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PTP growing at monumental rate

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PORT of Tanjung Pelepas, the newest jewel in Johor's mercantile progression crown and Southeast Asia's fastest growing transshipment hub, recently received another international accolade in the form of the FIABCI (International Real Estate Federation) Award of Distinction in the Public Sector category (Malaysian chapter).

The award was bestowed on PTP for its management of the project, in terms of construction.

Factors that were considered when adjudging PTP as the winner were its ahead-of-schedule construction, state-of-the-art container terminal, equipment and administration complex, and its plans to transform southwest Johor into a leading industrial centre.

In October, the port was placed on the Lloyd's List as the Best Emerging Container Terminal.

Said PTP's chief executive officer Mohd Sidik Shaik Osman: "The award is a recognition of the smart partnership between the public and private sector.

"PTP's success story has been crafted by several governmental agencies, project consultants, contractors, shipping lines, forwarders and designers, and we take this opportunity to thank them all.

"We are starting a new phase of development to accommodate the tremendous surge in volume. Plans to initiate phase two of the port are being discussed, way ahead of the original schedule of crafting it in 2004.

"The award is timely, as it recognises and gives due credit to our staff and management team who have steered the project through challenging times, including the economic recession of the late '90s."

With its deep waters, sheltered bay, wide access channels and state-of-the-art equipment, PTP is forging ahead in realising its vision of becoming a high-efficiency commonuser terminal that would be recognised as the region's premier transshipment hub.

PTP, initiated in March 1995, is located at the southwest shoulder of Johor with a minimum diversion time from the confluence of the main international shipping lanes.

Construction of the first phase began in mid-1997, was completed ahead of schedule in October 1999, and was inaugurated in March 2000 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Phase one comprises six berths offering a linear wharf length of 2.16km, and a container yard with a storage capacity of 110,000 TEUs.

The terminal is equipped with 14 Super Post Panamax quayside cranes, with an 18-box outreach to cater for the world's largest container vessels.

Plans are underway to bring in an additional 10 quay cranes with a 22 box outreach, to realise the Phase One total handling capacity of 4.5 million TEUs per annum.

The terminal operations are backed by hi-tech information technology network systems to synergise the operations of the port, facilitate free flow of realtime information and provide nearpaperless transactions.

A 5.4km access road links it to the Second Link and the North-South Highway, and a 3.15km national rail grid connects it to various parts of the peninsular and northern Thailand.

The 160ha of land reserved for distribution, logistics and ware-housing

within its free trade zone has attracted companies such as Kenwood, Tiong Nam, JB Cocoa and MIEL to set up their bases here.

Prime among its achievements is the securing of Maersk-Sealand, the world's largest container line, as its strategic partner in August, when Maersk moved its operations to PTP from Singapore and bought a 30 per cent stake in it.

Twelve other lines call at PTP, including Mitsui OSK, and APL-NOL. It is this flourishing client base that has helped PTP to achieve its one million TEUs mark in May, 571 days since its trial operations in October 1999.

The achievement is believed to be the fastest throughput record in the world to be achieved by a new port.