

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MAIDEN VOYAGE INTO POIC PORT**

LAHAD DATU, Fri. (Mar 11, 2013) - The port at the Lahad Datu palm oil industrial cluster (POIC Lahad Datu) received its first vessel on March 1, two months after its bulk terminal was declared operational.

MV IVS Knot, a 178-metre long, 33,000-tonnes Malaysian-registered vessel sailed into the calm waters of Lahad Datu harbour as the first shots were exchanged between Malaysian security forces and armed intruders at Kg Tanduo, about 160km away.

"There were obviously some anxiety but we kept our promise of efficiency, and the unloading of 10,000 tonnes of potash from Lithuania went without a hitch," said Chee Sai Kee, head of POIC Logistics Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of the state-owned POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd. "All in we took two and a half days, and I consider that excellent speed."

The cargo belongs to Agrifert Malaysia Sdn Bhd, one of the nine fertiliser companies operating in the fertiliser cluster in POIC Lahad Datu. These plants have a combined built-in capacity for more than one million tonnes of fertilisers, which is about the annual Sabah consumption. It is the biggest such cluster in the country.

Mr Chee said efficiency at the port will double upon the completion of a conveyor belt system currently being installed.

The bulk terminal provides stevedoring and berthing services. Its cargo handling equipment includes grabber, hopper and trimming machines. Two weigh bridges and around-the-clock security prevent pilferage and ensures safety.

The terminal is expecting a shipment of urea and rock phosphate in mid March.

Aside from the bulk terminal, the ISPS Code-compliant POIC port also has a liquid terminal where the first vessels are scheduled to call next month.

On the drawing board is a RM490million federal government-funded container terminal due for completion in 2015, and a shore side re-gasification terminal to be built by Petronas.

Elaborating on ISPS (International Shipping and Port Facility) code, Chee said the Code's main objectives are:

- to detect security threats and implement security measure
- to establish roles and responsibilities concerning maritime security for governments, local administrations, ship and port industries at the national and international level
- to collate and promulgate security-related information, and

- to provide a methodology for security assessments so as to have in place plans and procedures to react to changing security levels.

Meanwhile, Chee said he was not surprised by the edginess of the people in the wake of the intrusion and subsequent gun battles between the Filipino intruders and the Malaysian army. However he has confidence that the Malaysian security apparatus is adequate in containing the situation.

### **CAPTION**



**Photo 1: Datuk Dr. Pang Teck Wai, CEO of POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd, fourth from left. To his left, Chee Sai Kee – Port Operations Manager, POIC Logistic Sdn Bhd.**



**Photo 2: MV IVS Knot unloading first shipment at POIC Dry Bulk Terminal.**