



**OWL News**

## Update on the Hong Kong Port Strike

We'd like to bring you the latest information we have on the strike by dock workers at Hong Kong International Terminal (HIT) at the port of Hong Kong.

The strike continues although sources advise that HIT is operating at +90% capacity and the delays affecting ships have been cut due to the hiring of temporary workers. HIT has said that it has received interest from non-dock workers to work at terminals and is training job applicants to perform dock tasks. Ship waiting time has been cut from up to 60 hours to roughly 20-25 hours.

The striking workers represent about 12% of the up to 3,800 contract staff HIT hires in Hong Kong. They earn HK\$55 an hour, less than the HK\$60.70 they were paid in 1995, the union said. The workers took a pay cut in 2003 during the SARS outbreak.

Some workers were told they would lose their jobs on April 19th as Global Stevedoring Service Co., one of the contractors, which employs them, decided to cease operations because it wasn't able to meet the salary demands.

The government in Hong Kong has made a renewed effort to bring the two sides together after the dockworkers scaled back their demands for a 23% wage increase. Earlier talks had failed after the workers rejected a 7% pay raise.

Volume will likely be down sharply at Hong Kong as ships are skipping the port in favor of other nearby ports. Shenzhen, Shanghai, Kaohsiung and Busan are all nearby ports with favorable transshipment capabilities and perceived value.

Steamship lines continue to update us with rerouting notifications with vessels calling at neighboring ports to avoid the delays at HIT terminal. We are monitoring the shipments of all of our customers and proactively notifying affected parties should delays occur.

If you have concerns for a specific shipment then please don't hesitate to contact your local [Pacer International / Ocean World Line office](#) or network partner.