

Westports To Up Cargo Handling: It Plans To Raise Capacity to 13 Million TEUs on Completion of New Terminal



Maiden Voyage: (from left) UASC Cluster operation manager Alexandar Cheong, UASC (S.A.G) vice-president Asia Cluster David Skillen, Gnanalingam and UASC Malaysia Sdn Bhd general manager Desmond Yong in front of MV Barzan in Westports.

PORT KLANG: Westports Malaysia expects to increase its cargo handling capacity to 13 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) from 11 million TEUs following the completion of its Container Terminal 8 (CT8) by mid-2017.

Its chief executive officer Ruben Emir Gnanalingam said in tandem with the construction of CT8, Westports was also building a new container gate for local cargo as well as other back of terminal support facilities.

“Our focus is always skewed towards a supply-driven approach to meet our customer demand. With CT8, we will be able to handle big vessels while continuously maintain the highest level of productivity and all other service string,” he said in his speech to celebrate the maiden voyage

of the world's most environmentally friendly and ultra large container vessel, MV Barzan, at Westports Container Terminal 7 yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Transport Ministry's maritime division secretary Datuk Abdullah Yusuff Basiron.

The vessel belonging to United Arab Shipping Company (UASC), which has a loading capacity of 18,800 TEUs, is deemed the "green vessel" for its fuel and energy efficiency.

Earlier at the event, UASC country general manager Desmond Yong in his speech said preliminary calculations indicated the vessel's energy efficiency design index value was about 50% below the 2025 limit set by the International Maritime Organisation.

"This vessel is expected to set a new standard for fuel and energy efficiency due to its optimised vessel design and array of propulsion and equipment efficiency technology," he said. – Bernama