

## WELCOME ADDRESS

by Mr. LE CONG MINH  
Director General of Saigon Port  
at the Opening Ceremony of  
the 8th IAPH Asia Oceania Regional Meeting & Port Forum

01 February 2007, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

### *Honorable*

- Mr. Vuong Dinh Lam, Chairman of Vietnam Maritime Administration, representing the Minister of Transportation, Vietnam
- Mr. Nguyen Huu Tin, Vice Chairman, People's Committee of HCM City
- Mr. Thomas Kornegay, President of International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)
- Datin Paduka OC Phang, 1st Vice President of IAPH
- Dr. Satoshi Inoue, Secretary General of IAPH
- Mr. Duong Chi Dung, acting Chairman President of Vietnam National Shipping Lines (Vinalines)

### *Distinguished Guests*

*Distinguished Delegates*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

On behalf of the Host Saigon Port, it is my great pleasure to extend my warmest welcome to our distinguished guests, IAPH officials and delegates to the Opening of the 8th IAPH Asia Oceania Regional Meeting & Port Forum in HCM City, Vietnam.

The presence in large number of delegates from distanced areas to this IAPH event in Vietnam is indeed the special consideration and great effort that you have reserved for this IAPH Event hosted by Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City and for which we are very much appreciated and grateful.

Our meeting is being honored by the presence of Government officials from the Transport Ministry, Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, officials from Vinamarine, Vinalines and city departments and other organization who has spared time to attend and officiate this 8th IAPH Asia Oceania Regional Meeting and Port Forum. On behalf of the Organizer and all participants, I would like to express our sincere thanks and highest appreciation for the consideration and support extended to the Organizer as well as to the International Association of Ports and Harbors to conduct successfully the event in Vietnam.

Our sincere thanks to the top officials of IAPH with the presence of Mr. Thomas Kornegay, President of IAPH, Datin Paduka OC Phang, First President of IAPH, Dr. Satoshi Inoue, Secretary General of IAPH and officials, delegates who are government officials, business executives from various countries for traveling a long way to be with us today.

Our thanks to the forum speakers for sharing and contributing your knowledge and experience for the advancement of the world port community; our thanks to the sponsors such the Vietnam Seaports Association, Shippingtimes magazine, Navis International and other organizations for the effective support to facilitate the organization of the world port event in Vietnam. Our thanks to the forum delegates for

traveling a long distance and overcome certain difficulties and formalities to participate in this event.

*Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:*

Saigon Port is the only member port in Vietnam having joined the IAPH for more than 10 years and this is the first time Saigon Port had the privilege to host the 8th IAPH Asia Oceania Regional Meeting & Port Forum as suggested by the IAPH regional Chairman. This is an honor and challenge for Saigon Port during the period when we have to undertake major changes in master planning and in preparation for the new port development and relocation.

Once again we would like to thank Datin Paduka OC Phang, the First Vice President of IAPH, Dr. Satoshie Inoue, IAPH Secretary General, Capt. Subramaniam, Permanent Secretary of IAPH Asia Oceania regional office for the effective guidance and support during the preparation for the event.

For us as the host and organizer, the meaning and importance of all the above mentioned support and contribution should give concrete results in which we recognized the role and responsibility of the Organizer in providing the best conditions for the successful execution of the 8th IAPH Asia Oceania Regional Meeting & Port Forum and the various demand of the participants. With limited resources and experience, we would appreciate your understanding for certain shortcomings which we might have during the whole period of the event.

*Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:*

As usual, we would propose the delegates to also make some spare time to participate in the organized activities, to experience the sight and sound of the City. The noisy but friendly Ho Chi Minh City, I believe, would give you more pleasant souvenirs about the country and people of Vietnam.

Again, on behalf of the host Saigon Port, we wish to thank our distinguished guests and delegates and participants to this Ceremony, our best wish of success to the port forum and to Mr. Thomas Kornegay, Datin Paduka OC Phang and other IAPH officials and delegates also great success in conducting the 8th IAPH Asia Oceania Regional Meeting in HCMC, and in meeting the requirements for a dynamic and sustainable development of the member ports.

To distinguished guests and delegates, our wishes of very good health, happiness and enjoyable stay in HCM City.

Thank you for your attention.