

Largest containership to call port

8,000-TEU vessel arrives in Vancouver

By ALAN DANIELS

VANCOUVER – An 8,000-TEU containership – the largest so far to visit the Port of Vancouver – arrived at Vanterm in December on its maiden voyage.

The M.V. *COSCO Vancouver* is one of five 8,000-TEU vessels built for COSCO Container Lines for the transpacific trade.

"It's a big deal for COSCO. It's the future; it's the beginning of the future," said Dave Bedwell, executive vice-president for COSCO Canada. "But it's not yet decided if *COSCO Vancouver* is going to come here on a regular basis. Quite frankly, I don't know if we can handle ships that big on a regular basis."

The port's major terminals have cranes on order for delivery in the next few months that will be able to handle 8,000-TEU ships. The largest container vessels previously calling Vancouver were in the 4,000-TEU range.

TSI Terminal Systems Inc. has three 65-tonne-capacity container cranes that can handle ships 22 containers wide on order for delivery this spring. Built by Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. (ZPMC) of Shanghai, two will go to Vanterm, replacing equipment installed when the terminal

opened in 1975, and the third will go to Deltaport, bringing to seven the number of gantries available to load vessels at its two berths there.

P&O Ports Canada, which operates Centerm, has two post-Panamax gantries on order from ZPMC scheduled for delivery in June.

Mr. Bedwell said COSCO is naming its five newbuildings for ports on the transpacific route between Asia and the West Coast of North America.

The four named to date are *Shenzhen*, *Long Beach*, *Seattle* and *Vancouver*.



COSCO Vancouver on maiden voyage to Vancouver.