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2nd SOUTH EAST
CEO CONCLAVE & AWARDS 2010
 CARGO • LOGISTICS • MARINE • PORTS

Exim News Service

CHENNAI, Aug. 1

IT was without doubt an evening and night to remember. A riveting panel discussion, thought-provoking keynote addresses and the *grand finale* in the form of an exhilarating awards function were the highlights of the second South East CEO Conclave and Awards 2010, which was held in front of a packed and enthralled regional trade at the Hotel Taj Coromandel here on July 31.

Many of the leading lights of the industry enhanced the event with their participation and association, as delegates, panelists, award winners, jury members and event partners.

Honouring SECC 2010 with his presence was **Mr K. Mohandas, Secretary, Union Ministry of Shipping**, who came all the way from New Delhi to be the Chief Guest at the

South East CEO Conclave and Awards 2010
Invigorating deliberations and acknowledgment of excellence make for an event to remember



Mr. K. Mohandas



Mr. Mohan V. Chunkath



Mr. D.T. Joseph

event. **Mr Mohan V. Chunkath, CEO of Tamil Nadu Maritime Board**, graced the event as Guest of Honour, while **Mr D. T. Joseph, former Shipping Secretary**, played a key role in bringing SECC 2010 to fruition as the **Jury Chairman and overall event Chairman**.

Mr Mohandas, in his keynote address, said that there

would be practical difficulties in having a separate Ministry of Logistics, as was suggested by some sections of the trade, though he felt that it was a "good idea". He, however, stressed that a coordinated and integrated approach was needed in planning and implementing all logistics-related activities.

The Secretary pointed out that the government was seri-

ously focusing on improving cargo movement through coastal shipping and inland waterways transport (IWT), initially on the Ganges from Kolkata to Allahabad (NW1) and the Kerala backwaters. Public-private partnership (PPP) in IWT

List of Award Winners
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was also being encouraged, he said.

Mr Mohandas underscored that the Southern and Eastern regions were gaining in importance in the country's maritime sector, especially as a result of the government's 'Look East' policy and increasing trade with China. He emphasised that India needed to catch up with China in maritime sector development, in segments such as infrastructure and shipbuilding, where we had a long way to go but it was not impossible, especially with the support of the

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Panelists from Left to Right : **Ms. Vinita Venkatesh, Mr. M.L.N. Acharyalu, Capt. Anil Singh, Mr. J. Krishnan, Capt. Subhash Kumar, Mr. Xavier Britto, Mr. Tommy Low, Mr. Saju Chacko, Dr. R. Sunitha Sundar**



Appointments

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Trade Notice

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New Customs Exchange Rates w.e.f August 2010
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Invigorating deliberations and acknowledgment...

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private sector.

He said that a lot of developments were happening in the Major and non-major ports of the country, and highlighted that the sector grew by 14 per cent last year during the recession. But things need to happen at a much faster pace, he said, for which was required, along with increased capacities, better connectivity, including IT and shipping-related communication technology, and improved quality of service.

Mr D. T. Joseph asked the trade to develop improved parameters for enhancing service efficiency and customer satisfaction, and give constructive suggestions to the Ministry of Shipping on relevant legislation.

Pointing out that non-major ports are seen to be more "dynamic" than Major Ports, he called on the latter to address their deficiencies and the reasons for delays. He lamented the fact that not much foreign investment had come into the shipping sector, as compared to ports, even though 100 per cent was allowed, due to "bureaucracy, delays and harassment".

The former Secretary called on the trade to work towards bringing more visibility to the maritime industry, for which he had, while in office, pushed for the formation of a countrywide "maritime constituency".

He complimented **Mr Mohandas** for his initiatives for the betterment of the maritime sector, especially his proposal to develop an Indian Ports Act covering all the port facilities in the country. He also asked the trade to take advantage of **Mr Mohandas'** accessibility.

He highlighted that there was now a very vibrant maritime sector on the East Coast.

