

Interview with M. A. N. Swamy

Advisor Engineering



What challenges you anticipated while taking up your employment with IGT?

I joined DP World, Cochin in March 2005, few days before taking over Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal from Cochin Port Trust. I still remember those days when I saw the condition of equipment and felt sorry for the state of affairs. Just before joining DP World, Cochin a good friend of mine from Cochin Port Trust indicated to me that first 6 months will be a struggling period which proved to be right.

What were the steps you initiated to streamline the Engineering function?

First challenge I have taken up was to ensure equipment availability for efficient operation of the Terminal. I along with my Manager, Sri.Jayasankar, who was my colleague at my previous organization Jawaharlal Nehru Port took up this challenging task as a team.

I carefully studied the systems in vogue and the mental caliber of the staff and officers. Being a believer of teamwork, we could develop the team spirit and encouraged the people in that direction. We listed out the spares and consumables required for re-commissioning the equipment under breakdown, found out the suppliers and placed orders. We could commission the Prime Movers, Reach Stackers and also operated the old RTGCs till we got the new RTGCs from IMCC, Abu-Dhabi.

The unique ship to shore container cranes of Ansaldo make got inspected by outside agency for structural safety and attended to the repairs as suggested. We have augmented the Quay equipment by purchasing 2 Mobile Harbour Cranes from Gottwald, Germany.

The next target taken by us was to impart the technical training to the employees. In addition to the training at site, we sent a few employees to Gottwald, Germany and Siemens, Mumbai. Also experts from Cummins, Caterpillar, and Siemens were called over here and training was given to all employees in their respective areas both in Mechanical & Electrical disciplines.

What do you have to say about the capabilities of the people working here?

I really appreciate the skills possessed by the employees. We understand their creativity and competency and tapped their skills for proper utilization. These employees not only refurbished the age old equipment, but also applied innovative ideas in fabricating the safety items like Hazardous Cargo Container Trailer, Safety Man Cage, Safe Trolley operation systems, Portable Spreader Testing panel to name a few.

What are you doing to cultivate team spirit among your team?

Weekly meetings are conducted with the officers, involving them in all the management activities and set the goals for improving the maintenance standards.

What are your plans to migrate our operations to Vallarpadam?

The dream of Keralites on Vallarpadam Container Terminal is coming true. This terminal is going to be equipped with the state of the art technology equipment. We have recruited youngsters in Engineering Department to take up the challenging jobs ahead and run the new terminal confidently. These youngsters are being developed in all fronts both in technical and safety aspects. We proposed to upgrade their skills by continuing the Training in new fields.

Leading Coir Exporters spend an evening with DP World Cochin.

Elvis D'Cruz



Leading Coir exporters from Alleppey and Shertalai were invited by DP World Cochin for a visit to the Terminal in order to experience the developments that have taken place in the Terminal after DP World took over the operations in April 2005. The visit was first of its kind where such an initiative was being taken by the Port in Cochin to bring a focus group of exporters to understand the process flow of their containers once it leaves their factory for shipment onto a vessel.

The Coir Exporters were taken around for a terminal tour where they were briefed about the newly introduced traffic management, the gate complex, the import and export yards, on-wheel examination ramp, rubber tyred gantry cranes, Mobile Harbour Cranes, Quay Cranes and the in-house Workshop.

The group spent most of their time at the planning centre, where they were introduced to the working of the Vessel and Yard planning system Navis, Sparcs, and Express. Tracking the position of their containers through the website, the IVRS and SMS was a facility that most of the exporters were keenly interested in.

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Most of the exporters had never visited a container terminal, and appreciated the efforts taken by DP World, Cochin to organize a gathering of this focus group to understand the processes at the Terminal which would assist in understanding the mutual requirements of both the exporter and the terminal, which would result in a better and more efficient flow of goods.

Following the terminal visit a meeting was organized at Hotel Casino. The group was addressed by Mr. Elvis D'Cruz, Manager Commercial. Followed by Mr. Suresh Joseph's, General Manager addressing the gathering where he introduced the rest of the IGT family members who were present for the meeting. He mentioned about the changes that RGCT had brought about after taking over from Cochin Port, the benefits in freight & transit time the trade will reap from the upcoming dream project vallarpadam. As part of the trade the exporters, lines, CHAs, terminal operator & other stake holders should pull together for the development & improvement in placing Cochin as a crucial gate way port for the global market.

The group was introduced to the DP world global network by presenting our corporate video about DP World.