

**Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)  
45th Meeting of the Transportation Working Group**  
Opening Plenary – 23 April 2018, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Update Report on the APEC Port Services Network (APSN)

**Current Status:**

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*Organization*

1. 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, etc. The APSN also provides a unique channel for dialogue between industry and competent authorities on various issues of common interest.
2. 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; Russian Federation; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States of America; and Vietnam.
3. The 10th meeting of the APSN Council took place in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam on 17-18 August 2017. The Council elected on this occasion Mr. Tan Cheng Peng (Singapore) as its First Vice President. The current Acting President is Mr. Marc Yves Bertin (Canada).

*Council Membership Nomination*

4. There are three APEC economies that have not yet nominated a Council Member (Brunei Darussalam, Chile and Mexico) and hopefully this report will provide a timely and useful reference for them to reflect on their position, taking into account the unanimous agreement of APEC Leaders at their meeting in Hanoi in 2006, to request the Transportation Working Group to establish the APSN. All possible efforts are being made to increase that number of economies to 21 in order to obtain full representation of the Asia-Pacific region in the APSN.

**Activities of the APSN:**

*APSN Workshop on “Restructuring of Shipping and Port Industry: Trends and Challenges”*

5. The APSN organized this Workshop in conjunction with the 10th annual APSN Council meeting held on 15-18 August 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. More than 100 participants from 13 APEC member economies attended the workshop.
6. Dr. Bui Thien Thu, Deputy Administrator of VINAMARINE delivered a keynote speech on “the Challenges of Viet Nam Shipping and Port Industry”, and Dr. Geraldine Knatz, APSN Senior Consultant/Professor of University of Southern California, Former President of IAPH, Former Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, made a keynote speech on “Restructuring of Shipping and Port Industry: Trends and Challenges”.

7. Eminent speakers from VINAMARINE; China Waterborne Transport Research Institute (WTI); Maersk China; Korea Maritime Institute; Drewry Shipping Consultants Ltd.; Port of Everett; Maritime Administration of U.S. Department of Transportation; Jurong Port; COSCO SHIPPING Ports Limited; Port Klang; Port Authority of Thailand; Vietnam Ports Association; and the Association of Canadian Port Authorities delivered excellent presentations on the restructuring of port industry, the Shipping Alliance, and the Mega ship's influence on ports. All presentations from the Workshop are available on the APSN website (<http://www.apecpsn.org/>) for access by APSN members and the general public.
8. The Workshop provided a timely opportunity for representatives of various sectors to share views and exchange ideas regarding the restructuring of shipping and port Industry: trends and challenges. Starting with the valuable contribution of all presenters and participants at the Workshop, its successful outcome would not have been possible without the excellent leadership of the Viet Nam authorities hosting this event.

*Co-organizing the 3rd Maritime Silk Road Port International Cooperation Forum*

9. The Maritime Silk Road Port International Cooperation Forum (MPF 2017) was successfully held on 11-12 July in Ningbo, China, as an important sub-forum of Chinese Maritime Forum 2017. As one of the major organizers, the APSN invited experts from Asia-Pacific region to attend and/or speak the MPF 2017 and made a presentation at this forum to promote APSN and GPAS.

*APSN Green Port Award System (GPAS)*

10. The GPAS program is a green evaluation system for ports in the APEC region developed by the APSN. APSN initiated the GPAS concept in 2011 and conducted two rounds of pilot programs from 2014 to 2015. With the approval of the APSN Council, GPAS was officially launched in 2016. Since the launch of the GPAS, the full support provided by China, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Singapore and Thailand to APSN in its implementation of GPAS is much appreciated.
11. In line with the *Action Plan for 2017*, the APSN Secretariat initiated the GPAS 2017 and with the evaluation of the GPAS Expert Committee and the approval of the APSN Council, seven applicants were awarded the APSN Green Port, including:
  - Bintulu Port, Malaysia
  - Chiwan Container Terminal Co., Ltd, China
  - Johor Port Authority, Malaysia
  - Port of Batangas, The Philippines
  - PSA Singapore, Singapore
  - Shekou Container Terminals Ltd, China
  - Tan Cang Cat Lai Port, Viet Nam
12. 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 as a whole in APEC region. 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.

