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Air Updates

Jon Turner Appointed Vice President, Cargo, Air Canada

Air Canada has announced that Jon Turner, currently Vice President, Inflight Services, has been appointed Vice President, Cargo effective February 18.

With three dedicated Boeing 767 freighters now in the fleet and seven more on the way, plus two Boeing 777 freighters due for delivery in 2024, Turner will have oversight for leading the strategic direction of Air Canada Cargo's global business as well as operationalizing commercial cargo opportunities to sustainably optimize Air Canada's long-term business objectives.

Read more in an Air Canada press release.

Ocean Updates

Maersk, MSC Terminating 2M in 2025

The global container shipping network is poised for a major shake-up. The 2M vessel-sharing alliance between MSC and Maersk is being dissolved.

The two carriers said Wednesday that they had mutually agreed to terminate the alliance effective January 2025. Under the agreement signed in 2015, the alliance on east-west services was for a minimum of 10 years with a two-year notice period for termination.

“Discontinuing the 2M alliance paves the way for both companies to continue to pursue their individual strategies,” said MSC CEO Soren Toft and newly appointed A.P. Moller-Maersk CEO Vincent Clerc in a joint statement.

The decision to terminate the 2M alliance has no effect on immediate alliance services, they emphasized. “We look forward to a continued strong collaboration throughout the remainder of the agreement period,” said Toft and Clerc.

Read more in an article from FreightWaves.

International Business/Government

Foreign Exchange Crisis Leaves Pakistan Struggling to Pay for Imports

A severe foreign exchange crisis in Pakistan is hitting importers hard, particularly for oil and for containerized freight, and it has the potential to reshape substantial parts of the nation's trading ties.

Pakistan's national reserves of dollars – the currency of choice for foreign trade – have fallen to less than $4.5 billion, the lowest level in eight years. A combination of political upheaval, natural disasters, inflation and high energy prices have rocked the nation's economy, while a steady outflow of foreign debt payments have depleted its reserves. "This is a very grave situation. If things get worse, Pakistan will need to have its loans restructured," said Mohammad Sohail, head of Pakistani brokerage Topline Securities, speaking to Barron's.

With limited access to dollars, Pakistani banks are unable to guarantee payments to foreign shipping lines, resulting in a hold on import shipments. Cargo is piling up on the docks, the Pakistan Ship’s Agents Association has warned the government's finance ministry, and Pakistani customs figures indicate that more than 8,000 import containers are currently stuck awaiting clearance. Agents warn that some container lines might even consider altering service levels to Pakistan's ports because of the holdup.

Read more in an article from The Maritime Executive.

Other Business

FIATA Review: Survey Regarding Delivery Format

The FIATA Review (see the latest issue here: FIATA Review – December 2022) is a quarterly magazine that includes freight forwarding news, FIATA news, and expert guidance and opinion on pressing matters in the industry.

FIATA is transitioning to a digital future for the Review, with plans to send only a limited number of printed copies, as requested.

You are asked to complete a survey to indicate your preference for receiving the magazine. This is particularly important if you want to continue to get printed copies.

Sending a printed magazine to members each quarter leaves a big ecological footprint, from the production of the printed version to the sending of each issue around the world. For this reason, FIATA pledges to offset the CO2 emissions generated from sending each issue by planting a tree.