

## Papua New Guinea

# Portek to collaborate with Papua New Guinea

**Portek International** has signed a five year agreement to collaborate with Papua New Guinea Ports Corporation Limited (PNGPCL) in the operation of PNGPCL's two largest container terminals. The largest port in Papua New Guinea is in the city of Lae, where the container terminal handles more than 140,000 teu annually. The second largest is located in the country's capital, Port Moresby, which handles more than 79,000 teu annually.

In January next year Portek expects to send in a team of port experts in the fields of operations, equipment engineering and maintenance and port information technology. The collaboration will include the training of PNGPCL personnel in the entire spectrum of port operations activities including the use of Portek's in-house terminal management system.

Portek had been working closely with PNGPCL since the provision of 10 refurbished rubber tyred gantry cranes (RTGs) to Ports Lae and Moresby in 2011.

Takao Omori, CEO of Portek International commented: "This is an



The Port of Lae is the largest in Papua New Guinea

excellent opportunity for Portek to work with PNGPCL, a very progressive and forward looking organisation with the will to excel as the operator of PNG's two main ports and the determination to raise even higher the standards of professionalism of its staff."

Portek International is a global medium-sized terminal operator and port equipment engineering solutions provider headquartered in Singapore. The company currently manages eight container and multipurpose terminals in Africa, Indonesia and Europe. ■

## Brazil

# State Government to administer Imbituba Port until end of 2014

**Run for** almost 70 years by the private sector, the Brazilian Port of Imbituba is to be transferred into the hands of the state government of Santa Catarina (SC) by the end of 2012.

The decision was announced on November 26, 2012 in Brasilia, by Minister for Ports Leonidas Cristino, during a meeting with the governor Raimundo Colombo and Paulo Cesar da Costa, president of SC Partnerships and Investments, the nominated new manager of the port.

The minister considered that transferring the port into SC state administration would be the best way to

minimise the impact of the end of the current lease which ends in December 2012, and for operational efficiency.

The port, which is located on the south coast of the State, is a major facility for the export of agribulks, containers, frozen and general cargo. Managed and operated by Companhia Docas de Imbituba (CDI), the port handled 2.3m tonnes last year, a figure considered by Governor Colombo to be well below its potential and smaller than the other ports of Santa Catarina. The Governor wants to see volumes double, which will in turn generate jobs and income.

Although Minister Cristino

has decided that the new Imbituba management will take over from December 16, 2012 when the current contract ends, the termination date is being challenged by the CDI in court, which is seeking to extend the concession until 2016. A decision on the CDI extension is still awaited.

Beto Martins, the Mayor of Imbituba, points out that the port has privately invested around US\$350m over the past five years which has significantly upgraded facilities and despite current volumes being 'too small,' he believes the recent modernisation will allow the port to attract new volumes.

Wilen Manteli CEO of the Brazilian Association of Port Terminals (ABTP) is concerned that handing back control of the port to public ownership will adversely affect operational efficiency and argues that the wisest option would be to establish a public-private partnership (PPP).

Manteli opines that although state government administration "will not necessarily be bad", the experience in other places does not give much hope if only because with elections and a likely change of State government every four years, it is difficult to have administrative continuity. ■