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1. First Hemispheric Conference on Environmental Port Protection.

Panama is the site for the First Hemispheric Conference on Environmental Issues aimed at the maritime port sector in the American continent. On January 18, 2007, in the Riande Continental Hotel, future site of the Conference from April 10-13, 2007, the launch of the international event took place with the presence of Mr. Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez, Secretary of the Maritime Authority of Panama, Mr. Carlos Gallegos, Secretary of the CIP, and other important authorities of the sector in Panama. The announcement of the Conference, which will gather 34 OAS member States, was made in the presence of functionaries of maritime transport businesses, institutions, and port operators, in addition to the national and international press.

Topics related to the port industry and the environment are of great importance in the developed world. Regulation measures are growing in frequency to decrease the impact of port operations and maritime transport in the coastal environment, city-ports, and general habitat and nature. For countries of this continent, especially those of the Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference will cover the importance for international regulations to require obligations for all industries of the region. Furthermore, at the same time governments of this continent are with greater emphasis adopting criteria for environmental protection.

Topics to be covered in the Conference include the impact of the port sector on the environment and its effect on coastal zones, air contamination in the port environment, accidental and operational contamination in port zones, the elimination and manipulation of ship and cruise ship waste, ballast water treatment, training, international cooperation and the financing of environmental port projects.

The framework for the Conference includes presentations by international specialists on central themes and also presentations by countries of the Americas on the status of their compliance with international agreements. It is expected to contain a brief summary, diagnostic model, of the actual situation and the adequate strategies needed to include the environment in port development and the best methodologies for the contingency plans ahead.

In addition, the Conference will have an exhibition room where the areas most important international business suppliers of goods and services will demonstrate and show their products.

As a reminder, registrations made to the CIP before March 16, 2007, and registrations for the hotel made before March 30, 2007, will allow participants to receive a special rate.

For more information please visit <http://www.oas.org/cip>.

2. Chile and Peru: Emphasis this year on the process of privatization.

Chile, like Peru, is planning to strengthen the process of port privatization during 2007.

In Chile, the Empresa Portuaria de Talcahuano and the Sistema de Empresas Públicas (SEP) have begun their work in bidding the maritime terminal to privatize, a process which has in two occasions been a disappointment. According to the president of SEP, Patricio Rojas, there exists the conviction that it is necessary to modernize the terminal and concession the terminal, despite some resistance. According to reports, parties interested in the concession would need to invest 20 million dollars in order to increase the mobilization of cargo capacity and augment 260 thousand tons expected in 2006 to more than 2 million tons. The process is expected to conclude approximately in July. There also exists the possibility to concession ports in Coquimbo and Puerto Montt.

Meanwhile in Peru, it was announced that in the second trimester of this year the concession process will be in the regional ports of Paita in Piura, Ilo in Moquegua and Pisco in Ica, signaling that in March studies will have concluded by the Autoridad Portuaria Nacional (APN) along with the Agencia de Promoción de la Inversión Privada (ProInversión), to define the method of promotion for the inversion of the ports.

Admiral Frank Boyle, President of the APN, mentioned that in the future his institution would promote investments in other ports like Salaverry in La Libertad, Chimbote in Ancash, and San Juan de Marcona in Ica, in addition to fluvial ports in Pucallpa (Ucayali), Iquitos and Yurimaguas (Loreto). Furthermore, he indicated that the investment to modernize ports of Peru between 2007 - 2010 would amount to approximately 237 million dollars, from private and public funds. From this amount, Paita will receive US \$ 80 million, Ilo US \$ 97 million, Pisco US \$ 11 million, two port cranes for the terminal of Callao costing US \$ 27 million, and the temporary installation of a transportation belt for minerals in the Port of Callao for US \$ 22 million.

