



# Queensland Branch News



2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

## ITF GLOBAL NETWORK TERMINALS MEETINGS LONDON

The ITF has established the Global Network Terminals (GNT) to ensure the best interests of Wharries/Dockers/Longshoremen are taken into account when dealing with companies that have operations on a Global level. The GNT's are four main operators, Hutchinson, DP World, AP Mollar and Port of Singapore Authority. These Companies control just short of 60% of the world's container volume. All members can view the GNT link via the ITF Dockers section of the website.

A delegation of 8 members comprising of 5 Rank and File delegates and 3 Officials attended the AP Mollar and DP World Seminars in London on 17-18 March. The Rank and File delegates were members who have been involved in Part A DP World EA negotiations. The National Secretary was also present in his role of Chairman of the Dockers section of the ITF.

The participants worked through information gathered from ITF affiliates in relation to the following: Global Terminal operations, New Terminals/Expansions, Automation, Financial results and DP World Corporate structure. Reports were given from Unite in relation to London Gateway and FNV in relation to Rotterdam World Gateway.

Results of surveys conducted by the ITF were expanded upon relative to respective Trade Union Rights and the relationship with DP World in areas such as: Collective Bargaining rights, OH&S, Automation Plans and implementation, Union Access and contacting out of various tasks in Terminals.

DP World has 42 Terminals currently in operation and 8 terminals located in Countries that either prohibit Trade Unions or do not have independent Trade unions. There was significant discussion surrounding automation. The MUA has seen the effects of automation first hand especially in Brisbane whereby we have 3 Automated (semi) Terminals. We have also been proactive in this area with the hosting of the Automation Conference in April last Year.

There was also vibrant discussion in relation to the GNT database and the need for lead Unions to participate as the database is seen as an important tool for a sophisticated communication network. The MUA has committed to be involved front and centre and points of contact have been established in all Branches. All the MUA Rank and File delegates participated in the debate at the DP World GNT Forum.

### ITF Dockers Section meeting

The MUA delegation also attended the following day to the Dockers section meeting. There was a review of the GNT meetings and discussion centred on how affiliates need to be more proactive in their various regions. Paddy Crumlin indicated the ITF would commit resources to the various regions however affiliates need to undertake the heavy lifting. There was also discussion regarding the Dockers Port Intelligence database and the work that needs to be undertaken to have the launch of this site ready for ITF congress in August this year.

A sobering aspect of the meeting was the contribution by Victor Crespo and the fight for Trade Union rights in his home country of Honduras. The ITF has been supporting and protecting Victor after he and his family received death threats for merely seeking a Trade Union collective agreement. Victor's father was also killed in a hit and run attack. Members can refer to the MUA website for further information.

There was also a report from Norway regarding a current dispute in the Port of Risavika where the ship's crew have been undertaking docker's work. This is seen as the re-introduction of Port Package 3 and will see a mass mobilisation of the Trade Union movement in Oslo.

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# ITF OFFSHORE SURVEY

One of the problems that the ITF has identified with individual affiliates is the hesitancy of such affiliate's memberships to participate in surveys. Information is power and as a result the MUA is requesting members who have worked in the offshore oil and gas industry in the last four years to please go to the following link and complete the ITF survey. It takes around ten minutes.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ITF-Offshore-Sector-Survey>

The survey results will be used to help formulate ITF policy in the offshore sector. Your response to this survey will be confidential and the findings from any individual will not be reported. We have asked for background information for the purposes of analysis only. No attempt will be made to match responses to individual workers.

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## REGIONAL MARITIME FEDERATION MEETING AUCKLAND NZ

Branch Secretary Mick Carr attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional meeting in Auckland on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March during his leave. This follows the inaugural meeting in Port Moresby late last year where the National Executive of MUNZ, the PNGMTWU and MUA attended. This second meeting also included a number of observer Unions. Good progress was made towards a future potential formalisation of the Federation, as a tool in further capacity building and cooperation between Unions in the fight against exploitation and to build Union power and influence in the region.

Some of the panel sessions and reports included:

- The era of regional union co-operation, challenges and opportunities
- The ITF approach to regional development
- Experience in building growth and regional power
- Committing to an RMF Work Program
- Capacity building in PNG through training

Many presenters including Paul Goulter, Liz Blackshaw, Shannon O'Keefe complemented the reports of National Secretary Paddy Crumlin, Deputy National Secretary Mick Doleman, MUNZ and PNGMTWU National Secretaries and discussed a range of issues regarding challenges, developments and organising opportunities.

ITF preparations, resolutions and Rules of the RMF were also on the agenda. The progress of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RMF meeting augers well for the future.

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## DPWORLD EA NEGOTIATIONS

Local discussion Part B commence Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Part A discussions will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April. Further Part A discussions will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April

Notification has been provided to the Branch and the membership of the initial start of the semi-automated Terminal which will be Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April. In this regard the final voluntary redundancies will be take place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

The Branch Executive has already discussed a function at a date to be advised as a result of the vast number of members that have exited the industry. Details will be provided to the membership after further discussions with the DP World Committee.

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