



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

FINAL REPORT

**Tenth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Port Security (TAGPS)
(Salvador, Brazil, Tuesday, September 11, 2007)**

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This was the Tenth meeting of the TAG, the first being held in Bridgetown, Barbados in 2000. The Chairman welcomed the delegations to the meeting.

Member states of the TAGPS include: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
Associate Members include: Program de Seguridad Portuaria (Guatemala).

TAGPS Chair, Gregory Hall, Director, Office of International Activities, U.S. Department of Transportation (Maritime Administration) offered welcoming remarks to participants. The Chairman then reviewed the purpose of the TAG on Port Security (TAGPS) in his introduction to the meeting, stating that it is the responsibility of the TAGPS to advise the Inter-American Committee on Ports on matters related to port security, providing port authorities with the necessary information and means to make the best decisions for significant risk reduction to create secure and efficient ports in the Hemisphere.

Functions of the TAGPS:

- a. To compile and exchange information on port security, including the use of advanced security technology for risk reduction;
- b. To design and maintain a database with information relevant to its work;
- c. Recommend training programs based on the member countries' needs;
- d. Recommend guidelines for port security;
- e. To prepare specialized reports, studies, and technical documents;
- f. To organize national and international meetings and activities on specialized topics in this area;
- g. To report to the Chair of the Executive Board in writing, every six months, on the progress and results of its work., and
- h. To prepare proposals and recommendations on policies and strategies and present them to the Inter-American Committee on Ports through the Executive Board.

The following agenda topics were either discussed or the subject of presentations at the meeting:

Second Hemispheric Conference on Port Security of the CIP in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela in October 2006.

Venezuela opened the meeting by delivering a report on the Second Hemispheric Conference on Port Security of the CIP in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela in October 2006. Venezuela focused largely on the links between assistance/international cooperation and security. While no formal recommendations were reached at the Second Hemispheric Conference, participants agreed on the need for a common database (featuring risk levels, maintenance costs and best practices). The Dominican Republic offered to host the next Port Security Conference in April 2008.

Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)

Ignacio Ibanez, from the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE), presented a report detailing recent developments in the CICTE Port Security Program. He provided a brief history and outlined the goals of CICTE. Ibanez highlighted and applauded Canada's ongoing funding of CICTE activities.

Canada-Americas Port Security Assistance Program (CAPSAP)

Terry Batten, from Transport Canada, reported on port security assistance programs in the region, namely the Canada-Americas Port Security Assistance Program (CAPSAP). Batten also highlighted a number of domestic issues of interest to the TAGPS, namely the Marine Transportation Security Clearance Program and Marine Security Operations Centres.

U.S. General Accounting Office Report on Port Security in the Caribbean Basin.

The United States (Hall) reported on a recent U.S. General Accounting Office Report on Port Security in the Caribbean Basin, which was prepared at the request of Congress. It was noted that while no specific, credible, terrorist threats to maritime security exist in the region, officials identified several concerns, including corruption, the rise of radical Islamic groups, drug trafficking and illegal migration, and special conditions stemming from the high level of cruise vessel activity, among others. The report notes that the level of ISPS compliance in the Caribbean Basin varies widely among countries. Some countries have substantially implemented or even exceeded Code requirements, while other countries have not substantially implemented the ISPS Code.

Supply Chain Security

Alfonso Campins from Guatemala made a presentation on issues related to supply chain security. Attention was directed at the need to guarantee fluidity and safety of the supply chain, all the while being mindful of the cost associated with any additional measures. Campins noted that some 18 security processes are involved in the logistics chain, suggesting the need to evolve beyond the ISPS Code (making reference to the WCO Framework). The need for consistency of technical and information requirements was likewise highlighted.

The issue of U.S. legislation that will require 100% scanning of all U.S.-bound maritime cargo containers at foreign ports was raised in the context of C-TPAT and CSI. It was suggested that while the later are optional, 100 per cent scanning effectively imposes compliance. Acknowledging the potential impact of 100 per cent scanning, OAS/Ibanez noted that electronic inspections might aid in the clearance of backlogs for some ports in the region, eliminating, in some cases, the need for physical inspections.

U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) International Port Security Program

USCG representative Captain Mike Brown presented a report on the USCG International Port Security Program (IPSP). The IPSP encourages bilateral or multilateral discussions with nations around the world in an effort to exchange information and share best practices that align implementation and enforcement requirements of the (U.S) *Marine Transportation Security Act* with the ISPS Code and other international maritime security standards. He noted that to date, IPSP teams have visited over 100 countries and in so doing, identified more than 100 best practices, ranging from sophisticated to inexpensive. USCG/Brown highlighted a number of systematic problems identified during visits, including: limited capacity to remain at higher security levels, waterside security and incomplete cargo documentation. Captain Brown added that IPSP teams intend to visit the ports of every U.S. partner by 2008. A comprehensive list of best practices is available online at: homeport.uscg.mil.

Adoption of Work Plan for 2008

The Chair explained that with little time remaining in the meeting to discuss the progress toward achieving the goals set forth in the 2007 Work Plan that several points would need to be either carried over

to the 2008 plan or dropped. The Chair said he would consult with members of the TAGPS and forward a revised Draft Work Plan for 2008 for approval, which is provided below.

Proposed Technical Advisory Group on Port Security: Work Plan 2007-2008

- Compile a security training database which will provide member states with a list of training opportunities throughout the hemisphere. This information will be gathered by the Regional Coordinators which were organized in 2003.*
- Assess conditions for a CIP ISPS Implementation Assistance program to provide experts in other OAS states seeking assistance to determine the implementation status of the ISPS Code in their countries, as adopted by CECIP/RES.13 (VI-04) in Managua, in December 3, 2004. (Initiation of this task is dependent upon the development of a database of training in the region.) Regional Coordinators will assist in this effort.*
- Assess the results of the document analysis pilot program (OCAD) (CIDI/CIP/RES.64 (IV-05) in Guatemala for consideration by member countries for possible broader adoption in the region.
- Provide appropriate support, including the development of the program and speakers, for the Hemispheric Port Security Conference to be held in the Dominican Republic in April 2008.
- Promote the identification and dissemination of port security training information and needs in the region. This task will include cooperation and coordination with other international organizations (IMO, APEC, ILO, WHTI, and WCO).

* denotes continuation from 2007 Work Plan