

## QUEEN ELIZABETH AND QUEEN MARY-2 ARRIVED AT COCHIN

The prestigious Cruise vessel Queen Elizabeth called at Cochin Port at 08.30 hrs on 13-04-2016. The vessel arrived from Chennai with 1890 tourists and 1022 crew sailed for Dubai at 5 PM on 13-04-2016.

Another cruise vessel from the Cunard Group, Queen Mary- 2 called at Cochin Port on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 6 AM, bringing 2406 tourists and 1269 crew. The vessel, arrived from Colombo, sailed for Dubai on the same day at 5 PM.

Pavilions by local trade and a mobile money exchange counter were set up at the Ernakulam Wharf of Cochin Port for the benefit of the tourists arriving by these ships.

Cochin Port is one of the most preferred cruise destinations among Indian Ports. Prestigious cruise vessel like Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Quantum of the Seas regularly visit the Cochin Port. In order to ensure competitiveness in the tariff the Cochin Port has decided to give 50% discount in the 'port dues' payable by a cruise vessel. The existing provision restricted granting the 50% discount only to (i) vessels from which passengers did not disembark or (ii) vessels to which passengers embarked at the Port. As 'Port dues' is one of the main components of the vessel Related Charges payable by Cruise vessel, the decision of the Port to grant 50% discount on port dues for all vessels without conditions will be a major factor in attracting more cruise vessels to Cochin.