

## **DECLARATION OF ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA**

AAPA, The American Association of Port Authorities, is the alliance of leading ports in the Western Hemisphere, it protects and advances the common interests of its diverse members as they connect their communities with the global transportation system.

The AAPA, specifically the Latin-American Delegation, would like to extend their deepest gratitude to President Otto Perez Molina's Government and bureaucracy, as well as the The National Port Commission of Guatemala for their efforts and excellence in the organization of the XXI Latin American Congress of Ports, celebrated in Antigua Guatemala.

Concluding the Congress of April 12th, 2012, the AAPA Latin-American Delegation has great pleasure in submitting the following declaration of Guatemala:

### Whereas/ Seeing that:

The AAPA defends government policy that strengthens and expands opportunities for its members.

The AAPA supports the professional development of all sectors within port administration and operations.

The AAPA supports and promotes facilitating opportunities for its members to share knowledge and experiences.

The AAPA brings forth awareness about the vital economic role and impact seaports have on their communities.

With consideration to the discussion items presented at the XXI Latin American Congress of Ports in Antigua Guatemala, this delegation DECLARES:

- The need to strengthen and promote a public-private sector association with the objective of achieving the development of sustainable port authorities.
- To strengthen all the elements and mechanisms that comprise the supply chain and logistics for the purpose of bridging more connections and facilitating exterior trade.
- The importance of maintaining security within the chain of logistics as a basic element of trust so as to maintain efficient operation of our seaports.
- The continuation of professionalism with the help of the Latin American leadership through the education and training of all its members, as well as applying education from training programs to benefit seaports.
- The support for sustainable integration for cities and their seaports, advocating for a harmonious cohabitation, as well as the cooperative and collaborative

- relationship between the two, within the framework of a policy for corporate social responsibility.
- The need for a long-term national plan equipped with regional/provincial policies guaranteeing the development of Latin American ports, specific infrastructure needs, legal certainty, as well as establishing clear and concise rules that promote the competitiveness of international trade.
  - The unity of all the Latin American port leaders in alliance with the rest of the AAPA delegation leaders so as to come forth together before our countries' governments and present positions and proposals that contribute to the improvement and progress of our international system of trade.

Today, the 12th of April of 2012, in Antigua Guatemala, the welcoming city of the XXI Latin American Congress of Ports, the Latin American delegation of the AAPA, promises to work toward the implementation of each of these points, to defend the sustaining growth and development of each of our ports, and to continue assuring the delegation's role as an essential component in the creation of wealth, progress, and prosperity for all the people of the American Continent.