
Press Release

June 21nd, 2022

MIP Supports Ancient Port Scientific Excavation Project

Mersin International Port Management Inc. (MIP) cooperated with the Mezitli Municipality for the scientific excavations to be carried out at the Soli Pompeipolis Ancient Port. The project protocol was signed by MIP General Manager Johan Van Daele and Mezitli Mayor Neşet Tarhan at the ceremony.

MIP General Manager Johan Van Daele stated that they came together with Mezitli Municipality for common goals such as shedding light on the history of Mersin and its port, accelerating the touristic development of the city, and bringing cultural values to light. **Van Daele** added: *“Soli Pompeipolis Ancient City is like a hidden treasure of Mersin. Happily, as a result of the studies carried out with our valuable institutions such as Mezitli Municipality, Mersin Chamber of Shipping and Mersin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a large part of the Soli Pompeipolis Ancient City will be one of the distinguished cultural heritages of Mersin and our country. As MIP, we are proud to be a part of this special project.”*

MIP will provide support to the project by sponsoring the archaeological excavations of the ancient port, which forms an important part of the Soli Pompeipolis Ancient City.

Johan Van Daele continued his words as follows: *“As MIP, we always emphasize that we do not separate the development of the port from the development of Mersin and that contributing to the economic development of Mersin and Turkey is among our priorities. We act in line with our corporate principles, and we carry out valuable projects in the fields of environment, sports, culture & arts, and education that will provide social benefit to Mersin and its people.*

Johan Van Daele stated that they aim to bring this value to Mersin by revealing the historical and cultural richness of the city, to bring mobility to tourism activities in the region and that the project will enter the records as an important archaeological study in our country.

Mezitli Mayor Neşet Tarhan said the following about the project: *“Mersin International Port will support the excavations, which were carried out with the decision of the Council of Ministers and supervised by the Culture and Tourism Directorate. This support of MIP is also of great importance in terms of being the first source for the Ancient Port, which dates back 3000 years but is still underground. With the signed protocol, it is aimed to plan the excavation period more easily and to support the scientific process. With the support provided by MIP, we will be able to purchase necessary materials and equipment, employ staff with different expertise and employ excavators.”*

About Mersin International Port Management Inc.

Mersin International Port Management Inc. (MIP), which was established in partnership with Akfen Holding and PSA International, took over the Turkish State Railways Mersin Port Management on May 11, 2007 for 36 years. Mersin International Port (MIP), of which the Australian Fund Company IFM joined in 2017, is connected to industrialized cities of Turkey such as Ankara, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Kahramanmaraş, Konya and neighboring countries such as Syria, Iraq and Commonwealth of Independent States by rail and road. It is one of the main container ports in the Mediterranean Region with its transshipment and hinterland connections with the Middle East and the Black Sea. Mersin International Port (MIP) constitutes an important part of Turkey's import and export volume with its wide hinterland, accessible transportation opportunities and successful personnel. MIP is Turkey's largest port with the annual total amount of cargo handled and its current area.

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