3. U.S.A. lifts security restrictions for main ports of the Dominican.

Restrictions of 2003 from the United States Coast Guard applying to ships that travel in ports of the Dominican were lifted. All of the loads leaving ports of the Dominican Republic required the certification of an official from the Coast Guard, stemming from problems of illegal commerce, the presence of stowaways, and

the international certification reached by ports of the Dominican according to the ISPS code.

Nevertheless, methods adopted in materials of port security by the government of the Dominican, with the support of private businesses, has permitted that the restrictions be lifted for the ports of Haina Oriental and Haina Occidental, Molinos Modernos, Multimodal Caucedo, La Romana, and the Fondeadero de Cayo Levantado.

For this reason, merchandise loaded in ships whose immediate destination is North America, will not expect the inspection of authorities from that country. The method will reduce the process of loading and unloading of containers and merchandise, in addition to the continuance of ships in ports that will increase the commercial competition of the Dominican Republic, where 80% of foreign commerce is carried out via seaports. The Caribbean nation stands as the fourth country of the world with merchandise movement towards the ports of Miami.

4. *Shanghai, the port with the greatest movement of cargo in the world.*

In 2006 Shanghai occupied the first spot among ports of the world with mobilization of 537 million tons of cargo, this figure exceeds by 90 million tons the port of Singapore which occupied the second spot. For 22 years the annual movement of the port rose to 100 million tons, doubling this figure in 2000 and reaching 300 million in 2003. Last year, the cargo amount exceeded by 21.2 per cent, representing a 12 percent of total cargo from China.

The port mobilized 21.71 million TEU, a figure representing an increase of more than 20 percent with respect to last year. The port held 55,000 ships of which 23,000 were port containers.

Other ports of China, in particular those of Xiamen and Fuzhou, located in the southeast, have undertaken an ambitious plan of expansion to increase its movement capacity of TEU up to 9.5 million in the year 2010.

The tremendous commerce of China to the world and the increase of commercial traffic by way of the sea, has many countries of the American continent thinking of the possibility to expand its port installations in order to receive the cargo navigated by great port container ships arriving from this region. This issue demonstrates the urgency to debate the planning of regional port development in forums like the Inter-American Committee on Ports, in which port authorities of the 34 member States of the Americas participate.

5. *Port of Ushuaia: Work on the expansion of the port terminal has begun.*

Ushuaia is located in the Great Island of Tierra del Fuego, along the Beagle Canal. It is most southern city of the world. The port of Ushuaia, located 54°49'S, 68°17'W, has been selected by numerous tourism operators as the base port for trips to Antarctica. The dock, which is 514 meters long and 28 meters wide, is operated along both sides, in high and low tide. Its depth permits the arrival at the dock ships with great icebreakers.

The important growth of tourism in the zone and visitors arriving by cruise ships, have obligated authorities of this region to program expansion work of the port and its docks. According to data from the Dirección Provincial de Puertos, during December 2006 the docks of Ushuaia registered a total of 71 arrivals of tourist ships that transported approximately 14,300 passengers. The port of Ushuaia

expects the present season to bring 380 arrivals with 110 thousand passengers, representing an increase of 10 percent in comparison to the previous season.

In addition, during 2006 the Port of Ushuaia disembarked 10% of the total of fishing in Argentina, placing the port fourth in importance. According to national information, last year the port unloaded an increase of almost 10% with respect to 2005.

The work begun will permit the enlargement on the west side of the port terminal and increase the capacity of the dock by approximately 20 %. Alejandro Vernet, head of the terminal, specified that "the widened fiscal square will in the short term liberate 200 meters of the dock and considerably increase the receptive capacity of the port." Mr. Vernet stated that this will be reflected in the activities of cargo ships "that will operate with more efficiency and greater proximity to the shore for unloading."

The time allotted for the work is approximately a year and a half, meanwhile Mr. Vernet confirmed that the official budget is in upwards of 18 million pesos, financed "with resources from the Dirección Provincial de Puertos."

