



COMMUNAL BONDS

HPH is a caring global citizen that makes every effort to contribute to the well-being of the communities in which it operates.

By Tim Metcalfe



With a population of over 200 million, more than half of the people in Indonesia are vulnerable to poverty. For many, feeding the family is a daily challenge, and providing a good education for their children seems like an unattainable dream.

Yet in the poor agricultural village of Bekasi, about 20km from Jakarta, the

dream of a decent education has come true for local children thanks to the generous efforts of Jakarta International Container Terminal (JICT).

Acknowledging the vital role that education plays in community development, JICT supports the At-Tauhid school for needy children. The Port's contribution helps pay the salaries of the teachers and

administrators, subsidises schoolbooks and learning aids for the 50 neediest students and provides education for a total of 200 children ranging in age from kindergarten to junior high school.

"Without such financial support, it is doubtful the school could continue operating," says JICT's HR & Admin Director, Abdul Malik. "JICT felt it important to



provide something more than just employment for the community. By paying these salaries we enable the opportunity for all the children to be educated.”

JICT’s community efforts are but one example of the contributions made by Hutchison Port Holdings (HPH) companies worldwide.

As a source of careers and livelihoods for more than 25,000 employees at its 32 container ports across the globe, it is not surprising that HPH is a popular employer and valuable asset to each respective local economy. In many port regions, HPH is the single-largest employer.

Keenly aware of its obligations as a “corporate citizen”, the world’s largest private ports operator supports community projects wherever it operates. Its contributions are tailored to fit the needs and circumstances of local communities.

Not only does HPH contribute as a group but the HPH staff themselves take the initiative to be responsible corporate citizens. Employees have collectively raised funds to fight the SARS crisis in Hong Kong, participated in running events for cancer charities in Europe, helped flood victims in Argentina and assisted underprivileged people in Korea,

to mention but a few.

HPH’s long-term contribution to communities is especially significant through its “HPH Dock Schools” projects.

From its founding in Hong Kong just over a decade ago with the adoption of the

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first Dock School, the programme has since been extended to bring funding, scholarships and technical support — especially in the area of IT — to schools and universities in countries as diverse as China, Myanmar, the UK and Panama.

Of course, it is in HPH’s interests to help educate the next generation of potential port employees. “Like any other organisa-

tion, people are our greatest asset,” says HPH Managing Director John Meredith.

But the concept extends beyond self-interest. “Education is our priority because we seek to ensure that tomorrow’s citizens of our port regions are better equipped to deal with the world they will inherit,” Meredith explains.

HELPING ON THE HOME FRONT

HPH launched its Dock School Programme in Hong Kong in 1992, adopting the Tsuen Wan Trade Association Primary School. The school was a natural choice as it is close to Hongkong International Terminals (HIT), the city’s giant container port and the company’s home base. Since then, HIT has awarded annual scholarships to promising students and has also organised numerous school visits to the HIT terminal, along with recreational events at its sports centre.

When it adopted Hong Kong’s Chuen Yuen College as its second Dock School in 1999, HIT focused on sharing IT expertise with all 1,100 students.

“As a pioneer in utilising information technology in the container port industry, we can share our expertise with the younger generation,” explained Eric Ip, Managing Director of HIT.



Last year HIT sponsored a group of students to visit a poor community in Hunan, China. The exchange helped broaden the students' horizons, bringing a greater appreciation of the privileges they enjoy in Hong Kong.

HIT has also sponsored college community programmes in which students have cleaned up local communal areas or visited homes for the elderly and homes for children with disabilities. "It is a pleasure and privilege to be one of HIT's Dock Schools," says college principal Ruth Lee.

In 2002, the volunteer HIT Community Caring Group was established to co-ordinate the efforts of staff in reaching out to children, the elderly, infirm, ill and disadvantaged.

More than just volunteering their time, HIT staff have together contributed tens of thousands of dollars to help finance charitable work. When Hong Kong was struck by the SARS virus in 2003, HIT rallied in response, contributing urgently needed medical supplies to Princess Margaret Hospital in neighbouring Kwai Chung. Civic-minded staff raised half of the HK\$200,000 needed, with HIT contributing the balance.

With interests in ten ports in Mainland China and two in South Korea, HPH's community work is felt up and down the coastlines of Asia.

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Another beneficiary of HPH's Dock School programme is Myanmar Maritime University, in the capital Yangon, where Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) recently donated US\$10,000 towards an English Language Learning Laboratory, officially opened in August 2002.

Equipped with books, computers and

software, the laboratory is a key education aid for the 4,000 university students — and MITT hopes it will become an important institution in support of Myanmar's growing maritime industry. Says MITT's General Manager, Roger Chai: "It's part of our continuing efforts to foster the community's youth and nurture fresh talent for the shipping and container industries."

In 2002, Shanghai Container Terminals (SCT) provided on-the-job training for dozens of college graduates. The six-month internship programme taught the new grads practical work experience and modern management techniques.

