



CGA STAFF VISIT DURBAN PORT

In May 2018 a number of CGA and Citrus Academy staff visited the Port of Durban to coincide with the loading of citrus onto a vessel destined to Japan.

Thanks to Faisal Asmal – manager in charge of the Japan Special Export Programme – for his patient and very comprehensive tour along with explanations of each step of the process to get South African citrus to the port, through the storage and inspection processes and loaded into the refrigerated holds ready for the trip to Japan. Rauff Dawood, who runs the South Korean programme was there to assist as well and together with the Russian crew of the vessel we were all made very welcome. Apart from a tour of the FPT refrigeration bays, inspection areas and meeting the DAFF and FPT personnel, the group was given a comprehensive tour of the innards of the ship itself.





Pallets waiting to be loaded.

Left: CGA staff in the engine room.



Top quality Grapefruit face inspection before being approved for export to Japan.

Left: CGA staff getting the tour.





View of Durban harbour from the deck.

After this they climbed up seven stories of indoor metal steps to reach the bridge of the ship to enjoy the view from there after being in the confines of the engine room and the holds.

From the deck of the ship one could oversee the whole process – the sturdy forklifts being expertly driven out of the cold store facility with pallet after pallet of clearly marked cartons of citrus, placing them carefully on the frames chained to the crane, and deftly lifted by the crane drivers to then be carefully lowered down three and more levels to the refrigerated storage space in the hold where they would remain for the next 21 days.

Around the other side of the harbour, at the Maydon Wharf Port Terminals the group saw how the pallets were stacked in huge refrigerated warehouses – temperatures in here about -0,1 degrees – on movable tracks so that it is possible to access every row. Although we witnessed the process of the pallets leaving the warehouse and being loaded into the ship's hold for only a short period of time we were told that on an average day 2 200 pallets are loaded in a 24 hour shift. The ship would take approximately 4 750 pallets and would be on its way in 35 hours from time of starting to load.



Apart from Faisal Asmal and Rauff Dawood, thanks go to Hoosen Ahmed, Kaserie Harichand and Dean Ganeson at FPT and Collin Gengen, Robin Langton and Sagren Kisten at MFT for their friendliness and the time they took with us so we could see what really goes on for these few hectic months when citrus is being exported from Durban harbour to Japan, South Korea through the CGA-run Special Export Programme.

GLORIA WEARE