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Update Report on the APEC Port Services Network

Purpose: Consideration
Submitted by: China



**Third Senior Officials' Meeting
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Update Report on the APEC Port Services Network (APSN)

Current Status

1. The APEC Port Services Network (APSN) was initiated by Chinese Leader during the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Viet Nam in 2006. The APSN was established under the auspices of APEC in 2008 to bring together the port and port-related industries with senior representatives in APEC member economies. The mandate of the APSN is to promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment and enhance supply chain security by strengthening economic cooperation, capacity building, information and personnel exchange among port and port-related industries and services in the Asia-Pacific region, so as to achieve the common prosperity of the APEC member economies as a whole.
2. The APSN is a premier platform for communication and collaboration among port and port-related industries in the Asia-Pacific region through information sharing, capacity building and technical cooperation and etc. The APSN also provides a unique channel for dialogue between industry and competent authorities on various issues of common interest.
3. The 18 APEC economies that have designated a Council Member for the APSN include Australia; Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; New Zealand; Russia; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Viet Nam.
4. Ms. Joyce Henry (Canada) is elected by the Council as President of the Council and Mr. Tan Cheng Peng (Singapore) is elected as its First Vice President. Mr. Fei Weijun (China) is the Secretary-General of APSN.
5. The APSN workshops are held every year in one of the APSN member economies in order to present and discuss topics relevant to port and port related sectors, and they have been recognized as one of the premier and foremost events in the APEC maritime sector.
6. The APSN has evolved considerably since its inception in 2008, transforming from a concept into a key international organization for the Asia-Pacific Port and related industries, with a fully functioning Secretariat and with membership of close to 150 organizations in the ports and related industries from 18 economies, the achievements of which have been commended by the APEC Leaders and Transport Ministers at APEC Leaders' Meetings and Transport Ministerial Meetings. In 2018, the APSN will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in conjunction with the 11th Meeting of APSN Council and the APEC Port Connectivity Forum.

Report on the 10th APSN Council Meeting in Viet Nam

7. The APSN hosted the 10th meeting of the APSN Council in conjunction with the 6th meeting of the Advisory Board on 15-18 August 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration

8. The year of 2018 witnesses the 10th anniversary of the inauguration session of the APSN and the Council agreed that it is important to mark this milestone and decided to host the APEC Port Connectivity Forum back-to-back with the next Council Meeting in November 2018 in Singapore to celebrate the 10th anniversary of APSN.
9. To celebrate the 10th anniversary, the APSN have planned a number of activities with the APEC Port Connectivity Forum as the leading event, which include but are not limited to: the inauguration of the APSN Study Center, the 2017 & 2018 GPAS Awarding Ceremony, and the APSN Contribution Awarding Ceremony and etc.

Review of APSN's Mandate and Constitution

10. Over the past 9 years, the APSN has made great progress in fulfilling its mandate by organizing various activities and promoting information sharing and capacity building for port and port-related industries in the APEC region. Taking into consideration of the growth of APSN, the Council decided to review and revise the Mandate and Constitution of APSN to ensure that they remain current and

relevant to meet the trends, developments and challenges facing the APEC port industry as well as the evolution of the Organization.

APSN Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023

11. The Council agreed that the APSN Strategic Plan is important to setting the direction of the organization and at the next Council Meeting, a new Strategic Plan will need to be adopted for 2019-2023 reflecting the APSN's revised Mandate and Constitution.

2017 Highlights of Progress on APSN's Work

12. In 2017, the APSN has made tangible progress in terms of its annual workshop, GPAS program, Maritime Silk Road Port International Cooperation Forum, and the APSN Advisory Board and the APEC Port Development Report and Newsletters.

Workshop on Restructuring of Shipping and Port Industry: Trends and Challenges

13. The APSN Workshop on "Restructuring of Shipping and Port Industry: Trends and Challenges" was held successfully on August 15-16, 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. The workshop is hosted by APSN, and co-hosted by Vietnam Maritime Administration. More than 100 participants from 13 APEC member economies attended the workshop.

14. Experts from Viet Nam Maritime Administration, China Waterborne Transport Research Institute (WTI), the Association of Canadian Port Authorities, Maersk China, COSCO SHIPPING Ports Limited, Maritime Administration of U.S. Department of Transportation, Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd., Port of Everett, Port Klang, Port Authority of Thailand, Vietnam Ports Association attended the workshop as speakers.

