

Complete the Cai Mep – Thi Vai international port and expeditiously relocate the Saigon port

“Must complete the Cai Mep-Thi Vai international port development project and bring into synchronous operation by 2013 and expeditiously continue the implementation of relocating the Saigon port in the shortest time”. That’s the direction of the Minister of Transport Mr. Dinh La Thang during a field test at Cai Mep-Thi Vai port and working with Saigon Port Company Limited on 14/7/2012.

Joining the delegation of the Minister are; Deputy Minister Mr. Nguyen Van Cong, Mr. Ngo Thinh Duc – senior advisor of the Minister, the departments, the professional institutes of the Ministry of Transport.

The development project of Cai Mep – Thi Vai international port includes 5 packages. The overall progress of the package is ensured so far. Package 1: construction of Cai Mep container port will be completed in 10/2012; Package 2: construction of Thi Vai general goods port will be completed in 02/2013; Package 3: Cai Mep – Thi Vai stream dredging has completed; Package 4: provision of equipments for port operations will be completed in 06/2013; Package 5: construction of roads and bridges connecting from route 51 into Cai Mep will be completed by the end of the year.



Having checked the actual status of the project, the Minister Mr. Dinh La Thang praised the work spirit of the investor, the PMB, supervision consultants, contractors, workers... for having overcome difficulties to ensure the progress of the packages at each stage. The Minister asked the investor to coordinate with the parties to ensure the progress of the packages according to the given timelines, particularly ensure the quality of the work. The PMB must actively coordinate the work on the field between contractors to support each other to complete the work well and finish the project on 30/06/2013 as promised. The Minister assigned the Department of Planning and Investment to supply investors with adequate corresponding funds to complete the project as planned.

In the packages of the project, Package 5 – the connecting road from route 51 to Cai Mep port, Deputy Minister Mr. Nguyen Van Cong, Mr. Ngo Thinh Duc – senior advisor of the Minister, the departments, agencies, and ministries have evaluated it

to be of very good quality. Over a year of putting into operation with large container trucks circulating but still ensuring quality. The Minister suggested that the investors learn from their experience of supervision consultant; contractor selection; construction technology to complete the entire route this year to achieve progress and quality. The sections that have been done will proceed with placing signs and traffic lights to ensure traffic safety.

About the Cai Mep inter-port route, the Minister Mr. Dinh La Thang suggested that the Department of Transport of Ba Ria – Vung Tau province representing investors to report to the People's Committee and suggest to the Government for advanced funding to complete the project in 2013, serving the operation of ports nearing completion, avoid ports that have been completed lying in wait for roads.



Working with Saigon Port, the Minister specially paid attention to the relocation of the port under the direction of the Prime Minister. To date the relocation of the port is later than planned, but still haven't had feasible solutions. The Minister Mr. Dinh La Thang enquired that the Department directing the relocation of Saigon Port, which directly is the Vietnam Maritime Bureau to review the whole process and gather the difficulties to report to the Prime Minister. Saigon Port should continue to invest in completing Hiep Phuoc port and be more proactive in raising capital to invest in roads linking into the new port.

In the long run, Saigon Port should establish an equitization plan, review the shares of the joint ventures; shorten the difficulties, do not invest outside the industry. The unit itself should be restructured to improve business operation, thereby improving labor productivity, enhancing competition. In the relocation of the port; also need to ensure working conditions for workers, especially those who have worked closely with the port for a long time. The Minister believes that with the long lasting tradition, the collective staffs of Saigon Port will overcome difficulties to develop.

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(Translated by Portcoast)