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NEW DIRECT CONTAINER SERVICE BETWEEN P. KLANG & US WEST COAST

PORT KLANG, Jan 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysian exporters and importers would stand to gain from the start of a containerised liner service between Port Klang and the US West Coast from yesterday.

The service, being provided by the Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL), a subsidiary of Orient Overseas (International) Ltd, a public listed company in Hong Kong. Its Pacific Southwest 1 (PS1) service plies between the North American Pacific Southwest coast, Hong Kong, Singapore, Port Klang and China.

OOCL's container vessel "OOCL California", the world's largest container vessel which can ferry 4,960 TEUs, inaugurated the service with calls every Monday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the service here today.

OOCL said in a statement that the direct trans-Pacific service from Port Klang to the US West Coast would contribute towards the Malaysian government's aspirations of making Port Klang a transshipment hub for Malaysian cargo.

It said the new service was designed to provide customers with better services by offering shorter transit times and better reliability.

To meet increasing customer needs, OOCL had also formed an alliance called the Global Alliance with four other carriers -- America President Lines, Mitsui O.S.K, Malaysian International Shipping Corporation Bhd (MISC) and Nedlloyd Lines.

It said the alliance would enable the use of the carriers' equipment in a more cost effective manner by sharing ship space and terminals and negotiating jointly with third-party vendors and suppliers.

The Global Alliance together with MISC would also provide a new North European service deploying a total of 26 container ships servicing three routes between all the main ports in Asia and the North-West Europe.

OOCL owns and charters 31 container vessels with a capacity of 66,000 TEUs.

-- BERNAMA