15. The workshop program featured presentations from the speakers above-mentioned who have distinguished themselves as experts on core issues and topics that affect maritime transport, including the global trends of development of port and shipping, Mega Vessel's impact on port and shipping, the restructuring of shipping lines and port, port connectivity, the strategy of port development, and port competition and cooperation, which are being discussed today in various global fora.

16. The shipping and port industry is faced with a great challenge in a down economy of the world and this year's Workshop provided a platform for port authorities, port operators, shipping companies and other stakeholders in the APEC region to exchange ideas and share views regarding the restructuring of the shipping and port industry so as to help cope with the new challenges in the new trends of the global shipping market.

Green Port Award System (GPAS)

17. The GPAS program was initiated by APSN in 2011 and after the successful pilot projects in 2014 and 2015, it was officially launched in 2016. During its inaugural year, seven ports from four APEC member economies were awarded the GPAS Award in 2016. The First APSN Green Port Awarding is a milestone for the development of APEC green ports, and will promote the sustainable development in green ports in the Asia-Pacific region as well as across the globe.

18. The GAPS application 2017 has started this January and port authorities and port operators in all APEC member economies are welcome to join in GPAS 2017. To date, eight ports from five APEC member economies have applied to join in the GPAS. The implementation of GPAS will not only benefit the individual port authorities or port operators for their profile and competitiveness, but also contribute to the green growth of the port industry in the APEC region as a whole.

Maritime Silk Road Port International Cooperation Forum

19. As an important sub-forum of Chinese Maritime Forum 2017, the Maritime Silk Road Port International Cooperation Forum (MPF 2017) was held on 11-12 July in Ningbo, China. As one of the major organizers, APSN invited experts from the Asia-Pacific region to attend and speak at the MPF 2017. In 2018, the APSN will continue to co-host the MPF 2018.

The APSN Advisory Board

20. To date, a total of 15 members of the Advisory Board have been nominated from 13 APSN

economies. The Advisory Board held its 6th meeting on August 17, 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. It plans to hold its 7th meeting in November 2018.

APEC Port Development Report and Newsletter

21. The APSN has published the Port Development Report 2016 on its website and will prepare the 2017 version for publication in 2018. The Secretariat has produced 2 more issues of quarterly newsletters in March and June and these are available on the APSN website.

APSN Action Plan in 2018

22. Building on the success and momentum of the accomplishments of the past 9 years, in 2018, the APSN will continue its efforts to promote the development of APEC port industry by fostering a more cohesive and cooperative partnership among APEC port and port-related industries and to encourage capacity-building and information sharing.

APEC Port Connectivity Forum –Leading Event to Celebrate the 10th Anniversary

23. The next event to be organized by the APSN will be a forum on the very timely issue of “port connectivity”— one of the important connectivity in the APEC Connectivity Blueprint. In response to the APEC Connectivity Blueprint adopted by APEC member economies on 11 November 2014 to promote regional connectivity by 2025, the APSN is planning to organize a port development forum with the theme of “APEC Port Connectivity” in 2018 in Singapore, to bring the APEC region closer together by enhancing dialogue and cooperation, and promoting technical and personnel exchanges in the port and related sectors.

APSN GPAS 2018 and APSN GPAS Workshop

24. The APSN will continue its efforts in launching the GPAS 2018 and hosting the GPAS workshop next year to promote the green and sustainable development of the APEC port industry. The main objectives of this workshop or seminar are to introduce and share GPAS applicants’ best practices and seek experts’ views on strengthening the implementation of GPAS and thus to bridge the gap between expectations and practice.

APSN Study Center

25. The APSN will launch the APSN Study Center in 2018 in conjunction with the APEC Port Connectivity Forum and the next Council meeting, and it will greatly contribute to the common purpose of improving and bringing value to the APSN.

APSN Publications

26. In 2018, the APSN will release the following publications: *APEC Port Development Report 2017*, *Best Practices on APEC Green Ports*, *Best Practices in the Handling of Dangerous Goods in Ports*, and *APSN Quarterly Newsletters*.

27. In the short-term and the long-term, 2018 will prove to be both a busy and productive year and a remarkable and outstanding year for the APSN.