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ASIA LNG TRANSPORT TO TAKE DELIVERY OF 2ND VESSEL IN MAY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- Asia LNG Transport Sdn Bhd's (ALT Sdn Bhd) prospects for LNG shipment in smaller bulk to serve medium-sized cities in Japan looks encouraging with the assured delivery of its second LNG carrier, Hull No. S-150, in May.

Asia LNG is a joint-venture company between PNSL Bhd (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd) and Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line) of Japan.

Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd said in a statement today that Hull No. S-150 will transport LNG for MNLG, a member of Petroleum Nasional Bhd, from Bintulu Port, Sarawak, to Shiogama Port, City of Sendai, Japan, for a period of 20 years.

A ceremony to name the vessel will be held in Japan at NKK Tsu Works and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Hj Mohd Ali will be the guest of honour. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will also be present.

The LNG vessel, keel-laid in September 1995 at NKK Tsu Works, Japan, is of a similar class to her sister vessel S.S. Aman Bintulu, acquired in 1993. It has a capacity of 18,800 cubic metre.

The builder of the compact-sized LNG carrier, NKK Corporation, has incorporated the Technigaz MK III evolution cargo containment system to ensure safe transportation of LNG.

Konsortium Perkapalan said with the combined expertise and competent Malaysian and Japanese crew members from PNSL Bhd and NYK Line, ALT Sdn Bhd will have the advantage of providing efficient, safe and reliable service to its customers.

The vessel will enlarge ALT Sdn Bhd's role in the LNG transport industry in Malaysia and pave the way for more and bigger joint projects with Japan.

ALT Sdn Bhd's entry into the very specialised and sophisticated sector of ocean transportation of LNG was primarily for the shipment of LNG from Malaysia to medium-sized gas utility companies in Japan.

It currently transports LNG from MNLG's Production Terminal at Bintulu Port, Sarawak, to the Saibu Gas Receiving Terminal at Hakata Port in Japan.

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