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Salalah Volume Surges on Transshipment and General Cargo Growth

- **Container traffic up by 29% and general cargo volume increased by 10% compared with the same period in 2015.**
- **Prime location makes port an ideal transshipment hub on competitive Asia/Europe trade lane.**

Salalah, Oman- Container throughput at the Port of Salalah, part of the APM Terminals Global Terminal Network, reached 1.584 million TEU* in the first half of 2016, representing a 29% increase over volume handled during the same period the year prior.

The completion of a new deep-water General Cargo and Liquid Bulk Terminal in December 2015 has enabled significant growth, with the facility handling approximately one million metric tons monthly. Some of the container volume growth is the result of Salalah's proximity to the open sea, and its ability to accommodate the largest of the Ultra-Large Container Ships (ULCS) entering into the Asia/Europe trade lanes. Approximately 90% of Salalah's container traffic is transshipment cargo movement.

"The largest vessels regularly calling Salalah are about 16,000 TEU capacity vessels which are normally deployed in the Asia/Europe trade lane, for which port calls are decided based upon the sustained ability to handle ULCS performance levels" noted Port of Salalah CEO, David Gledhill.

At present, the largest vessel calling Salalah is the MSC Zoe, which is also biggest container ship currently in service worldwide, with a stated capacity of 19,224 TEUs.

"We are seeing a trend of deployment of these large vessels on major trade lanes and we expect to see more of these calls in the near future", said Mr. Gledhill. Approximately 30 container liner services call Salalah on a monthly basis, linking the Arabian Sea facility to all major ports in Europe, the Mediterranean, the US East Coast, East Africa, the Indian Sub-continent, the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf.

"With the shipping industry witnessing significant changes in terms of structure and alliances, we have seen enhanced connectivity to East Africa, Somalia and North Oman in 2016. We are actively engaged in discussions with the shipping lines who want to leverage the location of Salalah to increase penetration into regional markets like Yemen, countries around the Red Sea and Iran," said Mr. Gledhill.

The general cargo facility is currently handling 200,000 Metric Tons (MT) of limestone and approximately 550,000 MT of Gypsum monthly, among other cargoes. The new berths are used for discharging grain, loading bagged cement, berthing of the multi-national navies engaged in anti-piracy operation, and for cruise vessels.

Salalah, on the Arabian Sea, is one of the largest container ports in the Middle East Region with a 2015 volume of 2.56 million TEUs. The facility also handled 7.9 million tons of bulk cargo in 2015.

"We act as the container relay hub for East Africa, the Red Sea, Arabian Gulf and the Indian Sub-continent. Bulk cargo, Limestone and Gypsum are predominantly destined for the Indian Sub-continent. Cement is exported to the Red Sea and East Africa, Wheat is imported from Australia and liquid exports are predominantly to Europe and Asia," added Mr. Gledhill.

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** TEU is a container traffic term and is measured in Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units, "TEUs", reflecting the standard sizes of the shipping containers: 8'6" high, 8' wide and either 20' or 40' feet in length. A standard 40' shipping container commonly seen loaded onto a chassis and being pulled by a tractor-trailer on the highway would thus represent two TEUs, with the largest container ships now able to carry as many as 20,000 TEUs, equal to 10,000 truck-sized containers.*