6. *Dubai Ports sells its U.S. operations*

Dubai Ports World (DPW), located in United Arab Emirates, whose planned control of the important port operations in the United States provoked a political battle at the beginning of this year, agreed to sell its operations to AIG Global Investment Group. DPW announced the transaction transferring operations in six crucial ports of the United States – New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Miami, Tampa and New Orleans.

AIG Global Investment Groups is a firm with more than \$635 million in assets. Its parent company is American International Group Inc., an insurance company based in New York. The administrative director of AIG, Christopher Lee, indicated that the business "is very committed to ensuring that it is a leader in the industry in establishing standards for port security."

7. *Colombia: Violence affects the port of Buenaventura*

In 2006, confrontations between narcotic traffickers, leftist guerillas, rightwing paramilitary groups, and the police have bloodstained the roads of the port of Buenaventura with hundreds dead. The fight to control the area, for its proximity to the ocean, unleashed a series of violent acts that concern the authorities of the country. The violence was aggravated due the poverty of the region and the easy recruitment of youth to participate in illegal activities. "The combination of port and extreme poverty is very tempting" declared Congressman Roy Barrera, referring to the situation of close to 80 percent of the population in the zone that lives on less than 3 dollars a day.

The secretary of the government of Valle del Cauca, Yahir Erazo, declared that measures will be analyzed to make adjustment in intelligence plans to fight different armed groups. Mr. Erazo stated that new actions will also focus on social programs so that communities "understand that they need to collaborate in information and reestablish confidence in the public force and marginalize armed illegal sectors." For its part the central government announced radical measures to confront violence including establishing a unique mandate of Buenaventura security forces to confront the threats of guerrilla groups and paramilitaries.

8. New Port Authorities accredited before the CIP.

Bolivia: Carlos Valverde Maldonado, General Director, Intereses Marítimos, Fluviales, Lacustres y Marina Mercante; Ministry of National Defense; E-mail: intermar@mindef.gov.bo

Colombia: Manuel Campos García, Advisor, Ministry of Transportation; Coordinator of Port Matters for the Ministry of Transportation. E-mail: manuel.campos@mintransporte.gov.co

Ecuador: Milton Lalama F., General Director, Dirección General de la Marina Mercante y del Litoral – DIGMER; E-mail: direccion@digmer.org

El Salvador: Hugo Barrera, President, Comisión Ejecutiva Portuaria Autónoma (CEPA); E-mail: Hugo.barrera@cepa.gob.sv

Nicaragua: Virgilio Romel Silva Murguía, Executive President, Empresa Portuaria Nacional (EPN) E-mail: gadmon@epn.com.ni

9. Master's in Port Management and Multimodal Transportation.

On March 26, 2007 the Master's course developed by the Universidad Marítima Internacional of Panama will begin with the support of the Valenciaport Foundation. The program which will run for 12 months will supply the understanding of basic principles of planning, organization, and direction of businesses in the port and transport sector. Graduates of the program will obtain an international double specialization of the UMIP and Universidad Pontificia Comillas of Madrid.

10. Other Port Activities.

- **Seventh Annual Trans-pacific Maritime Conference.** March 5 and 6. Long Beach, California, USA. <http://www.joc.com/conferences>
- **Expo Transporte 2007.** March 7-10. Buenos Aires, Argentina. <http://www.expotrade.com.ar/transporte/default.asp>
- **Primer encuentro Internacional de Puertos Fluviales "integración del Sur".** March 8 and 9. Bolivar State, Venezuela. (<http://www.oas.org/cip/esp/Actividades/Ausp/primerencint.fluv.htm>)
- **Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention.** March 12-15. Miami, Florida, USA. <http://www.cruiseshipping.net/>
- **Ibero-American Seminar on Ports: Port Planning Drives Development.** March 14-16. Montevideo, Uruguay. <http://www.anp.com.uy/seminario/>
- **AAPA Spring Conference.** March 19 and 20. Washington, DC, USA. <http://www.aapa-ports.org/Programs/seminarschedule.cfm?ItemNumber=1130>
- **International Seminar on Costs and Tariffs.** March 20-23. San Salvador, El Salvador. <http://www.oas.org/cip>
- **Annual Meeting of PIANC USA.** March 23-25. San Diego, CA, USA. <http://www.pianc.iwr.usace.army.mil/>

