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Johor Port deepens OIMR offering

Deployment of technology and OIMR Centre's close working relationship with the relevant authorities make a huge difference to ships calling at the port

WHEN it comes to offshore inspection, maintenance and repair (OIMR) activities in the southern tip of Peninsular Malaysia, Johor Port Bhd is a name to reckon with.

Johor Port, a unit of MMC Port Holdings Sdn Bhd, is ideally located for OIMR activities and a host of other services it provides. Since the early 80s, the port has been a safe haven for all types of vessels and oil rigs which are in lay up.

Located in Pasir Gudang, Johor Port is close to the South China Sea which sees aggressive activities in respect of drilling for oil and gas (O&G). In addition to its strategic location, the area is also safe from natural disasters.

With a port draft of up to 13.5m, the OIMR Centre is located within the Bulk and Break Bulk Terminal of Johor Port. It provides comprehensive repair services to the O&G industries ranging from manpower, mobilisation, maintenance and repair works, as well as an integrated suite of logistics solutions via its One Stop Centre.

Its in-house OIMR Centre also lies within the premises, and is located near the Malaysian Marine and Heavy Engineering's (MMHE) dockyard, repair and fabrication facilities.

"Johor Port's OIMR Centre is one of the most prominent players in the region. It is capable of providing a complete repair services to the O&G players," said Johor Port CEO Shahrull Allam Shah Abdul Halim.

The OIMR services advancement runs in tandem with the development of other services it provides. Over the years, Johor Port has shown commitment to push the envelope on both the service and technology fronts.

Apart from Johor Port, MMC Port also manages Tanjung Pelepas in Johor, Northport in Port Klang,



The southern gateway for OIMR activities

Penang Port and the Melaka-based Tanjung Bruas Port. It is a wholly owned unit of MMC Corp Bhd.

Infusion of Technology

The infusion of technology into Johor Port's proposition to clients is clear for all to see.

One key factor for clients when coming to a port is the requirement to deal with the various regulatory checkpoints. The port has made it easy for its customers to clear those checkpoints.

For example, the centre offers an integrated system by putting together its vessel clearance system (VCS), marine service system (MSS) and Malaysia port terminal system (MPTS).

"This single integrated system is the easiest and fastest way for the shipping and forwarding agents to tap the services required. It's at their fingertips," he said.

The integrated system works by calculating crucial days required by the shipping agents. Then, the port's ship

planner would plot and allocate a dedicated berthing space.

A confirmation of berthing space is important for the vessel to plan her current port stay and the next port of call. This directly translates into savings on the vessel operating cost compared to if the vessel has to moor temporarily at the anchorage area.

As such, the deployment of technology and Johor Port's close local working relationship with the relevant authorities make a huge difference for its customers.

The Johor Port's OIMR Centre has the support of the Marine Department, as well as the Free Zone Authority, giving it an added advantage as clients are free to bring in specific equipment for OIMR activities without being taxed.

The Beginning

The centre has come a long way today as over the past 40 years, Johor Port has developed its remit, offering, site and mission in line with the latest requirements and trends in order to

be one of the most efficient and integrated multipurpose ports in the region.

Since its inception in 1977, the port too, has come a long way from its early days as the largest palm oil terminal in the world and as a gateway into the southern region. It then expanded over the course of numerous development phases to reach the present level.

Today, it provides services such as the bulk and break bulk, edible and non-edible liquids, container operations, warehousing and integrated logistics.

"This is a testament to Johor Port's role as the only port in Johor to cover the full range of disciplines for practically all types of cargoes," said Shahrull Allam.

The OIMR Centre started off as the marine offshore hub. It was a step-up from the activities that had been undertaken on an ad hoc basis at the port since early 2000.

Since 2010, the OIMR services has

expanded from inspection, general

maintenance and repairs of various facilities to a more comprehensive scope of services. These include provision of crane and jacking system inspection/repair, drilling equipment and anchor winch refurbishment.

It also provides hull, leg and derrick integrity inspections/repairs from vessel to rigs including the full quayside rig upgrade projects. All these are done via its One Stop Centre.

The list of OIMR clients also grew over the years. They include local and international rig owners, charterers and ship managers and agents, the appointed vendors and its network of ships and supply boats, accommodation barges, floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessels.

"The OIMR Centre is staffed by highly trained personnel with wide industry experiences from the offshore O&G and marine service sectors," said Shahrull Allam.

Moving Forward

The facilities at the centre are meant to attract new, high value-added activities within the offshore and marine sector to meet the needs of existing customers. There are also suitable facilities available to maintain vessels and rigs.

"With the right combination of experience, expertise and a wide-range of assets, our OIMR Centre is able to deliver professional, safe and cost-effective solutions to clients in the O&G sector, as well as the renewable energy sectors worldwide," he said.

The OIMR services at Johor Port is extended to operators of oil rigs and their network of ships and supply boats, as well as the FPSO vessels.

"OIMR will continue to play its role in providing comprehensive maintenance, repair and other support services to its clients at a competitive cost," said Shahrull Allam.

From a national perspective, it is evident that Johor Port's OIMR efforts play a significant role in projecting Malaysia as a prominent player for the provision of complete services to the O&G industry in the region.