

**Responder: Agustin M. Diaz (Chairman Latin American Delegation)  
99<sup>th</sup> Convention AAPA in Halifax  
Date: September 21, 2010**

**It is my distinct pleasure to address you today on behalf of the Latin American Delegation. I have been privileged to be associated with AAPA for the last 16 years, having served as President of the Delegation on three different occasions as well as Chairman of the Board of AAPA in 2003 - 2004. Being in Halifax for the 99<sup>th</sup> AAPA Annual Convention is an extremely significant occasion for me. As the prelude to AAPA's centennial anniversary I can not imagine a better city to be visiting or port to be our host. I want to express my most sincere gratitude to the Port of Halifax for their generous and gracious hospitality, knowing that this year's convention will be very productive and fruitful to all attendees; and will thus be remembered for its excellence in addition to being the prelude of the centennial.**

**As we look forward to our second century we must continue to strengthen the ties and relationships between all our member ports throughout the Western Hemisphere. Increased and ongoing communication between our member ports augments business opportunities, while information and knowledge is shared and disseminated. This fosters greater integration and ultimately better governance. AAPA's leadership must be commended for their arduous and diligent work in bringing all the delegations together. The Latin American Delegation is most appreciative of our Chairman, Mike Leone from Boston, our President , Kurt Nagle, and the rest of the AAPA staff for their support and dedication.**

**Finally, I want to thank a dear friend who will be retiring this year, Ross Gaudreault, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Quebec Port Authority, for all the support that he has always granted the Latin American Delegation. His commitment to creating unity and commonality of purpose will be always remembered and appreciated by me and the Latin American members. Ross, mon ami pur la vie, as I always call him, we will miss you in your leadership roles within the Canadian Delegation and AAPA. We'll definitely miss you as well in the Latin American Delegation. We wish you all our very best!**

**Thank you very much.**