



## **ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES Inter-American Committee on Ports**

Report of the Technical Advisory Group on Port Safety and Security, November 12, 2012

The Chair reviewed the progress of the current work plan, highlighting key work items. One area that continues to require attention is communication among the TAG members. In response to a decline in membership use of and contributions to the Safeports.org website, plans were announced to reach out to the communications or public affairs staff of individual members. This approach is aimed at developing sources of information about member's activities relevant to the TAG and to provide visibility for member's activities in the TAG. Safeports.org would serve as a focus point for this initiative.

Plans for a pilot Marine Safety Training Workshop were discussed. With respect to the idea of a hemispheric conference on port security, the Chair indicated that members may wish to consider an emphasis on port safety, disaster assistance and emergency preparedness. In this regard, it was announced that the United States was working on a maritime safety workshop project proposal that would bring together United States transportation agencies (Coast Guard, National Transportation Safety Board and DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration) in a 'pilot' training program that would take focus on training Caribbean countries to address maritime safety issues in ports. There appeared to be initial support for the project, which the Chair said would require funding, possibly from sources outside the OAS.

The Chair closed the discussion with a review of relevant port security developments in the United States. He indicated that work on the President's "National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security," announced in January 2012, was proceeding toward an implementation plan, which will be announced in January 2013. The implementation plan would reflect feedback that was received from discussions with international trading partners, including the OAS member states, and emphasizing the need for capacity building and human capital skills development. He said there is an emerging recognition in US security policy of the need to consider natural disasters and the importance of being able to quickly reconstitute systems with a focus on resiliency.