

Banpu Boost Logistics Capability, With New Hi-tech Coal Barges in its Indonesian Coal Fleets



Banpu upgrades the logistics system by employing 7 units of Self-Propelled Barges in its coal fleets in Indonesia to strengthen its competitiveness as a leading coal producer and exporter in Asia.

Banpu Public Company Limited on November 23, 2005 signed a contract with Sembawang Kimtrans Ltd. (SKL), a leading logistics solution provider in Singapore, to employ SKL's 7 units of Self-Propelled Barges (SPB) in its coal fleets in Indonesia. The contract was signed by Mr. Somyot Ruchirawat, Banpu's Senior Vice President for Coal Operation – Indonesia, and Mr. Peter Tan, SKL's CEO. Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak and Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, Singapore's Minister (Trade & Industry), witnessed this contract signing at Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel, Bangkok.

Mr. Chanin Vongkusolkit, Banpu's CEO, who also witnessed the signing ceremony said, "We are putting our efforts to continuously improve our coal production and logistics. This new barges' service will facilitate Banpu to meet the customer's satisfaction with higher speed of transportation and coal volume accommodation per time, resulting in the Company's higher capability to transport more coal as well as the reduction of transporting frequencies, then the reduction of fuel cost."



SKL will supply and operate these coal barges for Banpu’s fleets in Indonesia. The prototype Self-Propelled Barge “KIMTRANS SPB 3208” has transported coal from Banpu’s coal mines from inland Kalimantan to deep-sea coal terminals and anchorages for export for about 12 months, whose contract will be extended. With its 320 feet length x 80 feet breadth x 20 feet depth, KIMTRANS SPB 3208 can handle up to 0.42 million tonnes of coal per annum. Banpu will commission the 6 more units of a slightly enhanced SPB’s KIMTRANS 3208 for 3 plus 2 years contract term, with a total value of SGD 43.26 million (USD 25.6 million)

KIMTRANS SPB 3208 type offers superior maneuverability and versatility in challenging waters. With its 360 degree retractable propulsion system, KIMTRANS SPB 3208 is specially designed to ply along the Mahakam river of Kalimantan, Indonesia, where the waterways are tight, winding and with extreme tidal differences of up to 9 meters high. “As such, this type of self-controlled barge also is safer in use, and so improves the well-being of value community stakeholders, compared to traditional tug and barge sets,” added Mr. Chanin.

Banpu is a leading energy player in Asia. Its core businesses include coal mining and power generation. The Company currently manages coal mining production capacity of 18 million tonnes a year. In Indonesia, Banpu is the fourth biggest coal producer and its operations are all based in Kalimantan.

From the picture:

Mr. Chanin, Banpu’s CEO is receiving a model of a self-propelled barge from Mr. Peter Tan, SKL’s CEO.