

## **PORT OF GALVESTON SHOWCASES GALVESTON AT INTERNATIONAL CRUISE CONVENTION**

The Port of Galveston participated at the annual Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention, in Miami, highlighting recent growth at the Port's cruise terminal complex and showcasing Galveston's businesses and attractions to an international audience. Seatrade is the premiere event in the cruise industry and is attended by cruise lines and cruise ports from all over the world.

"We have had a presence at Seatrade for thirteen years now," stated Steven M. Cernak, Galveston Port Director. "Our involvement continues to grow and over the past four years our participation has taken on new importance. The Port of Galveston's recognition at this convention has steadily increased and, considering how quickly this has occurred, it is quite remarkable. The industry's heightened awareness of the Port of Galveston as a major cruise port is growing and this was confirmed at this year's Seatrade Convention."

Port staff was again joined by the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) in a combined effort to gain additional exposure in the cruise industry and to present the Port, the City and areas businesses and attractions to an international audience.

"As a first time attendee, Seatrade was a wonderful opportunity to network with existing cruise clients and build future opportunities," said Melody Smith, Director of Tourism for the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau. "With 1,000 exhibitors from 100 countries and 9,000 attendees, it was amazing to see how well known the Port of Galveston is within the cruise industry."

Port and Galveston CVB officials met with representatives of major cruise lines considering adding Galveston Island to their itineraries in the future. The Port of Galveston booth at the convention promoted the Cruise Terminal assets through a new video presentation developed by CH2M Hill, the engineer/architects for the new developments at both cruise terminals. The video showcased new enhancements at Cruise Terminal No. 1 and highlighted new developments under construction at Cruise Terminal No. 2.

"Galveston is the talk of the industry," added Cernak. "We received comments from industry partners that Galveston is the new hot cruise port and one to model new cruise developments after. If we had Terminal No. 3 and even Terminal No. 4 on line, we would be able to bring additional lines and services to the port. We are presently conferring with a third cruise line considering seasonal homeporting cruises from Galveston Island in addition to discussing port-of-calls opportunities with several other potential cruise customers "

Cruise Terminal No. 1 is dedicated to Carnival Corporation and their associated subsidiaries. The 152,000 sq. ft. terminal includes a 550 sq. ft. VIP Check-In and Waiting Room, two 400 sq. ft. Wedding Rooms and a Hollywood-style Photo Area, and, in addition, is equipped with a state-of-the-art Passenger Loading Bridge. Upon

completion in the end of 2004, Cruise Terminal No. 2 will offer 80,600 sq. ft. for cruise operations for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and will include Galveston's second state-of-the-art Passenger Loading Bridge. Cruise amenities also include a 53,000 sq. ft. staging area for suppliers of the cruise lines and 2,350 port-operated parking spaces.