

Mr. Keiichi Ishii, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism visited the Port of Kobe on June 5, 2016

Mr. Keiichi Ishii, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism visited the Port of Kobe PC-18 container terminal on Sunday, June 5, for the first time since his inauguration. During the visit, the Minister climbed up to the operation booth of a ship-to-shore crane on the wharf, and had a meeting with the parties related to the international container strategic port “Hanshin (Kobe and Osaka) Port”.

At the meeting, the Minister appreciated that Hanshin Port is promoting the international container strategic port scheme with the joint efforts between public and private sectors, which is showing some specific results. He also mentioned that he would be trying to improve the global competitiveness of Hanshin Port by the visits and meetings such as this occasion.

Mr. Inubushi, our Chairman, stated that one year and half have passed since the foundation of our company: Kobe-Osaka International Port Corporation, and we are focusing on how we can demonstrate the combined function as “one port”. Then, Mr. Kawabata, President and CEO, reported the achievement such as dredging work to deepen the water along the wharf by interest-free loan of the national government, installment/renovation of the ship-to-shore cranes of higher specification, cost-cut by blanket order of the ship-to-shore cranes, renovation work at Osaka C-9, and the increasing number of domestic feeder routes between Hanshin Port and Western Japan.



Mayor Hisamoto of Kobe City explained the general condition of the port including the cargo volume of 2015: 2.7 million TEUs in total of domestic and international trade, which is highest since the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995. He added that this growth was achieved by the increase of domestic feeder cargo and 15% increase of the trade volume with Southeast Asian nations compared with that of 2014.

It was followed by a report on the Port of Osaka by Deputy Mayor Tanaka saying that the total cargo volume in 2015 amounted to 2.22 million TEUs, of which international trade volume remained 1.97 TEUs decreased by 9% compared with that of 2014. He explained that one of the reasons of this decline is the slowdown of Chinese economy, however, he added that the cargo move at the Port of Osaka shows a sign of recovery in March – April this year. The Minister appreciated the efforts by both Cities of Kobe and Osaka.

Photo: from right, Mayor Hisamoto of Kobe, Minister Ishii, Mr. Kubo, Chairman of Japan Harbor Transportation Association, Mr. Inubushi, Mr. Kawabata