

## **CAI MEP INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL RECEIVED A ULTRA LARGE CONTAINERSHIP MARGRETHE MAERSK SUCCESSFULLY.**

Margrethe Maersk containership has successfully docked at Cai Mep International Terminal



### **Margrethe Maersk containership at CMIT on 20 February 2017**

The successful call of the 18,000 TEUs Margrethe Maersk container ship at CMIT on Monday marked a memorable point of the Vietnam's maritime industry and realized the Government's policy to turn the Cai Mep seaport complex to be the world international shipping transit operations.

At 12.00 noon on February 20, the 18,000 TEUs Margrethe Maersk containership, sizing gross tonnage of 194000 tons, 399m long (this size is about 3.5 times longer than a football field or if 18,300 TEU containers arrange vertically, the total length of the container ship is about 110km), 59m wide passed buoy "0" (Vung Tau City). Right there, one of three tugboats maneuvering by Haivanship had been waiting and escorted the ultra large ship entering the channel.

At 13h15, Margrethe Maersk was finally docked at CMIT in the joy and happiness spilled over of participants. Through quick chat with reporter of Transportation Newspaper, Mr. Pham Anh Tuan, Deputy General Director of Portcoast Consultant Corporation who is in charge of preparation of Vietnam Seaport Planning, said the \$ 185 million Margrethe Maersk was built at DEAWOO shipyard (Korea) and put into operation since 2015. Currently, the world's largest ship has capacity of 19,000 TEU. There are only 18 ports capable of receiving Margrethe Maersk around the work and CMIT is 19th port".

To prepare for this call at CMIT, since September 2015, management board of Cai Mep International Terminal Company Ltd., has sent a report seeking for the Ministry of Transport's approval to test the handling of 18,000 TEU Triple-E ships at CMIT. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Ky, Deputy General Director of CMIT said bringing 18,000 TEU ship to enter Cai Mep seaport complex area bears an important implications in the development strategy of Vietnam's seaport and affirms that Cai Mep area is qualified to receive new generation large containership in order to draw interests from shipping lines in establishing direct shipping routes from Cai Mep to the US and Europe.

At the ceremony event, Deputy Minister of Transport Mr. Nguyen Van Cong said that this moment is a memorable point of the Vietnam's maritime industry. Since then, CMIT becomes the 19<sup>th</sup> terminal in the work to be able to receive such ultra large and heavy containership. The Deputy Minister congratulates the leadership and people of Ba Ria - Vung Tau province, management board of CMIT and Maersk Line for this success. At the same time, he praised Vietnam Maritime Administration, Southern Vietnam Maritime Safety Corporation, Maritime Administration of Vung Tau, Haivanship Company, Vung Tau City Pilot Company etc.

Deputy Minister said: "Over 18,000 TEUs ship calling at CMIT marks a new step forward in the development strategy of Vietnam Maritime Industry. Although this event is just a trial run, however we do believe that Maersk Line will soon put such ship into operation. I hope that other shipping lines shall bring their cargo to CMIT for cargo gathering and transshipment to Europe, North America etc. Ministry of Transport commits to create supportive mechanisms and policies for the smooth operation of carriers".

**By Mai Huyen – Linh Hoang**