



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PORTS AND HARBORS (IAPH)

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World Ports Come United In Its Fight Against Global Warming

Over 50 ports in the world gathered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 9-11 July 2008 to show their commitment to fighting global warming at the C40 World Ports Climate Conference. C40 is a world alliance of large cities dedicated to the issue of global warming. The Conference was organized by the Port of Rotterdam and the Rotterdam Climate Initiative and under the support of the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH).

IAPH provided its full support to the organization of this conference by encouraging its members to take part in it, in accordance with its "Resolution on a world wide approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in ports" (<http://www.iaphworldports.org/newsletter/DunkirkResolutionWorldPortClimate.pdf>) adopted at its Mid-term Board Meeting, Dunkirk, France, 16 April 2008.

At the opening session, IMO Secretary General Efthimos Mitropoulos made a keynote address following the Conference Chairman Ruud Lubbers, former prime minister of the Netherlands. The Conference discussed a range of ways to improve air quality and reduce green house gas emissions in ports, covering those for ocean-going shipping, terminal operations, logistics chain, as well as new technology of biomass and carbon capture and storage.

At the closing session taking place on 11 July, the Conference adopted the World Ports Climate Declaration (<http://wpccrotterdam.com/usr-data/general/Declaration.pdf>), in which the attending ports proactively committed themselves to reduce CO2 emissions and improve port air quality by developing and implementing their integrated programs.

IAPH will continue to support the cause of this conference and take a leading role in promoting the agreed actions. In November 2008 a follow-up meeting will take place in the port city of Los Angeles to work out the details of action programs.

At the closing ceremony moderated by former IAPH President Pieter Struijs, the Conference Director, IAPH President O.C. Phang urged the world port community to take action without delay, stating that the WPCC was the first important step and we require a worldwide and sustained approach to successfully contribute to abatement of the global warming. To this end, she made it clear that IAPH was committed to take a lead in the world's ports endeavors to tackle this critical global issue. She also called for a close collaboration with IMO and other international bodies, regional ports associations such as AAPA and ESPO, and C40 leading ports.

In his video message to the audience, former US President Clinton congratulated the success of the conference and expressed supports of his Clinton Climate Initiative to green challenges of the world's ports under the global leadership of IAPH.

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For inquiry and information, please contact us at info@iaphworldports.org or call us at +81-3-5403-2770.

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The International Association of Ports & Harbors (IAPH) is the global alliance of ports around the world. Established in 1955 as an international Non-Governmental Organization, IAPH represents today some 220 ports and 130 port-related companies and institutes of about 90 countries. Member ports all together handle 90% of the world container traffic and over 60% of the world maritime trade. IAPH tackles through Technical Committees a wide range of key issues facing the world port industry. Granted a Consultative NGO Status from UN agencies, IAPH also plays an active role in developing international frameworks for global issues related to maritime and trade activity.