

# Johor Port hits record 1m TEU containers

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by SHAHEERA AZNAM SHAH

JOHOR Port Bhd, a member of MMC Corp Bhd, handled a record container volume of one million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2019, driven by the overall improvement in container handling productivity and equipment reliability at the port.

The one million TEU milestone achieved was a 10.5% increase from the port's total volume handled in 2018, which stood at 900,000 TEUs.

As a result of an increased productivity and equipment reliability, carriers are deploying more services at the port and also inducing bigger volume for their current services.

Johor Port chairman and MMC Corp group MD Datuk Seri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh said the port recorded a more effective berth utilisation rate and truck turnaround time of below 60 minutes this year.

"International shipping liners are also deploying their vessels to call at Johor Port to exchange higher throughput, both laden and empty containers, while carriers are increasing their transshipment



Loke (front, centre) and Che Khalib (front, third from right) posing with Johor Port staff at a ceremony celebrating the milestone in Pasir Gudang, Johor, yesterday

activities especially for the Bangkok and East Malaysia bound routes," he said at a ceremony celebrating the milestone in Pasir Gudang, Johor yesterday.

In line with the port's volume growth, Che Khalib said the group is in the process of executing a re-development and upgrading plan to continue improving the infrastructure and

performance of the port.

"We will constantly upgrade the facilities to improve productivity at the terminals in order to meet customers' demand.

"In the last few years, we have invested in various productivity improvement and equipment upgrading initiatives, and we will further invest to ensure efficiency of the port," he said.

Established in 1977, the company has facilitated the export-led economic growth of more than 28 industrial areas in Johor by providing container terminal services to the shipping industry and the export and import community.

Separately, Johor Port has signed a strategic alliance understanding with Access World Logistics (Singapore) Ltd to position Johor Port

as the Soft Commodity Trading Centre.

Under the strategic partnership, Johor Port and Access World will cooperate to combine their resources in order to increase the volume of soft commodities trading in Johor.

Johor Port CEO Shahrull Allam Shah Abdul Halim said the new alliance will help to expand the port beyond a commodity trading hub for the southern region into an approved global delivery point.

"As a regional commodity hub, Johor Port is catering for most of the trading goods such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, coal, steel and aluminium, as the port has an advantage of flexible facilities.

"This strategic alliance is part of our initiatives to position Johor Port as the cocoa commodity and trading hub, and at the same time, position Johor Port as an approved delivery point under the various international commodity exchanges," he said.

Moving forward, the company will continue to cater to rising demand for efficient and globally-compliant soft commodities warehousing.

"Customers can look forward to the convenience of value-added services which enable them to maximise and localise their supply chain to serve the regional markets via the southern region," he said.