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Australia's container operators mull charging for delays

PORT delay costs should be met by customers and not the cargo handler when loading and unloading containers, said Victorian Transport Association (VTA) chief executive Phil Lovel, reports Australia's Supply Chain Review.

The VTA suggests charges be negotiated on a case by case basis by container operators to recoup their losses from delays exceeding one hour.

Operators have been told to inform importers, exporters, custom brokers and forwarders of delay times at empty container parks and other facilities. Operators were told to demand three full working days notice from customers when empty containers are ready for collection and delivery.



World Bank ranks China as world's second largest economy

CHINA now ranks as the second largest economy after the United States, according to the World Bank's World Development Indicators 2008. The bank statement also said developing economies now produce 41 per cent of global output, up from 36 per cent in

2000. The combined output of the world's economies reached US\$59 trillion in 2006, said the bank. Strong growth over the period has increased the shares of all developing regions except Latin America and the Caribbean, while the share of high-income economies fell by 5 per cent.

China and New Zealand sign free trade pact



CHINA and New Zealand signed a free trade agreement (FTA) on April 7 this year, the first of its kind between China and a developed country, Xinhua reported.

The deal was signed by Commerce Minister Chen Deming and New Zealand Trade Minister Phil Goff. Premier Wen Jiabao and his New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark also attended the signing ceremony. The signing of the agreement will "further the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, promote each's economic growth

and bring practical benefits to the two peoples," Premier Wen said.

Premier Wen described the day of the signing as "a day of historical significance" and said the move "met the goal" the two countries set during negotiations. China and New Zealand launched the free trade negotiations in December 2004 and concluded the talks in December 2007 following 15 rounds of negotiations.

The FTA with China is the largest for New Zealand since the Closer Economic Agreement signed with Australia in 1983. China is New Zealand's third largest trading partner and fifth most profitable export market, according to the New Zealand Trade Minister Phil Goff.

Hong Kong Airport 2007 cargo volume world's second largest



HONG KONG International Airport, with its annual 3.77 million tonne throughput, again held second place in this year's Airport Council International's rankings of the world's cargo airports behind Memphis with its 3.84 million tonnes, reported Logistics Week.

Shanghai's Pudong Airport rose from ninth place in 2005 to the fifth in 2007, while Taipei's Taoyuan International Airport fell from the 13th in 2005 to 15th last year. Worldwide, there were 221 airports that handled more than one million tonnes of freight in 2007, nine that handled 2 million tonnes or more, and two that handled more than three million tonnes.

The Beijing Capital Airport rose from the 21st place in 2006 to 20th last year with a cargo volume of 1.19 million tonnes, an increase of 15.8 per cent comparing to 2006. The Guangzhou Airport was the 30th with an airfreight volume of 694,000 tonnes, an increase of 6.4 per cent over 2006.

ACI said last year, the world's air industry carried 4.5 billion passengers, up 6.4 per cent year on year. International line passengers increased 8.2 per cent to 1.8 billion. The world's airfreight volume rose 2.5 per cent to 80.3 million tonnes. International freight increased 3.6 per cent to 48.3 tonnes. The world's aircraft movement rose 2.4 per cent to 68.6 million flights.

MSC containership adrift off Western Australia in heavy seas

A TUG from Fremantle, Western Australia was moving to help the MSC Luguno containership adrift in heavy seas 70 knots off Esperance in the Southern Ocean, reports The Western Australian newspaper in Perth. The ship was immobilized after fire broke out in its engine room. No crew members appear to have been hurt, said the newspaper.

The Esperance Port Authority will release a tug to help in the rescue if strong winds move the vessel towards the coast. Moderate to rough seas are expected to improve.

The accident comes only days after, the local Central Midlands and Coastal Advocate of Western Australia carried news of fishermen's protests of containerships running too close to shore and threatening environmental disaster and danger to local fishing operations.

Their case was taken up by local Liberal Member of Parliament Gary Snook, a former fisherman, who said: "Not only do these large ships do so much damage to fishermen's gear which can equate to thousands of dollars, but by sailing so close to the coast and the dangerous inshore reef systems, significantly increases the chance of accidents happening resulting in oil spillage from vessels grounding."



