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Click on the banner to know more...

- [TNT expands its Vietnam road network service](#)
- [Fortune puts FedEx among World's Most Admired Companies](#)
- [Famous Pacific presence in Turkey boosted by new agent](#)
- [Dragonair appoints May Lam-Kobayashi head of corporate communications](#)
- [TIACA elects new chairman, vice chairman](#)
- [Thomas Eggert to become cargo counts MD](#)
- [Fuzhou attracts new SE Asia box service](#)
- [Maersk launches Constanza, Romania-China service](#)
- [ICTSI sees Q1 earnings grow 36pc to US\\$10.8m](#)
- [Panalpina China hosts golf tournament](#)



TNT expands its Vietnam road network service

EXPRESS delivery services provider, TNT has expanded its Asia Road Network into Vietnam following a further EUR6 million (US\$8.11 million) infusion, bringing the total investment to date to EUR8 million.

The company's road network currently spans Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Indochina, and there are plans to link the network to include China through the northeastern border of Vietnam by the end of 2007. Once completed, the network will link over 120 cities across 4,000 kilometres, to cover almost 60 per cent of the region.

First introduced at the end of 2005, TNT's Asia road network is designed to provide a day-definite, door-to-door transport service throughout Asia that works by equipping TNT's container trucks with global positioning satellite (GPS) technology

to track their movements in real-time across the road network, a company statement said.

This has resulted in double-digit growth in cargo volumes within a year, the company said. TNT also said road service is two to three times faster than sea freight.

The expansion of TNT's road network into Vietnam comes amid forecasts that the nation will achieve an economic growth rate of eight per cent in 2007-08. Boosted by its WTO accession, foreign direct investment in Vietnam rose by almost 40 per cent to reach US\$10.2 billion in 2006.

"TNT's expansion into the sub-Mekong area is logical given the rapid growth of the region, in particular Vietnam," said Onno Boots, regional managing director of TNT Southeast Asia. "We are now focusing on building extensive networks to strengthen Asia's connectivity, both within the region and to Europe. We will also continue investing in the development of innovative solutions to complement the Asia Road Network and meet our customers' business needs in the region."

TNT's expansion of its road network service into Vietnam is in line with the company's strategic intent to expand its presence in Asia, particularly in key emerging markets. Recent moves include the acquisition of China's Hoau, the purchase of India's Speedage and the construction of a dedicated facility for life sciences in Singapore. This forms part of TNT's overall objective to achieve a global revenue target growth of 10 to 15 per cent in 2007 in its express division.



Fortune puts FedEx among World's Most Admired Companies

MAJOR global supply chain provider FedEx has been named one of the "World's Most Admired Companies" in 2007 for the sixth consecutive year, according to rankings recently released by Fortune magazine.

FedEx was ranked seventh in the survey, and the top company in the express delivery industry, underscoring the company's global leadership in the business community.

"This recognition is a testimony of how our people-first management philosophy has driven the success of the company," said FedEx Asia Pacific president David Cunningham.

"Day in, day out, our employees demonstrate the strength of their commitment to making every FedEx experience outstanding for our customers."



Famous Pacific presence in Turkey boosted by new agent

ASIAN NVOCC and freight services supplier Famous Pacific Shipping (FPS) has increased its presence in Turkey with the appointment of East Trans International Shipping as its new general agent.

The new agent, which is headquartered in the port city of Mersin, is one of Turkey's leading shipping companies and has its own operational offices throughout the country.

East Trans was established in 1985 as a shipping, chartering and brokering agency under the Nak Lines name, although its roots as Nak Maritime go back over for 140 years, making it one of the oldest established shipping companies in Turkey.

Said FPS Group chairman: "Turkey is becoming an increasingly important international trading nation in its own right and also as a gateway to other countries in the region.



Dragonair appoints May Lam-Kobayashi head of corporate communications

MAY Lam-Kobayashi has been appointed head of corporate communications at Dragonair, it was announced in a company statement.

Before taking up this post, she was corporate communication manager, overseas, at Cathay Pacific, which she joined as assistant manager, corporate communications for product in 1999.

Before working in corporate communication, Ms Kobayashi worked in radio as a programme host and producer at Metro Radio in Hong Kong and at CHMB AM1320 in Vancouver, Canada.

Ms Kobayashi holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Washington State and a master's degree in public administration from Seattle University.



TIACA elects new chairman, vice chairman

THE International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) has elected a new chairman and new vice chairman for the body at its annual general meeting held in Cologne, Germany.

Jack Boisen, vice president of Cargo for Continental Airlines, has been appointed TIACA's new chairman for a two-year term. Mr Boisen will replace Gary Bartek,

manager of cargo development at Kansas City International Airport as the new chairman of TIACA.

