



**CONTAINERIZATION & INTERMODAL INSTITUTE**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**ALBERTO ALEMÁN ZUBIETA, IMMEDIATE PAST COMMISSIONER OF THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY,  
ANTICIPATES ANOTHER CANAL EXPANSION FOLLOWING EXISTING PROJECT COMPLETION**

*SPEAKS IN NEWARK, NJ, AS HE IS AWARDED CONNIE BY CONTAINERIZATION & INTERMODAL INSTITUTE*

**NEWARK, NJ** (Dec. 12, 2012)—The Panama Canal is due for at least one additional expansion, according to Alberto Alemán Zubieta, immediate past commissioner of the Panama Canal Authority. Mr. Alemán spoke as he accepted the Containerization and Intermodal Institute's Connie Award at the annual luncheon at the Newark Club on Monday. Alemán, a construction engineer who assumed the helm of the PCA in 1998, has overseen the design and present \$5.25 billion expansion until his retirement in September.

He noted that the present expansion "will not be the last." As the project continues, he noted, the increasing size of new vessels will mandate yet another expansion. The existing project will allow the canal to handle ships up to 13,000 TEU. More fuel-efficient ships and the increasing price of bunkers are bringing 18,000-TEU ships onto the seas "and we must have Panama Canal locks that can handle them. We must have one more expansion."

Mr. Alemán said he was pleased how well the people of Panama have embraced the canal's transition from U.S. to Panamanian control. "I worked to convince the Panamanian people of the importance of keeping the canal running for the benefit of world trade and of convincing global shipping lines that Panamanians could manage it."

"There was global doubt about Panama's ability to run it," he said. "We had to change the culture of the way the industry looked at the canal." He also had a major role in persuading the people of Panama to approve the expansion project in a national referendum. Ultimately, he said, Panama approved the referendum by a vote of 80 percent to 20 percent against. "When the new locks open in 2015, it will be the beginning of a new era for Panama," he said.

His Connie Award was presented by James Newsome, who heads the South Carolina State Ports Authority, himself, a Connie recipient in 2010. The Port of Charleston, like other harbors on the East and Gulf Coasts will benefit by the expansion of the canal. CII President Allen Clifford, said: "To be in charge of the cornerstone of the global transportation system, and a model of excellence, efficiency and integrity is a monumental task; to be able to present Mr. Alemán with a Connie is a monumental honor for CII."

Since leaving the PCA, Alemán has established a consulting firm, ABCO Global in Panama City, Panama. He will consult on maritime infrastructure projects, particularly in Latin America. The Connie Award is one of many honors bestowed on Alemán Zubieta for his vision, achievements



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and contributions to the world international transportation industry. In 2009, he received the most prestigious award from the maritime industry, the "International Maritime Prize" from the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

In addition to the Connie Award, CII made a \$5,000 contribution to the rebuilding of the Seamen's Church Institute Port Newark Center, which sustained major destruction during the mega storm Sandy last month. SCI board member Peter Tirschwell accepted the donation, which CII Vice President Steven Blust noted "truly came from the companies and people who support CII programs and the Connie Award events."

The Connie Award is also presented each year in Long Beach, CA. This year it was awarded to Matthew Cox, CEO of Matson, in October.

### **About CII**

Containerization & Intermodal Institute (CII), a non-profit organization founded in 1960, promotes industry awareness, preserves the history of intermodalism, and engages scholarly interest in the field by organizing educational conferences and seminars, serving as an information resource, providing networking opportunities, offering career guidance, arranging internships and facilitating scholarships. For more information, visit [www.containerization.org](http://www.containerization.org)

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