

Senior executives of world's leading stevedoring companies meet in Vancouver

By ALAN DANIELS

VANCOUVER – Forty senior executives of the world's leading stevedoring companies met in Vancouver recently for the annual meeting of the New York-based General Stevedoring Council (GSC).

The event was organized and hosted by GSC president Norman Stark, who is president and chief executive officer of TSI Terminal Systems Inc., operator of Deltaport and Vanterm, Vancouver's two largest container terminals.

It was the first time the prestigious event was held in Vancouver. Last year's GSC annual meeting was in Antwerp, and next year it will be in Hong Kong, headed by incoming president Erik Bogh Christensen of Modern Terminals Ltd.

"These meetings give us a great opportunity to network, which we don't do enough of in our industry," Capt. Stark said. "There were some very interesting panel discussions, particularly on the Asian and North American economies, on environmental issues, and port security."

Port of Stockholm representatives presented their plans for the 28th European section meeting in

Stockholm on September 19 to 22.

"Every two years there are courses in Europe sponsored by the various terminals and we will be sending a couple of our managers," Capt. Stark said. "There is both classroom and field work at the terminals. We have talked about the possibility of the interchange of staff because this way we learn new concepts that are helpful in our operation, and vice-versa."

Speakers at the Vancouver meeting included Kevin Falcon, B.C. minister of transport; David Stowe, Vancouver Port Authority chairman; Yuen Pau Woo, vice-president of research and chief economist, Asia Pacific Foundation; Earl Drake, former Canadian ambassador to China; Frank McAuley, senior vice-president, Royal Bank of Canada; Maurice James, general manager, Patrick Corporation Ltd. of Melbourne; John Jordan, consultant, Trow Associates Inc.; Vancouver city councillor Ellen Woodsworth; Ottonel Popesco, president and chief operating officer, Cavotek Group Holdings NV Holland; Mark Montgomery, senior vice-president, P&O Ports North America Inc.; Peter Bamford, director of health and safety,

British Columbia Maritime Employers Association; Al Le Monnier, second vice-president, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada; Bruno Valkeniers, marketing director, Hesse-Noord Natie n.v.; Marc Grégoire, assistant deputy minister, Transport Canada; former U.S. Coast Guard captain Michael Brown; Gordon Houston, president and chief executive officer, Vancouver Port Authority; Bill Sharp, vice-president, port operations, Holland America Line; and T.F. Hau, senior vice-president of operations, OOCL (USA).

TSI is owned by Orient Overseas (International) Ltd. of Hong Kong and operates Vanterm and Deltaport under long-term contract to the Vancouver Port Authority.

TSI's predecessor company, Empire Stevedoring Ltd., was one of the original founding members of the General Stevedoring Council, which had its inaugural meeting in New York on February 3, 1970.

At that time, Empire Stevedoring was owned by Furness Withy, which also owned stevedoring interests in London, Liverpool, Buenos Aires, Virginia, Chile, Montreal and New York.

Capt. Owen Thomas of Furness Withy and Henk van Walt Meijer of Furness N.V., a Rotterdam-based agent and stevedore, were founders of the council. The concept was that stevedores from all over the world, who had no commercial links to each other, could meet to discuss matters of mutual interest.