



# CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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## **COA Newsletter 12 – March 2006**

*(A digest of news from the COA Members March Newsletter)*

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### **1. Antwerp: Members Meeting – 22/23 June 2006**

The dates and venue of the next COA Members Meeting have now been confirmed: the Meeting will take place at the Astrid Park Plaza Hotel, Antwerp on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 June.

*A detailed programme will be published in April*

### **2. “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Containerisation” Gala Dinner – Thursday 22 June**

***High level of interest: 80 places already reserved***

The container business dates back to 1956, when Malcolm McLean’s company SeaLand organised the first shipment of containers from Port Newark to Houston on the converted tanker *Ideal X*. To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this pioneering event, the Container Owners Association is planning to host a Gala Dinner in Antwerp on the evening of 22 June 2006, coinciding with the COA’s Members Meeting on 22/23 June.

This event will take place at the Stuurboord, a former warehouse overlooking the Scheldt. It will include a cocktail reception, 4-course meal and VIP speeches. The evening will be open to both COA members and non-members. Tables (of 10 people) may be reserved by companies wishing to invite colleagues and industry partners. Smaller groups, and of course individual bookings, are warmly welcomed.

Interest has already been high, with over 80 places already reserved and an industry-wide announcement will be made on Monday 27 March. For further information, or to make a provisional reservation, please email: Patrick Hicks on [secretary@containerownersassociation.org](mailto:secretary@containerownersassociation.org)

### **3. Proposed Establishment of COA Australasian Chapter**

Representatives from 14 organisations met in Melbourne on 8 March 2006 with a view to establishing an Australasian Chapter of the Container Owners Association. Amongst those attending were representatives from ANL Shipping, Cronos, Ensis (CSIRO), Florens, Gavan Products, GE SeaCo, Intermodal Solutions, K & S Freighters, Pacific National, QR National, Silverback Cargo Equipment, SCF Containers International, Toll SPD and Tradecorp.

COA Board member, Richard Sykes, who organised the meeting, says that he was delighted with the turnout. "Given that the meeting was organised at relatively short notice, this represents an excellent turnout. The fact that we received messages from another dozen or so organisations who would have liked to have attend, demonstrates that there is a very strong interest in seeing an Australasian branch of the COA established."

Several motions were presented to those present, all of which were passed unanimously. The most important motion will see a formal application to the COA to form an Australasian chapter for the purpose of addressing industry specific issues for Australia and New Zealand. This will be considered at the COA board meeting in London on 23 March. It was viewed by delegates as important that the COA be requested to change its Statutes to include intermodal containers, thereby broadening its outlook from purely maritime containers.

Two papers were also presented to the meeting. Damian Scown, from Ensis (CSIRO), provided an overview of container flooring compliance, specifically issues with the treatment of wooden floor boards.

A second paper was presented on behalf of Standards Australia. Apart from observing the activities of the related ISO committee (TC104), the Shipping Containers committee (ME-068) is relatively inactive. Standards Australia has a firm policy of adoption, wherever possible, of International Standards prepared by ISO and IEC, as Australian Standards.

The global nature of the shipping industry means that the use of ISO Standards for containers is vital to free trade, but where the Australian industry has specific needs, there is room for these to be addressed. The paper suggested that it would be important that an Australasian chapter of the COA remains focused on Australian interests, rather than simply passing on the views of the parent organisation. The addition of new members to ME-068 may create an opportunity to add to the knowledge base of the committee.

Richard Sykes reports that he was pleased with the outcome of the meeting. Subject to formal acceptance by the COA Board, the Australasian Chapter will meet for a minimum of twice yearly with the next meeting planned to be held in Sydney at the end of May.

"It was an excellent opportunity for all those with a vested interest in container ownership to get together and focus on specific issues relating to Australia and New Zealand," he says. "Already we have been able to establish several working groups to look at issues such a new build specifications, handling and securing, repair standards and recertification of second-hand containers."

