TIPC Safeguarded Taiwan Ports by Taking Comprehensive Preventive Measures Against COVID-19

The Taiwan International Ports Corporation (TIPC) has been making every effort to prevent new cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) at the border through vigorous checks of inbound ship passengers and crew. Furthermore, the emergency response team established by TIPC on January 22nd has been tasked with coordinating response measures to any outbreak of serious pneumonia symptoms at one or more of Taiwan ports.

To prevent further infection of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Taiwan government has immediately taken action to ban all international cruise ships calling at ports of Taiwan starting since February 6, 2020.

With regard to the health of commercial vessel crews, TIPC’s VTS assistance service transmits hourly information on virus prevention in both Chinese and English to shipboard AIS transceivers, and TIPC asks each ship to radio in any reports of health issues onboard. Moreover, shipping agents are reminded during daily berth assignment briefings to regularly encourage vessel crew to self-report abnormal health symptoms and to maintain consistently high levels of health management.

Upon arrival in port, every captain must submit a signed maritime declaration of health to their agent for forwarding to Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (TCDC). All issues of health-related discomfort among the crew included in this or other documents are forwarded by shipping agents to TCDC.

TIPC has stressed that the danger of this coronavirus outbreak is to be fought as diligently as any preventive war, and stands on the front lines and is bringing the latest and most effective techniques to the fight. In addition to TIPC’s emergency response team keeping close tabs on arriving passengers and crew at all of Taiwan’s international commercial ports, senior officials at each TIPC subsidiary company have stepped up supervision of frontline staff to ensure the highest standards of virus prevention and control and to prevent new cases of this and other viruses from arriving in Taiwan by sea.