



BIGGER SHIPS BOOST CICT VOLUMES

Colombo is consolidating its position as South Asia's main transshipment port.



Colombo International Container Terminals (CICT) has set another record, handling 1.56 million teu last year. The majority of this traffic, over 67%, was carried on large, new generation containerships, the terminal notes.

CICT received some of the largest vessels plying the Asia-Europe routes in 2015. They included the 16,652 teu MSC New York, 16,020 teu CMA CGM Marco Polo and the 14,770 teu rated Edith Maersk, Estelle Maersk, Ebba Maersk, Elly Maersk and Eugene Maersk.

CICT was the first, and is currently the only deep water terminal in South Asia equipped with facilities to handle such vessels. Helped by the strong CICT performance, Colombo port overall ended 2015 with a throughput of 5.185 million teu, 5.7% more than in 2014 volumes. This was an impressive outcome, given the fact that many other transshipment ports in the region recorded negative growth last year.

There is every sign that 2016 will be another good year for Colombo port.

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has revealed that the total container volume handled at the port this January up 3.6% to 197,228 teu compared with the same period of 2015.