

# Westports To Handle 11 Million TEUs With New Container Terminal

Westports Holdings Bhd expects its overall handling capacity to increase to 11 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) with the launch of its new Container Terminal 7 (CT7).

Westports Holdings Bhd Chief Executive Officer Ruben Emir Gnanalingam said the port is poised to handle eight million TEUs this year, up from 7.5 million TEUs last year.

“The quay cranes along with all the other parts of CT7, like the Yards and RTGs (rubber-tyred gantry cranes), will bring our capacity up to 11 million TEUs along the busiest sea trade route in the world which is the Straits of Melaka.

“With the launch of CT7 today, we will also be ready for the latest 19,000 TEUs vessels when they are launched by China Shipping later this year,” he said in his speech at the launch of the CT7 by the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, at Westport here.

The CT7 would take the port’s overall container berth length to 4,600 metres, supported by the seven new quay cranes, which will be the tallest such cranes in the world to handle between 18,000 to 19,000 TEU class vessels.

Ruben said four new quay cranes are part of the CT7, with Westports expected to have an additional three cranes later this year, bringing the total fleet to 52 quay cranes.

He said to date, Westports has handled over 60 million TEUs and these boxes have come via a wide variety of vessels from very small barges up to the largest vessels in the world.

“We also grew our container market share in Port Klang from one per cent in 1996 to reach 33 per cent in 2000, and subsequently became the market leader in Port Klang by reaching 73 per cent in 2013.

“Today, we are proud to be the catalyst behind Port Klang’s growth by holding 78 per cent of Port Klang’s container market share,” he added.

Ruben said in total Westports’ volume grew by 374 per cent from 2001 to 2013, while ensuring that Port Klang’s capacity grew by 166 per cent from 2001 to reach 10 million TEUs in 2013, propelling it to become the 12th largest port in the world.

At the same function, Westports also celebrated its 20th anniversary.