- **XVI Latin American Port Congreso of the American Association of Port Authorities.** April 23-27. Rosario, Argentina.
<http://aaparosario.eurofull.com/shop/index.asp>
- **PIANC - PORTS Conference 2007.** March 25-28. San Diego, California, USA. <http://www.portsconference.org>
- **Houston Tanker Event 2007.** March 26-29. Houston, TX, USA.
<http://www.intertanko.com>
- **Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Coordination.** April 10. Panama City, Panama. <http://www.oas.org/cip>
- **Special Evaluation Meeting of the Technical Advisory Groups.** April 10. Panama City, Panama. <http://www.oas.org/cip>
- **First Hemispheric Conference on Environmental Port Protection.** April 10-13. Panama City, Panama. <http://www.oas.org/cip>.
- **Forth Annual Short Sea Shipping Conference.** April 16-18, 2007. Orlando, FL, USA. www.joc.com/conferences
- **Structures 2007.** May 16-19, 2007. Long Beach, CA, USA.
<http://content.asce.org/conferences/structures2007/>
- **IV Asamblea de la Camara Interamericana de Asociaciones Nacionales de Agentes Marítimos.** April 17-19. Lima, Peru. Program. (More information to come).
- **XVI Encuentro Latinoamericano de Puertos.** April 23 and 27. Rosario, Argentina. <http://www.consejoportuario.com.ar/eventos.aspx?id=278>
- **Seminar on Port Operations, Security, and Information Technology.** April 24-26. Jacksonville, FL, USA. <http://www.aapa-ports.org/Programs/seminarschedule.cfm?ItemNumber=1131>
- **Intermodal South America 2007.** April 24-27. Sao Paulo, Brasil.
<http://www.intermodal.com.br>
- **The 25th IAPH World Ports Conference.** April 27 - May 4, 2007. Houston, TX, United States. <http://www.iaph2007.com/>
- **2° Congreso Latinoamericano de Ciudades-Puerto y el Desarrollo Sostenible del Sector Urbano-Portuario-Logístico: "Modelos de Gestión y Financiación de Proyectos de Infraestructura".** April 30-May 1. Punta del Este, Uruguay. <http://www.oas.org/cip/esp/Actividades/RETE-AIPPYC-TRANSFUTUR.htm>
- **Executive Management Conference.** May 7-11. Tampa, FL, USA.
<http://www.aapa-ports.org/Programs/seminarschedule.cfm?ItemNumber=1133>
- **Nacional Maritime Salvage Conference and Expo.** May 8-11. Arlington, Virginia, USA. <http://www.marinelog.com>
- **Coastal Sediments 2007.** May 13-17. New Orleans, LA, United States.
<http://www.asce.org/conferences/cs07/index.cfm>

- **World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2007.** May 15-19. Tampa, FL, USA. <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ewri2007/>
- **Special Seminar for General Managers of Public Port Authorities.** June 1. San Francisco, CA, USA. <http://www.aapa.ports>
- **Third Annual China Trade & Logistics Conference.** June 4 and 5, 2007. Savannah, Georgia, USA. <http://www.joc.com/conferences>
- **International Port Training Conference,** 3-6 de junio. Rotterdam, Holanda. <http://www.iptc-online.net/>
- **Public Relations Seminar.** June 13-15, 2007. Cañaveral, FL, USA. <http://www.aapa-ports.org/Programs/seminarschedule.cfm?ItemNumber=1137>
- **Special Seminar for Members of Port Authority Governing Boards and Commissions.** June 20-22, 2007. Palm Beach, FL, USA. <http://www.aapa-ports.org/Espanol/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1223>

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