

ifw at 40

Were they really “the good old days?” 6

Four decades have passed since John King left school for a ‘glamorous’ career in the world of shipping and forwarding

A promise of automation never fulfilled 8

While it might seem as if everything has changed, fundamentally, say air cargo veterans, nothing has altered in the past 40 years, writes Alex Lennane

A career in logistics? 11

Many school, college or even university leavers may have already decided on a career. Stephen Maskell wonders if logistics was in the mix

Forty years of modern maritime piracy 12

Dr Risto Talas on the rise of violent pirate attacks in South-east Asian waters

Spot the difference 16

What’s changed in the past 40 years in the logistics industry? A lot, says Larry Woelk

A world evolving beyond recognition 18

Macro-economics is just one area that’s evolved beyond recognition in four decades, writes Rob Riddleston

A watching brief as history was made 20

How IFW has charted the evolution and revolution of an industry

New horizons for ports and terminals? 24

Container terminal operators have been warned that the coming years could prove crucial for the industry, write Katerina Kerr & Julian Stephens

Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose 28

David Cheslin on the development of shipping over four decades

The role of women in logistics 31

Clare Bottle explains how things have changed during her lifetime and what the future might hold

Maintaining their pivotal role 35

Forwarders are still up for the challenge, just as they were in 1971, says Peter Quantrill

Welcome to the 40th birthday issue of IFW. As we mark what is indeed an historic milestone in the history of IFW, we reflect on the incredible changes of the past four decades, as well as look ahead at the future for the industry.

It is impossible to predict what challenges and opportunities the years ahead will bring. But one thing is certain: the key to weathering the vicissitudes of the years to come will lie in our innate ability to adapt. In 1971 we lived in a world very different from the one we find ourselves in today. In the early 70s the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency began asking how the government could continue to communicate in the wake of a likely Soviet nuclear attack. The answer they found was to develop protocols that would allow networked computers to talk to each other. This was called the Inter-netting project - the system that emerged was of course the internet.

Across the Atlantic another momentous occasion was being marked. In 1971, the first issue of International Freight Week rolled off the printing press. Its mission: to provide timely, relevant, impartial and insightful coverage of the global freight industry.

In the years following, the world experienced a period of transformation unlike anything we could have envisioned. In the world of freight and logistics, household names came and went, unlikely alliances were forged. Trends and fads grabbed the headlines and then vanished into the embrace of obscurity.

International Freight Weekly also changed. Growth means change, and change involves risk. But it also brings opportunity.

Embracing the unparalleled benefits of new media, IFW as a weekly publication evolved into an online daily news service, continuing to deliver timely, relevant, objective and engaging content to a globally diverse readership. But the IFW our readers receive today is just as likely to offer multimedia, in the shape of audio and video content, as well as news produced by our specialist journalists and features contributed by our online community.

We are no longer a freight and logistics publication. We are THE freight and logistics publication. With the unwavering support of its readers, IFW has evolved into an online brand at the heart of a dynamic, interactive community.

We’re looking forward to the next 40 years.

Kizzi Nkwocha , Editor IFW