Hapag-Lloyd upgrades ANP Australia/New Zealand and US east coast services

HAPAG-LLOYD will offer shorter transit times in the ANP service between Australia/New Zealand and the US east coast via Panama from May. The port rotation is being streamlined thanks to the new cooperation on this route between Hamburg Sud and Maersk, for which Hapag-Lloyd is slot charterer.

After approval has been given by the cartel authorities, Hapag-Lloyd will continue to offer dry and reefer slots as slot charterer on the twelve 2,800-TEU ships.

Rotation will be Melbourne, Port Chalmers, Tauranga, Auckland, Manzanillo/Balboa, Cartagena, Savannah, Philadelphia, Savannah, Cartagena, Balboa, Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne.

Qantas buys airfreight trucking specialist

QANTAS Freight Enterprises announced that it had signed an agreement to purchase national trucking business Jets Transport Express, which specialises in interstate airfreight movements.

Executive general manager, Qantas Freight Enterprises, Grant Fenn, said the acquisition of Jets, which would be completed by the end of May, would increase the breadth of Qantas' airfreight capability and improve the service for its airfreight and cargo handling customers. "Jets provides bonded interstate trucking for domestic legs of international airfreight using trailers that are specially designed to handle airfreight pallets," said Fenn.

"The acquisition of Jets will allow us for the first time to offer a truly seamless transfer between international and domestic operations. "We will introduce track and trace capability and have the Jets fleet added to the airline reservation system to improve the booking

process for customer airlines and freight forwarders.

"A vastly improved trucking to airside interface will also enhance the efficiency of terminal operations and allow Qantas Freight Enterprises better control of its Australian domestic distribution.

"We see great potential to expand and grow the Jets business," he said.



Australia links EU air pact to increase competition

Australia has significantly improved its aviation relationship with the European Union (EU), opening up the possibility of greater competition and more flights on routes between the two continents. In Brussels overnight, Australia signed the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Australia on certain aspects of air services – also known as the Horizontal Agreement.

The Agreement is seen as a significant breakthrough, bringing the government closer to its ultimate goal of the complete liberalisation of air service arrangements between Australia and the EU.

The Horizontal Agreement recognises the existence of a single European market for air transport links to and from Australia, and provides for the designation of airlines based on their EU status rather than their Member State's nationality.

Australia currently has bilateral air services agreements with 16 EU Member States, including the UK, Germany and France.

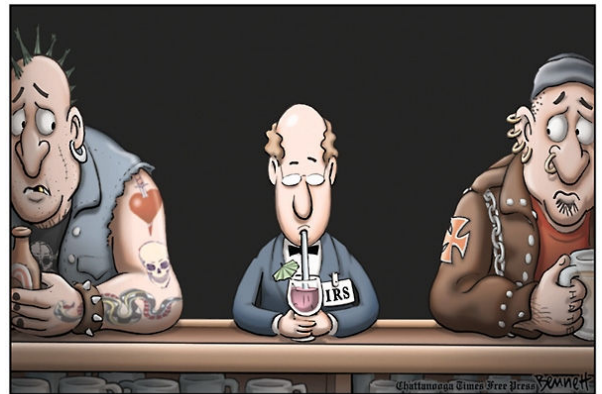
The Agreement will lock in the benefits of those agreements and form the basis of future discussions on a single Europe-wide agreement that removes many – if not all – of the limitations on air services between Australia and Europe. It could also address issues around competition, environmental protection, and safety and security.

Currently, services between Australia and European countries are limited by outdated bilateral agreements. For example, Australian carriers can only provide a maximum of three flights per week to Paris.

The EU is Australia's largest aviation market, accounting for 20 per cent of Australia's inbound and outbound passengers and a fifth of Australia's total airfreight exports.

I get a cab to return home, and when I leave it, I remember I left my wallet and credit cards there. The cab driver just drives away."

"I go home, and when I get there, I find my wife in bed with the gardener. I leave home, and come to this bar. And just when I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison."



A really bad day

There was this guy at a bar, just looking at his drink.

He stays like that for half of an hour. Then, this big trouble-making truck driver steps next to him, takes the drink from the guy, and just drinks it all down.

The poor man starts crying. The truck driver says, "come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand to see a man cry."

"No, it's not that. This day is the worst of my life. First, I fall asleep, and I go late to my office. My boss, outrageous, fires me. When I leave the building, to my car, I found out it was stolen. The police said that they can do nothing.

Clive Thomas -

All At C.T.Freight

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