

Belait Shipping awarded 100 million contract by BMC

Kuala Belait, Saturday 22 May 2010 - Towards ensuring the successful export of Brunei's first methanol production, the Brunei Methanol Company (BMC) has awarded a 20-year contract of supporting the plant's offshore operations and maintenance to Belait Shipping Company.

According to an officer at the Belait Shipping Company, the \$100 million dollar contract was sealed on Wednesday morning at the BMC plant office. Signing on behalf of Belait Shipping was the Executive Chairman Haji Awang bin Haji Ali, while the Chief Executive Officer Tsuji Kinya signed on behalf of BMC.

The terms of the contract stipulate that Belait Shipping will render services in the operations and maintenance of the plant export facility. The work involves supporting the marine operation services by providing the floating Catenary Anchor Leg Mooring (CALM) buoy which will be connected to Brunei's first 5500-tonne methanol tanker built in China to transport methanol from the plant to customers within the Southeast Asia region.

The system will be used for the export of the methanol where it is targeting 100 deliveries per year. In the terms of the contract, Belait Shipping will also provide vessels to assist in the loading activities and also the Azimuth Stand Tug (AST) to support the movement of the tanker during loading.

For the purpose of providing such services, Belait Shipping will be recruiting 50 locals in multi-engineering and operational discipline, said the officer. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is expected to officiate the nation's first methanol production plant in a major event which will take place at the industrial site next week on May 25.

BMC is the first tenant at the Sungai Liang Industrial Park (SPARK) with the aim to diversify the nation's economy from being heavily dependent on oil and gas production. The plant is expected to commercially produce 850,000 metric tonnes of methanol per year.

-- *Courtesy of Borneo Bulletin*