Mr Chungath pointed out that Tamil Nadu, which has 23 non-major ports, of which 16 were captive, now had a port development policy in place with focus on captive handling.

The Tamil Nadu Maritime Board had initiated measures to expand the maritime development horizons in the state and was now looking at shipbuilding and ship repair yards. It was also encouraging the captive ports to join hands to handle a wider range of cargo.

The end of the war in Sri Lanka also presented the state increased opportunities in cargo and passenger movement, he said.

Captivating panel discussion

The panel discussion, which had the theme 'South East In-

dia: The Logistics Chain & Related Infrastructure – Development, Trends & Vision', was proficiently moderated by **Mr J. Krishnan, President of Air Cargo Agents Association of India.**

It was a fascinating deliberation which was kicked off by **Dr R. Sunitha Sundar, Advocate**, who made the point that while courts gave due importance to maritime-related cases, there was maybe a shortage of judges who had expertise in the sector, technical experts to sort out specific issues and lack of legal research. Fewer lawyers practiced maritime law, she pointed out, adding that probably it had not been given due academic priority.

She, however, stressed that judges were fair in addressing these cases and that there had been many successes in arbitration and mediation.

Ms Vinita Venkatesh, Senior V-P, South and East India, Samsara Group, wanted the terminal operators to help the local shipping trade/agencies to service customers better, and show a little more flexibility with regard to last minute cargoes.

She also suggested that they liaison with senior levels of government to help improve things like the condition of the roads connecting the ports.

Mr Saju Chacko, Managing Director of Caravel Shipping, listed the many advantages of coastal shipping and called for government encouragement to develop it to its potential. He also wanted it to be properly integrated with the rest of the supply chain and stressed the need for having operators providing integrated services in the sector, for which some kind of legislation was essential.

Major ports faced challenges not only from non-major ports but also from other Major Ports, pointed out **Capt. Subhash Kumar, Chairman of Chennai Port Trust**. Efficient and transparent service, high productivity levels and competitive costs were, therefore, essential for ports to attract customers, he said.

He complimented **DP World's Chennai Container Terminal** for its global standards of productivity with zero accidents.

He expressed his support for the corporatisation of Major Ports, saying that it will go a long way in improving things, especially expediting decision-making for infrastructure augmentation.

The Chairman also highlighted some of the initiatives under way to facilitate cargo movement in and out of the

Port.

Mr M. L. N. Acharyulu, Executive Director of Karaikal Port Pvt. Ltd., said that a greenfield port operator should focus on total integrated logistics, especially encompassing connectivity, besides efficiency and transparency. The challenges of evacuation needed to be worked on from Day 1, he emphasised.

New ports could be captive, but also needed to be flexible to handle a variety of cargoes, he underscored.

Mr Tommy Low, General Manager of PSA Chennai, touched upon the need for dedicated roads for cargo movement in and out of Chennai Port and better gate management, considering that today the Port handled a variety of cargo.

On the role of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), he said that while its mandate was to protect public interest, it should also look at how to boost economic activity. He expressed satisfaction that TAMP had been evolving, from having a royalty share concept, to cost-plus and now to upfront tariff.

The soon-to-be-commissioned Vallarpadam ICTT would help the industry save Rs 600 crore in losses due to transshipment outside the country ("double handling"), facilitate improved efficiencies, attract larger vessels and, importantly, create a modern facility to handle the huge projected box traffic in the country in the coming years, highlighted **Capt. Anil Singh, Senior Vice-President and Managing Director, DP World Indian Subcontinent.**

The ICTT will not be a threat to Colombo port, he stressed, for there was enough cargo for all.

Mr Xavier Britto, Chairman of the Indev Group, underscored the need for a separate Ministry of Logistics, considering that the sector was getting organised and was no longer fragmented, and was on the verge of a major transformation due to the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST), Direct Taxes Code (DTC), improvements in technology etc.

