

98th Annual American Association of Ports Authorities Convention

Galveston, Texas 2009

**Remarks by Errol Douglas
Chairman-Elect, Caribbean Delegation**

**General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
St Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority**

Good Morning, Chairman, honourable government officials, other officials of the American Association of Port Authorities, distinguished fellow delegates, officials of the Port of Galveston, ladies and gentlemen; it's an honor and a privilege for me to bring greetings on behalf of the members of the Caribbean Delegation at this 98th AAPA Annual Convention. On their behalf, I express sincere appreciation to our host, the Port of Galveston and to the AAPA for such a warm welcome. The Caribbean, made up of many islands understands and appreciates the challenges of the natural elements and we would like to congratulate Port Director Steve Cernak and the people of Galveston for the resilience showed despite recent challenges with hurricanes. Your success in hosting this event, and in having the gateway for the great economic engine in the Port of Galveston, speaks to your commitment and tenacity for success and quality.

The Caribbean countries are accustomed to hurricanes, but the challenges in Galveston were of proportions that we have not seen at the Ports. I also bring greetings to you from the Government of the Federation of St Kitts and Nevis, and from the Board and Management of the St Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority in St Kitts. As port members of the AAPA we are all affected by the global recession and the continued economic challenges. It is our firm belief as a Caribbean delegation, that fostering partnerships with our colleagues is intrinsic to the future success of our host countries and individual ports.

May the great courage displayed by the Port of Galveston our host serve to bolster us as we are faced with many challenging decisions during our dialogue at this convention. Many are the challenges faced by member ports of the Caribbean, and we look forward to a rewarding and fruitful discussion at the Convention during the week. The island experience of Galveston coupled with the large warm Texan welcome is a great start to new and continued strategic relationships between our ports and we are pleased to be here to be associated with our colleagues in the Western Hemisphere.

Thank you all for attending and congratulations to the AAPA for their continued diligent leadership role in such critical economic times.