To mark its 10th anniversary in August last year, SCT donated 500,000 yuan to the Shanghai Red Cross. It was a timely and welcome gesture and the money was earmarked for rebuilding schools in flood-devastated provinces of China and for upgrading Red Cross clinics in Shanghai.

Elsewhere in Mainland China, staff at Xiamen International Container Terminals (XICT) have joined hands with the Red Cross to provide annual blood donations for transfusions. XICT employees also actively participate in activities to enrich their local community. Every Mid-Autumn Festival, for example, they distribute mooncakes and



good cheer to the elderly and orphans.

In South Korea, the staff of Hutchison Korea Terminals (HKT) formed a volunteer group and donated their spare time to renovate a welfare centre for the elderly in Busan. In 2002, management and staff came to the rescue of a doomed fruit orchard struck by flooding.

In Pakistan, Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT) has supported the SOS Children's Village by organising a painting competition for orphans.

DEVELOPING A RICH LEGACY

Panama Ports Company (PPC) is justifiably proud of its annual scholarship programme for the brightest and most promising children of its 700-plus employees. Launched in 1998, the 50 scholarships are divided among elementary and high school students — and are the stepping-stone to a lifetime career with one of Panama's biggest and most popular employers.

Says PPC General Manager, Alejandro Kouruklis: "Charity begins at home and it gladdens my heart that we provide help for deserving children of our employees." PPC also came to the rescue of the country's cash-strapped young footballers, paying for their tickets to contest the World Youth Cup

in Dubai. The port is also a major sponsor of the country's annual 36-hour Telethon fundraiser for special-needs children.

Since it opened in 1997, Freeport Container Port (FCP) has joined forces with the Grand Bahama Port Authority and

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Group Companies to award more than 300 scholarships to promising youngsters. The initiative is contributing to studies that will ultimately prove most beneficial to Grand Bahama. Areas of sponsored study have included aviation management, banking, accounting, engineering, IT, nursing, culi-

nary arts and architecture. FCP and its partners also donate to local schools, churches, sporting groups and individuals in need of medical help or disaster relief.

Ensenada International Terminal (EIT) in Mexico strengthens its links with the community by providing practical work experience to local university students, some of whom join the company as full-time employees. Staff at Ensenada Cruiseport Village (ECV) meanwhile support several local orphanages with food, medical help and counselling.

PARTNERING WITH THE PEOPLE

Every little bit helps, and Harwich International Port (HWH) was delighted to support Harwich School's campaign to be officially designated a Language College. Under the UK's "Specialist Schools Programme", the status entitled The Harwich School to government grants totalling £100,000 (approximately US\$180,000) over nine years. To be eligible, the school had to find its own sponsorship to the value of £50,000 and HWH had no hesitation kick-starting the fund-raising drive, pledging £2,000 a year for three years. Donations from other sponsors enabled The Harwich School to reach its



target — and its lucrative designation. Since then, the comprehensive school has transformed an old school block into state-of-the-art language laboratories, teaching classes in French, German, Spanish, Dutch and Mandarin to some 1,150 pupils.

Port of Felixstowe (PFL) has long-standing connections with Orwell High School. Many employees were former students or currently have their own children studying there. It was therefore natural that PFL came out in support of the school's bid to achieve "Technology College" status — a move that will see the school receive £650,000 government funding over four years. The money will enable the future college to concentrate on teaching technology, IT, science and mathematics. Once it has gained "Technology College" status, Orwell will develop closer links with the Port to give students a clearer picture of the career opportunities available to them locally. The college will also provide resources and teaching assistance to other schools in Felixstowe.

Back in 2001, PFL answered a call from the local Trimley St. Martin Primary School to fund a new Information Communication Technology room, equipped with 16 networked computers,

each with Internet access.

A long-term supporter of community projects for the disadvantaged, PFL also backs The Woolverstone Project, a local charity that has introduced thousands of disabled people of all ages to the joy of sailing. PFL sponsors

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one of the boats and helps pay for teams to compete in international championships for the disabled.

Across the Channel, staff at Europe Container Terminals (ECT) each year enter the world's longest non-stop relay race, the gruelling 530-km "Roparun" from Rotterdam to Paris, which raises funds for cancer charities.

ALLEVIATING HARDSHIP

When Santa Fe City in Argentina suffered its worst flooding for 500 years in May 2003, with the disaster leaving 25,000 homes under water, staff at Buenos Aires Container Terminal (BACTSSA) responded by contributing blankets, medicine, clothes, and food.

The BACTSSA staff also sponsor "The Sun of Bernal" sports and social club, which represents a beacon of hope for children in desperate need, providing basic needs as well as sports facilities.

Following a train disaster in Tanzania in June 2002 that claimed 300 lives, staff at Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS) donated much-needed medical supplies. The port was also happy to help a deserving school in need of desks for pupils, as well as providing a much-needed water well in a nearby district.

The 250 TICTS T-shirts donated to Nunge Camp for the disabled in Dar es Salaam may sound like a humble contribution, but they were very gratefully received. A small gesture such as this goes a long way in helping to communicate HPH's simple mission — to assist the needy and help make the world a better place for everybody.