He pitched for developing logistics parks (an "independent dry port"), with ICDs, Customs bonding facilities etc., which will hugely bring down logistics costs. He also called for giving tax holiday for developing warehousing facilities.

The panelists also interacted with the audience, during which some of the issues touched upon were the diligent implementa-

tion of the new 24x7 Customs working, other agencies also being in tune with Customs on this, the need for reworking some of the country's very old maritime-related laws so as to keep up with the changing times, and the need for airfreight to adopt some of the best practices of sea freight handling.

Earlier, there were presentations by **Mr Ennarasu Karunesan, Director/CEO, DP World Chennai**, **Ms Ragini Peter, Vice-President (Business Development), Sricity SEZ & DTZ**, and **Capt. A. V. Rajendra, Group Executive Director, Global Express Lines.**

Mr Karunesan highlighted the massive improvements that have taken place in the box trade with regard to efficiency, productivity, ship size etc. over the years, and how CCT had been excelling in all the parameters.

Some of the concerns, according to him, were the high vessel-related charges, poor connecting infrastructure, high transportation costs and lack of development in coastal shipping.

Capt. Rajendra talked about how Global Express Lines, which is mainly into project/ niche cargo handling, had grown from strength to strength since its inception in 2006. It was now looking at tapping the opportunities arising from the end of the war in Sri Lanka, namely, massive rebuilding of parts of the country, and increased trade with India and other countries.

Ms Ragini Peter expounded on the salient features of Sricity, South India's largest multi-product SEZ and DTZ, which was ideally located on the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh border and well connected by all modes.

Its development model was that of a world class facility where one could "work, live, learn and play," she pointed out.

The last, but probably the most anticipated and exciting part of the programme, was the SECC 2010 awards given out in 27 categories. In addition, two stalwarts were honoured for their Lifetime of services to the trade, and a company for corporate social responsibility.

Besides, two trade bodies were honoured for 50 years of service to stakeholders, and Chennai Customs for generating the highest revenue.

The event concluded with a networking cocktail dinner.

The event received kudos from one and all, who were all looking forward to the next South East CEO Conclave and Awards.



LIST OF WINNERS	
Category	Winner
Major Port	Chennai Port Trust
Container Terminal	DP World Chennai
Non Major Port	Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd.
Main Line Container Operator	Maersk Line
Container Feeder Operator	Bengal Tiger Line
NVOCC	Caravel Lines
LCL Consolidator	Allcargo Global Logistics Limited
Custom House Agent	Indev Logistics Pvt. Ltd.
Stevedore	Sical Logistics Ltd.
Steamer Agent (Bulk Cargo)	J.M. Baxi & Co.
Steamer Agent (Break Bulk Cargo)	A.S. Shipping Agencies Pvt. Ltd.
Steamer Agent (Liquid Cargo)	Atlantic Shipping Pvt. Ltd.
Project Cargo Mover	Lee & Muirhead Pvt. Ltd.
Liquid Storage	IMC Limited
Container Handling Equipment Supplier	Portrucks Equipments Pvt. Ltd.
Container Freight Station	Sical Distriparks Ltd.
Inland Container Depot	Container Corporation of India Ltd.
Port / Terminal - Health, Safety & Environment	Visakha Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd.
Airport	Airports Authority of India - Chennai Airport
Airline	Singapore Airlines
Maritime Academy	AMET University
Special Jury Award	Madras Homeward Freight Conference Society
News Maker	Mr. Xavier Britto, Chairman, Indev Group
Personality - Special Achievement	Dr. P. Vijayan, Vice Chancellor, IMU
Corporate Social Responsibility	Dr. Shri Prakash, Chairman, A.S. Shipping Agencies Pvt. Ltd. Mr. G.R.K. Reddy, Chairman, Marg Group
Logistics Company of the Year	Sical Logistics Ltd.
Lifetime Achievement	Mr. K.C. Raman Dr. Jose Paul