### **4. Container Tracking Conference – Rotterdam, 10-11 April – COA Discount**

A two day conference focusing on container and cargo security systems is being organised by *Telematics Update* magazine in Rotterdam on 10-11 April. Full information about the event can be found on: <http://www.telematicsupdate.com/info/14>

*COA Members wishing to attend the event can benefit from a €150 discount on the delegate fee. In addition, the “early-booking” discount of €300 has been extended for COA members until Monday 20 March.*

The organisers say that delegates will be able to meet the “five key stakeholder representatives that influence your security operations”:

- The regulators: learn from the initiatives pushing the market,
- The insurers: understand their role and how to work with them
- The users: understand their needs
- The associations: understand their role and aims
- The big players: providing solution to container tracking

To benefit from the discounted rates, follow this link: <http://www.telematicsupdate.com/info/13> and include the word **Containerowner** in the discount box. For more information about exhibition opportunities, call +44 (0)20 7375 7185 or email: [thomas@telematicsupdate.com](mailto:thomas@telematicsupdate.com)

## **5. RFID in Cargo and Asset Management**

The RFID Networking Forum, a UK-based organisation, is currently organising the “RFID in Cargo-Management Network” and the “RFID in Asset Management Network”. These Networks are free Online Communities designed to enable communication between individuals from the Cargo Industry who have an interest in applications of Radio Frequency Technology.

Members of the Network are invited to a meeting in London on 25 May 2006 to discuss activities of the group and to elect a Chairperson from within the industry. This meeting will coincide with the staging of the “RFID in Asset Management” and “RFID in Cargo Management Networking Events” and Members of the Networks will qualify for a complementary place at these events.

An online forum will be available for members from the beginning of June 2006, following the initial meeting. In the meantime, members will be kept updated with relevant news stories via a monthly bulletin.

There is no fee for joining, but membership is restricted to individuals employed by leading companies within the cargo and shipping industry. Please note that membership is not open to any RFID technology supplier or consultancy representatives.

Members of the Container Owners Association are invited to apply for membership of the Network - either by Contacting the Network Coordinator Dominic Matthews on +44 (0) 1883 344799 or applying online at [www.rfidforum.com/assetnetwork](http://www.rfidforum.com/assetnetwork) or [www.rfidforum.com/cargo-management/network](http://www.rfidforum.com/cargo-management/network)

## **6. COA 2006 Working Group Programme**

The COA’s Working Group (WG) programme has been finalised and published on the COA Website.

Members can view it by clicking on: <http://www.containerownersassociation.org/10.html>.

**WG System/Management** – If you are not sure about how WGs are set up and organised, a WG Management Document has also been posted on the Website.

## **7. Containerisation – Early Recollections**

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Containerisation in April, we are asking any members - or contacts/relatives of members - to send in their recollections of the early years of the container business.

We have already received two interesting “reminiscences” and we would like to receive more. These will be posted on the COA website in April.

Subjects might include the early days of container shipping and port operations; container design and manufacturing; management and repair; or any other aspect of the business. It doesn't matter how long (or short) the article is. Photos would also be welcome.

Contributions should be sent to: [secretary@containerownersassociation.org](mailto:secretary@containerownersassociation.org)

## **8. Job Seekers/Job Vacancies**

If your company is looking to recruit experienced container personnel, you can advertise your vacancy on the COA Job Vacancies Page. Individuals seeking employment can also post their details on the “Job Seekers” section of the website.

There are presently two postings on the website. For further information about adding new postings, please contact: [secretary@containerownersassociation.org](mailto:secretary@containerownersassociation.org)

## **9. New Members**

The COA is pleased to welcome the following new Full Member since the last newsletter:

- Tradecorp International ([www.tradecorpinternational.com.au](http://www.tradecorpinternational.com.au))

## **10. Further Information & Contributions**

For further information about anything in this newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to the next issue (April 2006), contact Patrick Hicks – [secretary@containerownersassociation.org](mailto:secretary@containerownersassociation.org)