

Port Kicks Off Annual Celebration

34th Year celebration marks accomplishments and future modernization plans

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Past accomplishments and future modernization plans took center stage today as the Port Authority of Guam launched their annual Port Week celebration.

A flag raising ceremony along with a Proclamation from the Acting Governor and a Resolution from the Guam Legislation was presented at the Opening Ceremony this morning. Although the Port was turned over by the U.S. military to the Government of Guam in 1966, Port Week honors the anniversary of the Guam law that created the Port as an autonomous agency. That law was passed 34 years ago in October of 1975 and many speakers today noted how far the Port has come in transforming the facility into a world-class commercial port.

“Perhaps at no other time in recent years has there been such an upward drive and momentum of great possibilities here at PAG,” Board Vice Chairperson Jovyna Lujan said during the Opening Ceremony held this morning. “We now have an approved modernization plan and a cohesive financial strategy for taking this facility, its employees and level of customer service to a world class plane.”

The Port has launched a Modernization Program, which calls for more than \$200 Million in upgrades to the facility. Lawmakers recently gave final approval to the Port’s updated Master Plan and it was signed into law by Governor Felix P. Camacho. The Port has submitted an application for \$49.7 in ARRA Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) federal grants and \$50 Million in USDA funding for the first phase of the Modernization Program. And a few weeks ago, the U.S. government granted the agency its request for Strategic Designation Status.

Lujan noted several major initiatives that will launch soon related to the modernization including the selection of a performance management team in November by the U.S. Maritime Administration, the acquisition efforts in January by the Port for a construction contract, in March the implementation of the new tariff structure, in April the performance management contractor will be engaged along with the awarding of the construction contract for Phase I of the modernization program and by this time next year the Port plans to have secured all the environmental approvals needed to begin the marine construction phase of the program.

Lujan noted that while so much has already been accomplished at the Port “even greater progress looms on our horizon.”

For more information, please contact Port Marketing Administrator Bernadette Meno at (671) 477-5931 ext. 300 or via email at bmemo@portguam.com or you can visit the port website at www.portguam.com.

Photo Cutlines: Port police officers raise the U.S. Flag during a ceremony Monday morning at the Port Authority of Guam.