

Northport welcomes Port Klang's 1st low sulphur fuel oil shipment

This LSFO bunkering service operations at Northport is one of its environmentally friendly programmes

by S BIRRUNTHA

NORTHPORT (M) Bhd has welcomed the first shipment of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) 2020-compliant low sulphur fuel oil (LSFO) at its Southpoint terminal.

This makes Northport the first facility in Port Klang to supply the IMO 2020-compliant marine fuel.

Northport CEO Datuk Azman Shah Mohd Yusof and Port Klang Authority (PKA) assistant GM, operations and regulatory Captain Kamal Ariffin Idris were present to witness the discharging of the LSFO from a bunker vessel, MT Straits Energy, into dedicated storage tanks in Southpoint.

Azman Shah said Northport has been playing its role through various environmentally friendly programmes and this LSFO bunkering service operations at Northport is one of its latest initiatives.

"It is our obligation to protect the environment for our future generation. We hope this value-added service will further enhance the num-



Azman Shah (second from right) and Kamal Ariffin (right) being briefed on the bunker vessel operations by May Maritime Services Sdn Bhd MD Mohd Taufiq Sari (left). May Maritime Services is the vessel's management company for MT Straits Energy

ber of vessels calling Northport and Port Klang.

"It is only fitting that Southpoint, being the oldest terminal in Port Klang, becomes the first facility to

offer LSFO, chalking yet another milestone in its 119-year history", he said in a statement yesterday.

Northport has provided a facility at its Southpoint terminal operated

by licensed bunker operator, Ombak Suria Sdn Bhd to ensure LSFO is made available to be supplied to vessels in Port Klang.

In the next few weeks, Ombak

Suria and other relevant authorities will be performing due diligence to ensure the safety, product quality and best practices in bunker operations before commencing any bunkering activities and supplies to the shipping lines.

PKA GM Captain K Subramaniam, said Port Klang, which is currently ranked 12th in the world shipping ports, is preparing itself to become Malaysia's bunkering hub.

"Our strategic location at the busiest shipping lane in the world gives us a competitive advantage to fulfil the Ministry of Transport's (MoT) aspiration.

"The arrival of IMO 2020-compliant LSFO at Northport brings us one step closer to achieving this goal," he added.

In August last year, PKA hosted a conference to help the shipping industry make informed decisions ahead of the implementation of IMO 2020.

The conference, supported by the MoT, was aimed at raising the awareness and facilitating compliance with the IMO requirements.

The discussions addressed impacts of the global sulphur cap, and issues related to fuel oil availability, handling of new fuels, sampling and verification procedures, compliance challenges, mitigation of safety aspects, as well as the enforcement.