

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## **National District Export Council Tour**

The Port of South Louisiana officials hosted a group of attendees from the National District Export Council, which held its annual conference in New Orleans, October 30 – November 1, 2006. The conference theme, “Adversity and the Benefits of International Trade,” had conference attendees focusing on overcoming challenges in the face of adversity such as some New Orleans area ports found after the 2005 hurricane.

As a result, attendees were interested in touring the Port of South Louisiana in the River Parishes Region to learn about its resources and advantages. The group toured the Globalplex Facility in Reserve including bulk and breakbulk docks, warehouses and the cement domes. Port Deputy Director, Henry Sullivan, and representatives from Associated Terminals (operator of Globalplex breakbulk docks) and Kinder Morgan (dock and cement dome operator), briefed participants on the facilities and operations as they toured. Sullivan gave a short presentation on recent activities and expansion plans at the Port including the location of two new businesses, Baumer Foods, a condiments manufacturer, and NATCO, a meat packager. Sullivan explained that the port has seen increased cargo traffic since the hurricane with new companies interested in utilizing the port’s facilities. He also showed participants the River Road site where an additional 40,000 square foot bulk warehouse will be constructed next year. A reception followed at the Port’s Antebellum Guest House.

Tour participants represented companies and government agencies such as the U.S. Trade & Development Agency. They were interested in the products shipped in/out of the Port complex and how the Port differs from others. “Products aren’t merely shipped in and out of the Port of South Louisiana. Our uniqueness to other ports is that many companies modify materials shipped in what we call the ‘value added’ aspect of our business,” said Deputy Director Henry Sullivan. “Product comes in one form and out another form.” Barry Hoth, General Manager for Associated Terminals, explained to attendees that customer service from the stevedores has made a huge difference in the type and level of product handled at the Port of South Louisiana.

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The Port of South Louisiana, comprising St. Charles, St. John and St. James parishes on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, is the world’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest tonnage port and the largest tonnage port in the western hemisphere.