

The Maritime Cluster

Due to longstanding maritime traditions with a focus on quality shipping, Danish shipping is among the world's most competitive. 10 % of world trade is transported by Danish ships. No wonder that a strong Danish presence is found in most commercial ports in this world. Thai ports are no exception.

The Danish merchant fleet is amongst world leaders. Key figures for the Danish fleet all show a positive trend and this is expected to continue in years to come. Expected gross earnings of Baht 1,164 billion in 2007 make a vital contribution to the Danish balance of payments surplus. Ten years ago, the revenue amounted to Baht 291 million.

The revenues derive mainly from international cross-trade operations between foreign ports. For a merchant fleet of 501 Danish flagged ships and a fleet of foreign flagged as well as chartered in tonnage, principal markets are the EU, East Asia and China. In addition to the tonnage under national flag, Danish ship-owners operate tonnage chartered from foreign states 3 – 4 times bigger than the Danish flagged fleet in order to optimise their services and meet customer demand. Shipping alone constitutes around 16 percent of Danish exports.

The Danish Maritime cluster comprises all elements from ship owners, operators and service providers to the maritime equipment industry and is the workplace for over 100,000 people in Denmark. Common to all areas is a tradition for a high level of education and a very high quality.

The main areas of operation consist of full door-to-door container services, specialised product carrier services as well as traditional bulk, tanker trade, general cargo and off shore supply services. Danish companies are also involved in other maritime-related activities such as shipbuilding, offshore drilling and production, warehousing, storage, trucking, rail transport, inland distribution logistics, harbour complexes plus terminal management, procurement and manufacturing plus buying and selling ships.

The Danish government has chosen the maritime cluster as a priority and has launched an agenda for growth in this sector. Amongst other things the government will ensure stable and competitive framework conditions, a modern maritime administration and a well-qualified workforce. Combined with an effort to ensure market access for Danish operators, the strategy will help attract foreign investments to Denmark and support Danish maritime exports.

The Danish Shipowners' Association: www.shipowners.dk

Danish Maritime Authority: www.dma.dk