

Penang Port



strikes deal to expand terminal for cruise ships

Words by V. Sivaji

Photos courtesy of Penang Port Commission

Penang can expect to see more cruise liners berth at its port in the years ahead. The 400m long Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) at the Penang Port will be extended by another 220m to accommodate more ships.

Under a new deal signed recently between Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Development Holdings (Penang) Sdn Bhd, the RM155 million project will see the addition of a 118m long dolphin, with the option for future expansion to meet additional increases in demand. (A dolphin is a marine structure that is not connected to the shore.)

Once the current expansion has been completed by the end of 2019, the pier will be able to handle two mega size ships

simultaneously on the outer berths along with one small and one medium size ship on the inner berths.

Once completed, the terminal will also be able to accommodate the Oasis Class ship – the largest vessel in the world.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke and Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow witnessed the signing of the agreement between PPCSB chairman Datuk Syed Muhamad Syed Murtaza and International RCL senior vice-president Gavin Smith.

Also present were MMC Corporation Bhd group managing director Datuk Seri Che Khalib Noh, Transport Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Saripuddin Kasim, and MMC Port Holdings Group chief executive officer Ian Brian Jones.



PPSB chief executive officer Sasedharan Vasudevan said the site investigations were already under way and construction would begin before the end of this year.

“With this expansion, we will see a significant increase in international transit calls at SPCT,” he added.

Smith said the deal marked a significant step in Royal Caribbean’s efforts to encourage port development in Asia.

“We are confident that the improved cruise terminal facilities will be a boost for the smooth berthing of the larger ships coming to Asia, including Quantum of the Seas to usher in a new era of cruise tourism for Penang,” he said.