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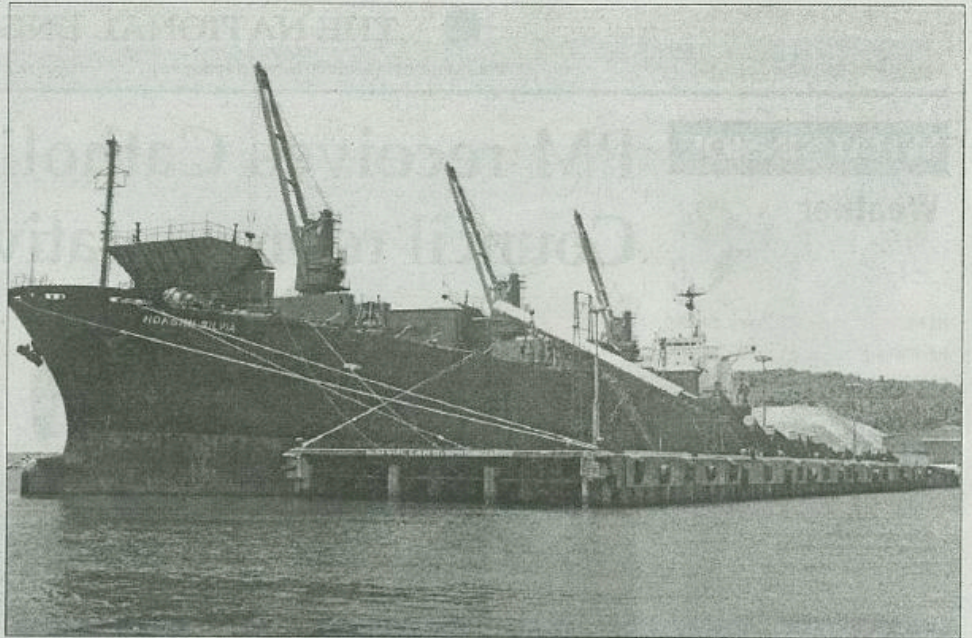
Đà Nẵng invests big in ports

ĐÀ NẴNG — In the central coastal Đà Nẵng City, a new plan is calling for the Tiên Sa port to be transformed into a modern container port alongside changes being made to the Sông Hàn port.

According to General Director Nguyễn Thu of Đà Nẵng port, from 2008-2011 VNĐ29 billion (US\$1.7 million) will be poured into Tiên Sa port's warehouses, including the construction of two wharves, while the Sơn Trà port will be built at a cost of VNĐ586 billion (\$34.5 million).

Đà Nẵng port asked city authorities to pave the way for the development of its infrastructure facilities, hoping to turn Đà Nẵng into a gateway into the east-west economic corridor, linking central Việt Nam with central Laos and northeastern Thailand and Myanmar.

It also proposed to allow trucks to enter Sông Hàn port and allow Đà Nẵng port to make use of land to establish a navigation development centre and tourism service in



Cargo is unloaded at Đà Nẵng's Tiên Sa Port. VNA/VNS Photo Xuân Quang

the central region.

In the first eight months of the year, Đà Nẵng port welcomed 34 ships with more than 20,730 tourists, a year-on-year rise of 13.83 per cent, and

earned a turnover of VNĐ118.5 billion (\$7 million). The total volume of cargo handled through the port in the reviewed period is estimated at more than 3 million tonnes.

Đà Nẵng port will reduce navigation insurance fees by 25 per cent, as well as fixed container prices, with the hope of attracting more container ships. — VNS