The position of vice chairman will be filled by Ulrich Ogiermann, the president and CEO of Cargolux Airlines International of Luxembourg.

Mr Boisen's career in the cargo transportation industry dates back to 1963. Some of his most notable appointments over the past four decades include working as a cargo shift manager and regional manager of labour relations for Trans World Airlines (TWA) during his 12 years with that company. This was followed with employment at Braniff Airways and Western Airlines as vice president of employee relations. In 1994, he joined Continental Airlines as vice president of cargo.

He has served on TIACA's board of directors for seven years as an expert and spokesman for air cargo security. He is chairman of the Air Cargo Council of the Air Transport Association, a member of the CNS advisory board and a member of the board of directors of the Postal Supply Council.

Ulrich Ogiermann began his aviation career with Lufthansa German Airlines in 1989. In 1991 he took over route management for South America for Lufthansa Cargo followed by two years as general manager for Cargo Southern Africa based in Johannesburg. He joined Cargolux Airlines in 1998 as senior vice president of sales and marketing, a TIACA statement said.



Thomas Eggert to become cargo counts MD

CARGO counts GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lufthansa Cargo, has announced the appointment of a new managing director, Thomas Eggert, Lufthansa Cargo's regional director for southeast Asia and Australia based in Singapore, who takes over on July 16.

Mr Eggert has been with the Lufthansa Group since 1988. He succeeds Georg Midunsky in the post, who is retiring after 36 years' service with the group, a company statement said.

"With Georg Midunsky, one of our most experienced airfreight managers is going into well-earned retirement. In close to four decades in Lufthansa's employ, Georg Midunsky has held many challenging and responsible positions in diverse cultures in different countries. We owe him a debt of thanks for his services and welcome an experienced sales professional in Thomas Eggert as a worthy successor," said Roland Busch, board member for finance and human resources at Lufthansa Cargo.

Cargo counts was founded in September 2003. The company markets the cargo capacities of various airlines and offers total cargo management service to airlines that focus on passenger traffic.



Fuzhou attracts new SE Asia box service

AMERICAN President Line (APL) together with Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) has launched a new weekly container shipping service that links Fuzhou International Container Terminal (FICT) to Southeast Asia, reports Xinhua news agency.

The port rotation is: Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Chiwan, Fuzhou Qingzhou Container Terminal, FICT, Hong Kong, and then back to Ho Chi Minh City.

FICT is scheduled to take delivery this month of two new quay cranes and five new gantry cranes as a third berth will be commencing operations in the second half of this year. This will bring the total number of gantry cranes at FICT to 17 and super post-panamax quay cranes to seven.



Maersk launches Constanza, Romania-China service

MAERSK has inaugurated a new container shipping service from the Romanian port of Constanza on the Black Sea to China.

Management said it has decided to launch the new container shipping service in a bid to tap into growth opportunities amid forecasts that trade between Eastern Europe and China will grow at a rate of 15 to 20 per cent in the coming few years, reports Xinhua.

The service will deploy eight 5,000-TEU containerships equipped with 550 reefer slots. It is hoped the service will turn the port of Constanza into an important hub for Europe-Asia trade in the Black Sea region, the report added.



ICTSI sees Q1 earnings grow 36pc to US\$10.8m

PHILIPPINES-BASED International Container Terminal Services, Inc (ICTSI) has seen its first quarter profit of the 2007 calendar year grow by 36 per cent year on year to US\$10.8 million.

The terminal operator registered a 16 per cent increase in consolidated gross revenues, amounting to \$66.16 million. This was largely due the strong performance of its overseas operations that account for 55 per cent of consolidated net income and are expected to continue to be a significant contributor to earnings.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ICTSI said: "The revenue growth was driven mainly by the strong volume growth reported by its operations in Manila,

Poland, Brazil and Madagascar. Revenues from port operations, net of port authorities' share in the first quarter were 20 per cent higher compared to the same period in 2006".

ICTSI has recently expanded its foreign operations with a 20-year concession to operate a cargo terminal in Ecuador and the acquisition of a 60 per cent equity interest in the Yantai Gangtong Container Terminal Co. Ltd. in China, reports AHN Media Corp. The company currently operates terminals at ports in Manila, Poland, Brazil, Madagascar, Indonesia, Japan and Syria.



Panalpina China hosts golf tournament

PANALPINA China - Pearl River Delta has recently hosted Golf Day 2007.

The event was held at the Yinli Foreign Investors' Golf Club in Dongguan, China and although the weather conditions weren't ideal as it was a cloudy but dry day, participants were said to have enjoyed the game.

The Pearl River Delta golf tournament is in its second consecutive year. This year, more than 60 people joined the day of golf, including Panalpina's customers, players from shipping lines, airlines, sub-contractors and staff.



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