have emerged from the depths of the recession.

The Zim Rotterdam's arrival did not go without it's fanfare either. Diana Williams of Caribstar, agents for Zim, was on hand to present a plaque to Capt. Felix Khanchin to commemorate the occasion. Tours were also arranged for specially invited guests to get a first hand view of the capacity of these new generation vessels and to also gain knowledge of the importance of this business to the future development of the terminal.

We then saw the departure of the Zim Rotterdam, but before the waves had a chance to dissipate, Kingston once again made the headlines with the arrival of yet another vessel making its maiden voyage to its port. The OOCL Guangzhou, a 4,500 teu vessel which forms part of the Grand Alliance arrived in Kingston on June 27.

The Grand Alliance—a partnership consisting of ZIM, NYK, OOCL and Hapag-Lloyd—operates a



OOCL Guangzhou docked at Gordon Cay. The maiden voyage of this vessel saw her visiting the port of Kingston.

service from the Far East, through the Panama Canal to the East Coast of the US.

Welcome was extended on behalf of The Port Authority of Jamaica and a framed painting was given to the captain, Wai Ho Kong, to mark the memorable occasion.

Gaby Sharf, KCT Operations Manager, expressed his delight in having the weekly service to Kingston and hoped to see an increase in activity, particularly for the domestic market.



A gift of a painting being handed over to the Captain and crew of the OOCL Guangzhou. From l - r: Yu Bing Wong - Ist Officer; Wah Kee Poon - Chief Engineer; Simon Thompson - Domestic Operations Manager, KCT; Janet Smith - P.A to the Managing Director, KCT; Maurice Livingstone - Operations Manager, Marinter (Jamaica) Limited; Wai Ho Kong - Captain.

The visit of a second Zim mega vessel proves that the terminal is indeed ready to handle the additional business expected after the recession.

The terminal looks forward to an increase in business for the domestic market with the weekly service from the Grand Alliance.



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MISSION

To provide a world-class service through high levels of efficiency, productivity, superior customer service and cost effectiveness, to satisfy the requirements of our global supply chain customers.

VISION

Kingston Container Terminal, as a major player in the transportation network of the Western Hemisphere, is fundamental to the enrichment of the people and the economy of Jamaica and is committed to becoming the premier transshipment terminal in the Americas

CORE VALUES

- Integrity*
- Fairness*
- Trust*
- Commitment*
- Accountability for the environment*

**AN APPLE A DAY...
 AN INSIGHT TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE
 KCT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE**

There are certain elements that go together to make an organization a success and one of these is a happy, healthy workforce. With this in mind, the KCT Occupational Health Centre is gradually being transformed to contribute to this success. Tracey Banton, Nurse Administrator, explains how the Centre has evolved to better serve the health-care needs of staff and also talks about plans for further development.

Many may not know, but the Occupational Health & Safety Regulations of Jamaica require, among



Members of the Occupational Health Team take a moment from their busy schedules to smile for the camera. Seated is Tracey Banton, Nurse Administrator; Standing: Patrice Gordon, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); Winston Farquarson, Senior Ambulance Driver.

other things, that if a company employs more than one hundred persons there must be First Aiders on site. "KCT is coming in line with these new regulations, but there are still some things that need to be done", Nurse Banton states. "Despite that, we have still come a long way from the one-room facility that I walked into in 2006". She reflects on the single desk, chair, computer and sink which were the only items in the Centre at that time. "I was on call 24 hours and had to leave instructions with the Ambulance Driver to do follow-ups in my absence". Fortunately, it was not long before additional staff came on board and by September of that year four more persons were added to the staff complement.

Since then, the physical structure has increased in size, now boasting six rooms which include Doctor's and Administrator's offices, reception and consultation areas, treatment room and bathrooms. There has also been an increase in the variety of services offered, all geared towards catering to the diverse medical needs of staff. These include PSA testing for prostate cancer, mammograms for women over 40 years, ECGs, pap smears, kidney and liver function tests (for persons working in the Engineering Department),

cholesterol tests, ear syringes and dressings for various types of wounds. All this has not gone unnoticed, as an award was received from the HEART Foundation for being one of the companies compliant with having a defibrillator on the compound. Services have also been extended to include back massages for persons with back problems and in-house training for CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation). All this is done by a competent team of two nurses (one with Intensive Care training) and three EMTs (all trained at the Intermediate level).

Annual and biennial medicals (depending on the age of the staff member) still continue in keeping with government regulations. These have been made easier, as there is no longer the need to go off-site for certain tests such as blood tests and sight examinations. The weekly Thursday visit by the company doctor makes it possible for segments of the medicals to also be done on-site, as well as other medical consultations.

The services offered, however, do not stop there. Equipment for suturing has been purchased and training is ongoing for First Responders, that is, persons from each department who can respond quickly to an accident and stabilize until the medical team arrives. Five persons have also received ECAT (Emergency Care And Treatment) training, which goes beyond First Aid training.

When asked if the service is being used regularly by staff, Nurse Banton states "yes, but I would still



Roger Elliston, Labour Planner, being attended to by Patrice Gordon, EMT.

like to see more people responding to what is being offered. People are afraid, for example, that if they have high blood pressure they will be sent home, but that is not the point. We are not here to send anyone home, but instead to make them healthy by monitoring the condition and educating them on what to do".