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13. The GPAS application 2018 has started this January and port authorities and port operators in all APEC member economies are welcome to join in GPAS 2018. Both 2017 and 2018 GPAS Award Winners will be invited to a special ceremony to receive their GPAS Award, which is one of key activities of the 10th anniversary celebration.
  14. The APSN planned a GPAS Workshop which will be held on April 17-18, 2018 in Beijing, China. About 100 participants from 11 APEC member economies and Belgium are now registered. The Workshop will introduce the GPAS, analyze the evaluation indicator system, share the best practices of the green ports and green technology in port industry. Distinguished speakers and panelists including Green Marine, MPA of Singapore; Port Authority of Thailand; KMI of Korea; Antwerp Port Authority; Port Klang of Malaysia; Jurong Port of Singapore; Port of Ningbo-Zhoushan of China; Saigon New Port of Viet Nam; Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Vrije Universiteit Brussel will make presentations. This workshop will be significant to promote the GPAS in the APEC region. The results of this workshop will be updated before the 45<sup>th</sup> TPTWG Meeting.

*APSN Port Connectivity Forum and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

15. The year of 2018 witnesses the 10th anniversary of the inauguration session of the APSN, and in order to mark this milestone, the APSN has decided to host the Port Connectivity Forum to celebrate its 10th anniversary and hence the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony will be part of the Forum schedule.
16. The Port Connectivity Forum will take place on 15-16 November in Singapore, with a theme of “*Port Connectivity: Positioning Asia-Pacific Ports for the Future*”. Port Connectivity is high on APSN’s agenda as a long term strategic direction stipulated in APSN’s Five-Year Plan. Over the past five years, the APSN has hosted three workshops on port and supply chain connectivity to promote port and supply chain connectivity and the economic integration of the APEC region. In 2018, in response to the APEC Connectivity Blueprint, the APSN will organize the Port Connectivity Forum with an aim to bring the APEC region closer together by enhancing dialogue and cooperation, and promoting technical exchanges in the port and related sectors.
17. The Forum program features presentations by speakers and panelists who have distinguished themselves as experts on core issues and topics related to the restructuring of the port and shipping industry, including but not limited to: Supply Chain Connectivity: Trends and Future Developments Rising to Future Challenges: Ports and Terminal Operators.
18. The Forum is intended to provide a platform for port authorities, port operators, shippers, carriers, researchers, users, e-commerce and other stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to exchange ideas and share views on trends and future developments of supply chain connectivity so as to help port and terminal operators cope with the future challenges. All APEC member economies are welcome to designate representatives to attend this Forum.
19. In the meantime, the Forum is the leading activity to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the highlights of its programme include:
  - APSN 10th Anniversary Contribution Awards Ceremony;
  - Inauguration of APSN Study Center;
  - 2017&2018 GPAS Award Ceremony

*The 11th Meeting of the APSN Council and the 7th Advisory Board Meeting*

20. The 11th Meeting of the APSN Council and the 7th Advisory Board Meeting will be held on 13-14 November 2018 in Singapore.

*APSN Advisory Board*

21. To date, a total of 15 members of the Advisory Board have been nominated from 12 APSN economies. The Advisory Board held its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting back to back with the 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting on August 17 in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

*APSN Port Development Report and Newsletter*

22. 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 3 more issues of quarterly newsletters between TPTWG 44 and now and these are available on the APSN website.

**Next Steps:**

23. The APSN will continue its promotional efforts to further increase the representation of the industry and reach a full coverage of the APEC Economies in the APSN Council. The APSN will continue to promote the Green Port Award System through various means and be well prepared for the upcoming Forum and the 11th Council Meeting in Singapore.

Submitted by

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