



PNG PORTS CORPORATION LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE, STANLEY ESPLANADE, PORT MORESBY
PO BOX 671, PORT MORESBY, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA
TELEPHONE: (675) 321 1400, FACSIMILE: (675) 321 1546
E-MAIL: enquiries@pngports.com.pg, WEBSITE: www.pngports.com.pg

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MEDIA RELEASE

U.S. COAST GUARD VISIT PNG PORTS

PNG Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) is committed to ensuring that its ports are safe and secure for its stakeholders to do business.

Chief Maritime Compliance Officer, Mr. Paul Unas said this when acknowledging the visit by representatives of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the U.S. Embassy, a Liaison Officer for the Pacific Regional Maritime Program from the Office of Transport, Australia and a rep. from the Dep't of Transport to its ports of Lae, Kimbe and Rabaul recently from the 23rd to 25th of February this year.

Mr Unas thanked the visitors for going over to PNGPCL's port facilities to see what the Company does in terms of ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security) compliance within the PNG Ports facilities.

"As you have seen over the last couple of days in the few ports that you have visited, PNGPCL is committed to the provision of security and safety within our port facilities.

"And as a token of that commitment the management established the Maritime Compliance Department to among other things ensure that the ports under PNGPCL's management operate consistent with best practices and standards," he said.

Mr. Unas said "what is important is the relationship and the network we create through this type of consultation and dialogue and all of us should treasure this so that we can assist each other to improve what we do".

"I can say here that though we have a lot of challenges in terms of meeting the compliance rating of the ISPS Code, we are happy with what we have achieved so far in our ports and will continue to be committed to improving our ISPS responsibilities and will welcome from experts like you any advice or directions that you can share with us so that we can better deliver security services at our ports," he said.

Commander Karen Jones of the USCG said their visit is part of the USCG's International Port Security (IPS) Program for liaison officers to visit countries all over the world to promote the program and engage in bilateral and multilateral discussions with maritime trading nations throughout the world.

These discussions serve to exchange information and share best practices regarding the implementation of the ISPS Code and other international maritime security standards.

Commander Karen Jones is the International Port Security Liaison Officer for the Asia-Pacific Region which includes Papua New Guinea.

In thanking PNG Ports especially for allowing access to its port facilities and the hospitality, Commander Jones said "one thing that we've noticed is the commitment all the way down from the (Transport) Ministry through to the management of PNG Ports right down to the people on the ground."

Commander Jones said "I think it is a tremendous commitment to safety and security; you can see that comprehensive policies are very well implemented."

She said the USCG would like to support what is already going on and provide training to better improve and coordinate what is going on especially with the company's external security guards.

"You and I have talked about the potential opportunities for capacity building and I've shared that with the DOT as well and we'll continue to work to make those opportunities happen.

"Really my recommendations are that the Company particularly continues to do the great things so keep that going," Commander Jones said.

The IPS Program was established in 2003 to reinforce implementation of the ISPS Code as part of the U.S. Maritime Transportation Act (Chapters 70108 - 70110 of Sec 102 Amendment to 46 U.S. Code) for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of maritime security measures throughout the world.

Maritime security standards have not been traditionally a part of the culture. Implementation of these international standards is a worldwide partnership between maritime nations.

It is important that countries seek to align their understanding of the best, most practical and cost effective means to reach the goal of a secure worldwide maritime transportation system.

The USCG has a cadre of IPS Program Liaison Officers located in three regions (Asia-Pacific, Europe/Africa/Middle East, and Central/South America) providing world-wide coverage to partner with nations to foster stronger bilateral exchanges of maritime security information.

The liaison officers have visited almost all of the countries that have vessel traffic between them and the US and they seek to visit the countries at least annually to maintain a cooperative relationship.

Each visit to a country is tailored to reflect a mutually agreeable agenda, but visits typically include discussions with representatives of the designated authority to better understand how the country has implemented the ISPS Code and other measures to improve security of the maritime transportation system.

Edited & Endorsed by:



Mr. Stanley Alphonse
Chief Commercial Officer

Authorised by:



Mr. Brian Riches
Chief Executive Officer

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For more information contact Frank Asaeli, Public Relations Officer on Ph: 3084200/3084289, email: frank.asaeli@pngports.com.pg