



DAMIETTA PORT: EGYPT'S KEY WATERFRONT



Credit: Ashraf Ghazy from Damietta Port Authority

The growing request of several global shipping lines to include Port of Damietta into their itineraries particularly for mega containerships is necessitating further modernization. Marine units rehabilitation and modernization is a key factor in harnessing port competitive advantage Around-the-clock marine services are performed at the highest level of efficiency by a well-trained and coordinated marine staff.

In October 1982, the first vessel arrived at the port with 3400 tons of sheet piles on board from Saint Louise, France.



Located on the waterfront of Egypt's key region of production and consumption, the Delta and Greater Cairo, and being opened for International Navigation throughout the year, Damietta Port is deservedly entitled "the front of Egypt".

Location

Damietta is one of the oldest ports of Egypt. It dates back to the Pharaonic era. The modern port was officially opened for International Navigation on 26 July 1986. Recently, developments by the Egyptian Ministry of Transport are underway considering Damietta Port's distinguished location on the east of the Mediterranean. The port is 70 km away from Suez Canal, 130 km away from the center of the Delta, 10 km away from New Damietta industrial zone and 45 km away from the nearest airport off Port Said (Al-Jamil Airport).

Multi-Modal Chain

Damietta Port entertains an integrated multimodal transport network (land - rail - river). A network of inland roads links the port to all Egyptian Governorates via the International Coastal Road. The port has also four railway tracks totaling 11 km in length reaching to all berths inside port (Containers – Silos - River port - General Cargo). In addition, the River Channel is 4.5 km long ending with a river berth of 340 m. Five electronic gates and twenty one truck weight-houses are also in use.

Inbound containerships entertain discounted fees and outbound vessels join the Suez Canal Convoy quite directly

As a world port of call, Damietta Port succeeded to preserve its international reputation as a trade link offering access to main shipping lines between East and West connecting to the main world trade lanes. Its location at the major shipping routes has made it an important logistic hub for world trade. Damietta is an accessible port and the navigational deviation from the global shipping lines is almost Zero.

Basic Figures

Total port area is 11.8 million m² while total length of berths is 5370 m and proposed to increase to 300 m. The external waiting area is about 11,1 million m² and can accommodate about 30 vessels while the internal waiting area is 250.000 m² and can accommodate 2 ships of lengths 200 m - 250 m. The ratio of water area to land area is 1:3 (water area is 3.9 million m² - land area is 7.9 million m²). A variety of cargoes are handled at different terminals: Container Terminal I (berths no. 1-4, 1050 m long, 14.5 m deep), General Cargo Terminal (berths no. 5-8 & 18-19, 1120 m long, 12 m deep), Dry Bulk Terminal (berths no. 9-11, 675 m long, 12 m deep), liquid Bulk Terminal (berth no. 12, 225 m long, 12 m deep), Multi-Purpose Terminal (berths no.

15-16, 600 m long , 14.5 m deep), Grain Terminal (berths no. 13-14, 600 m long , 14.5 m deep), Marine Service berth (no. 17, 90 m long, 8 m deep) , Gas Berth (400 m long , 14.5 deep) , Petrochemicals Berth (300 m long , 14.5 m deep) and Methanol Berth (300 m long , 14.5 m deep) in addition to the River Port. By adopting The land- lord system , professional operators are selected to manage these port terminals.

Cargo Traffic

28 million tons of cargo transported on 2349 vessels were handled in 2015. Port net profits achieved a 92% increase from the previous fiscal year. In 2009, Damietta Port joined the world top 100 container ports list by exceeding one million TEUs handled that year. Hopes are strong to regain that remarkable place by implementing the first phase of the new container terminal with berths totaling 1300 m long and 17m deep, to accommodate the latest generations of container vessels. It is expected to handle 2 million TEUs in the first year of operation by a key world operator.

E-Community

Being the first Egyptian port to adopt latest automated technologies to bring the port community members and trade partners together, Damietta Port can offer services for vessels and customers with speed and efficiency. The application of port solutions helped reduce costs and enhance service quality to the benefit of customers with comprehensive E-service system such as: automated truck access, E-invoicing and auto berthing...etc.

Port Hygiene

A clean port strategy has been adopted by Damietta Port Authority(DPA). In this perspective, an environmental observatory was established in the port as

an integrated monitoring facility according to all internationally recognized environmental measurements.

Environmental services include: monitoring air and water quality in the region , measuring the industrial emissions inside work environment (noise – ventilation- Illumination intensity – car exhaust – the opacity of smoke – heat stress) and making relevant reports implying the prerequisite procedures. In addition to the ISPS Compliance since 2004, DPA is keeping on complying with certificates: ISO 9001: 2008 & OHSAS 18001: 2007 in the field of quality, safety and occupational health.

