

Xin Los Angeles calls at Westports

The world's largest and most advanced container ship will boost the Malaysian port's container volume by 20-25pc

■ By Roziana Hamsawi
roziana@nstp.com.my

THE world's largest and most advanced container ship, the Xin Los Angeles, made its maiden call at Westports, Port Klang, yesterday.

The arrival of the 9,600-TEU (20-foot equivalent unit) vessel belonging to China Shipping Container Lines (CSCL) is expected to boost Westports's container volume by 20 to 25 per cent by the end of this year, said Westports executive chairman Tan Sri G. Gnanaalingam.

Westports is on track to achieve a total container throughput of 3.5 million TEUs this year, he said in Westports, Port Klang, yesterday after a visit by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Speaking to reporters earlier, Najib said Malaysia is grateful to see the confidence CSCL has in Westports.

"This should augur well for Westports in its strive to become more competitive and it will also boost trade between Malaysia and China," he said.

CSCL is the world's sixth largest container fleet and poised to become



Najib (centre) welcoming Xin Los Angeles at Westports yesterday. Flanking him are Chan (left) and Gnanaalingam (right).

the fourth largest by 2009.

"I hope this call by Xin Los Angeles signals even stronger shipping ties between the two countries, more so than what we have achieved so far," said Najib.

The Xin Los Angeles is 336.67m long and 45.6m wide and its deck is larger than that of two football pitches.

Zhang Jianhua, vice president of China Shipping Group, in his speech said Port Klang is the most important

hub for CSCL in South-East Asia.

He said CSCL's container throughput in Port Klang is rising steadily and is expected to increase by 20 per cent this year from last year's 500,000 TEUs.