



International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH)

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Resolution on Ports Preparing for Economic Recovery

adopted on May 28th 2009 at the 26th IAPH World Ports Conference, Genoa, Italy

Whereas, the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) is concerned that the world economy has been suffering a global-scale recession since September 2008, resulting in significant downturn of the world trade and hitting hard most ports around the world, who may be facing a 20-30% decline of throughput as compared with the same period of the previous year;

Whereas, IAPH recognizes that it was only a year ago that ports were extremely congested all over the world due to insufficient capacities to handle ever growing cargo volumes and passenger numbers as well as increasing ship sizes, making it difficult, despite tremendous efforts of the world port community, to keep up with maritime demands especially container traffic increasing by more than 10% annually over the last decade;

Whereas, ports require years and often decades to develop terminals, channels and other basic infrastructure, and unless ports continue their farsighted efforts to prepare for recovery of the world economy, they will be too late to cope with the demand once the economy which relies on global logistics network rebounds;

Whereas, ports should play a critical role as an economic engine of local and regional communities, creating significant jobs and economic opportunities, thereby growing and strengthening port cities and communities, and providing industries with efficient access to worldwide markets, thereby making them more competitive in the global economy;

The members, on a proposal duly seconded, unanimously resolved that:

- IAPH urges the world's ports, though in the midst of economic difficulties, to move ahead with continued investments to improve productivity and expand capacity.
- IAPH urges governments to provide sufficient funds to assist ports to continue with necessary investments with a view to accelerating economic recovery and preparing for growth of the world trade.
- IAPH urges the world community to assist ports in developing countries through financial and technical cooperation where fundamental resources are always scarce.