Marine Services

DPA provides safe and reliable port and marine services. An excellent package of services for all types of calling vessels is available around the clock. Towage and pilotage are key services. A highly caliber fleet of marine units is in use and renders efficient and timely services as per internationally acknowledged standards.

Advanced ship traffic services include VTS system, Communication system, AIS system, Radar system, T.V. closed circuits, Wireless system, Meteorological station and a modernized Traffic Tower. Several firefighting and anti-pollution units are available as well.

Whatever contingency that may arise, it is tackled quite efficiently and effectively. All this is done through a well-trained highly qualified teamwork of specialized pilots, engineers and technicians. DPA also owns a 450 tons capacity ship lift to carry out simple repairs for marine units.

Dredging Operations

Damietta Port witnesses a continuous development process targeting compliance with future industry requirements. Through the implementation of a mega project for deepening Damietta Port to reach

According to Doing Business Report, the export process in Damietta Port takes 10 days compared to other national ports where the same process takes a longer time. Today, Cost effective and efficient rail and river modes of transport are speeding up the tempo of the port performance providing a wonderful mixture of multi-modal transport that can reach domestic marketplace directly via the International coastal Road



By the turn of the year, there will be a full application of the Single Window System that should serve as a catalyst for shorter and smoother work procedures among all partners. With guidelines, procedures and work systems right in place, Damietta Port is always safe, secure and clean while operations are performed up to highest level of reliability, speed and efficiency.

Marine units rehabilitation and modernization is a key factor in harnessing port competitive advantage



16 meters, the Port Authority has succeeded on February 2016 to modify the Navigational Declaration of the port to become 16 meters deep with safe navigational depth at 14,5 meters and turning basin depth of 15 meters. On March 2016 and to materialize the result of dredging efforts, the port managed for the first time to accommodate the huge container vessel CMA RIGOLITTO with a draft of 14.5 m and length of 350 m. Currently, there is an ambitious plan to launch the second phase of the deepening project to reach the depth of 18 m so that the port becomes able to accommodate both present and future container and cargo vessels with varying sizes.

Investment Perspective

A myriad of investment chances are present. Though several areas are currently used, there is still an area of 3 million m² available for ambitious projects. According to DPA 2030 Plan, future development projects include : the construction of a multi-purpose terminal with berths totaling 630 m long & 17 m deep , with a 75.000 m² backyard, developing an area of 30.000 m² into a liquid bulk station and constructing a 300 m long berth in front of the turning basin on a space of 70.000 m² as a facilities area to serve future oil and gas projects and provide bunkering services. A new berth of 285 m long and 14 m deep for exporting fertilizers is going to be established by Misr Fertilizers Production Company (MOPCO) on BOT regime. A new container terminal is planned in two phases with berths totaling 2300 m long and 17 m deep to handle about 4 million TEUs annually after the completion of the second phase. DPA is a few steps away from getting back an area of 125 feddans to be annexed to port territory for further investment projects. This area to be divided into three main parts: 45 feddans as a logistic area for agricultural products; 30 feddans as a free industrial zone for furniture

industries and 50 feddans to be added to the new container terminal.

Foreign and Domestic Ties

Special attention is given to fostering ties with key European Ports so that new horizons of mutual interests can be opened with the international shipping industry key influencers. Meetings were held and MOUs were signed with Alexandropoulos Port, Port of Koper and Livorno Port to maximize mutual benefits and share experiences.

Within few years, Damietta Port will be acting as a logistic gateway for two national mega projects; the World Logistic Hub for Grain and Food Products inside port area which aims to convert Egypt into a global hub for handling, warehousing and providing logistics and value-added services for manufacturing & packaging industries of grain, oilseeds, unrefined oils, raw sugar and other strategic commodities contributing to the food security of Egypt & the region. The other project is the Furniture City to be established in Shata Town. With every possible gesture of readiness and every sign of willingness to service the domestic, regional as well as global shipping trade, Damietta Port always unravels tremendous capabilities and puts a robust performance to stay as ever up to the standard and up to the expectations.

Due to our expertise in dealing with issues of investment regulations and our relations with governmental institutions, we guide you to the most effective way ahead. DPA is a name you can trust for speed, reliability and timely services.



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To find out more about Egypt's ports and maritime developments, join key stakeholders including **Maritime Transport Sector, Jordan Maritime Authority, General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone, Suez Canal Authority, Arab Sea Ports Federation, Damietta Port Authority, River Transport Authority, Ministry of Transport**, and more at the Egypt Ports and Waterways 2016 (20-22 September 2016, Cairo, Egypt).



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