

19/09/1998

Liong Sik launches Westport Open Day

PULAU INDAH, Fri. - It was a jamboree of colours, flowers and fun galore at the Westport Open Day in line with the theme Flower Power at the Garden Port. The terminal, officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 10, 1996, certainly lived up to the theme.

The Open Day, held at Wharf 10 of Westport, was opened by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik in a ceremony where three prime movers headed towards the wharf with each carrying a container box carrying the words Congratulations LPK, For A Successful Launch, Love Westport.

The crowd was earlier enthralled with the passing of marine police, port speed boats and vessels and a lion dance.

They were in for a surprise when a prime mover, carrying a box specially addressed to Dr Ling, delivered a birthday cake for the Minister who turned 55 today.

Present at the celebrations were Dr Ling's wife Datin Seri Ena Ling, Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam, the Ministry's parliamentary secretary Datuk Chor Chee Heung, Klang Port Authority chairman Senator Datuk Michael Chen, KPA general manager Datin O.C. Phang, Kelang Container Terminal and Kelang Port Management chairman Datuk Rahmat Jamari and Kelang Multi-Terminal and Segamat Inland Port chairman Datuk Nik Ibrahim Kamil Nik Ahmad Kamil.

At the Business Centre, Dr Ling declared open the Westport Open Day and also the Know-Your-Port Series 2 with the release of balloons and a shower of flower petals, at the same time rolling down banners declaring the two events open.

Dr Ling also presented certificates of merit to the six best quay crane drivers who performed world-class moves of 195 per hour, achieving a peak of 201 moves on the Regina Maersk on Aug 24.

The Minister then went on a guided tour of the exhibition stalls set up by Westport's Information Technology Unit, the main lines that call at Westport, and government agencies.

In conjunction with the open day, the Westport authorities held guided tours for visitors, a children's art competition and set up stalls selling food, drinks and souvenirs at the Tower Plaza.

With wharves covering 3.4km, Westport today has a container terminal with nine super post-panamax quay cranes, a conventional terminal for break bulk and dry bulk, a cement terminal, a liquid terminal and a slag and fertilizer terminal.

Westport has scored many firsts - the only terminal to have won Asia's Top 10 Best Container Terminal in the Asian Freight International Award, first to offer dedicated bunkering services (re-fuelling) in Port Klang after three decades and the first to bring in the world's first largest containership - Regina Maersk - to Port Klang.

Five of the top shipping lines in the world call at Westport - Maersk, Seland, Hanjin, Evergreen and Uniglorry.

In terms of facilities and infrastructure, Westport has invested RM1.5 billion and boasts 66 prime movers, 30 rubber-tyre gantry cranes, a mobile harbour crane, a business centre housing all the relevant government departments and agencies and a Tower Block.

Those interested to know more about the port and details on group visit to Westport can contact its Corporate Services Department at 03-

3011020/3848001.

(END)