

Giant ship makes maiden trip

Press-Telegram Staff Reports

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Long Beach Press Telegram LONG BEACH — Mayor Beverly O'Neill, the Board of Harbor Commissioners and members of the Dallas City Council joined the Hanjin Shipping Co. Wednesday in celebrating the maiden call of a new mammoth container ship at the Port of Long Beach.

The Hanjin Dallas, the Hanjin Shipping Co.'s newest ship, has the capacity to carry 8,000 20-foot equivalent containers, or TEUs.

The Hanjin Dallas is the fifth of five 8,000-TEU vessels deployed in Hanjin's Pacific Express Service, which calls in Yantian, China, Hong Kong, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Gwangyang and Busan, South Korea, Long Beach, Oakland, Seattle, Busan and back to Yantian.

Vessels of that size are among the biggest to call in Long Beach.

Long Beach and Dallas officials said the naming of the Hanjin Dallas signifies the growing role of Dallas as a major hub in U.S. shipping and international trade routes. Of the five state-of-the-art vessels in the PSX line, the Dallas is the only named for an inland city.

"More trade comes through our port complex than anywhere in the United States, but getting it across the United States is yet another challenge," O'Neill said. "This is where Dallas plays a prominent role. It is clear that Dallas will become one of the most important hubs for goods movement in the United States."

During a ceremony to welcome the Hanjin Dallas on its maiden call, Long Beach harbor commissioners James Hankla and Mario Cordero noted that newer, larger vessels such as the Dallas deliver goods more efficiently, generating less pollution than previous container ships.

With the Hanjin Dallas and its sister ships, "emissions and fuel consumption are about 20 percent less than the previous generation of ships," Hankla said.