

*For immediate release*

## **First overseas shipping service enables global trade from East Indonesia**

Starting from 14 April 2014, Maersk Line has launched the first overseas shipping service to call at the Bitung port in East Indonesia.

Maersk Line is the first and only shipping line to offer such a direct service linking the Bitung port to the Port of Tanjung Pelepas in Johor, Malaysia which is primarily a transshipment hub port in Southeast Asia. From here, the Indonesia goods can be exported to different part of the world.

"We have been operating in Indonesia for more than 50 years, and it is one of the growth markets we are focusing on in the region. While the areas around western Indonesia are more developed, we see opportunities in increasing exports out of the Eastern part of Indonesia. We want to support the development of this area with a direct service to our main transshipment hub port, connecting exporters to global markets," said Jakob Sorensen, President Director Maersk Line Indonesia.

Based on the master-plan for Bitung Port, this port is intended to connect the inter-islands of East Indonesia and facilitate the trade of main commodities that have the potential of being exported to the world. These include fish, coconut products and wood.

The launch of the direct service will considerably reduce the transit time from Bitung port to regional transshipment ports. For example previously, it took 12 days for exports to be shipped via local feeders that would call first at Jakarta before the Port of Tanjung Pelepas. With the new service, it has now been shortened to 7 days.

"The direct service will increase efficiency around the supply chain of exporters in this part of Indonesia, contributing to more competitive products," added Jakob Sorensen. Other benefits include reduced total logistics cost, "*thru bill of lading*" (mentioning Bitung as Port of Loading) and lower likelihood of cargo damage arising from re-stuffing of containers, as the goods now go directly to the Port of Tanjung Pelepas.

The biweekly service runs on a 32 days rotation covering the ports of Tanjung Pelepas – Torres Strait – Port Moresby – Port Noro – Lae – Bitung – Tanjung Pelepas. The first sailing departed from the Bitung port on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**PNG EXPRESS SERVICE - BITUNG**

TANJUNG PELEPAS - TORRES STRAIT - PORT MORESBY -  
PORT NORO - LAE - BITUNG - TANJUNG PELEPAS

**Maersk Line Network and Product****About Maersk Line**

*Maersk Line is a division of the Maersk Group and is the leading liner shipping company in the world serving customers all over the globe. Our operations comprise more than 500 vessels, 17,000 employees, and 2 million containers spread across 135 countries.*

For more information please visit [www.maerskline.com](http://www.maerskline.com)

**About MCC Transport**

*MCC Transport is the dedicated Intra-Asia (IAS) arm for the Maersk Group delivering containerized cargo through an extensive network spanning Bangladesh to East Russia. As an independent business unit we carry our own IAS cargo, feeder significant volumes for Maersk Line and other Main Line Operators (MLOs) with whom we have cultivated long-term partnerships. With over 500 staffs in 14 countries and a Headquarters (HQ) based in Singapore, we operate a fleet of over 60 ships, call 170 ports in a week, providing our customers with an extensive feeder network within Asia.*

For more information please visit [www.mcc.com.sg](http://www.mcc.com.sg)

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