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AAPA and GETF Announce Kick-Off of the 2nd Port Environmental/Security Management System Assistance Project

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) and the Global Environment & Technology Foundation (GETF) proudly announce the initiation of the 2nd *Port Environmental/Security Management System (EMS/SMS) Assistance Project (2006-2008)*. Modeled after the success of 1st *Port EMS Assistance Project (2004-2005)*, this two year project will support nine public seaport authorities in developing and implementing management systems to address environmental and security issues. This collaborative learning format has helped forty-three local government entities, including eleven port authorities to date, realize substantial improvement in their environmental, economic, and security management performance.

Nine participants were chosen to participate in the two-year management system implementation, with approximately half of the participants focused upon environmental issues and half security, with each receiving training and technical assistance through a four-phased approach. Participants were selected based on top management involvement, organizational support, and the ability to share experiences with peers, similar entities and affiliated organizations. The official project Kick-Off Workshop will be hosted by the Port of Long Beach, California from February 28 – March 2, 2006. The diverse group of participants includes the following nine ports:

EMS Participants

- Corps of Engineers Sam Rayburn Project – Jasper, TX
- Maryland Port Administration – Baltimore, MD
- Port of Cleveland – Cleveland, OH
- Port of Everett – Everett, WA
- Port of Long Beach – Long Beach, CA

SMS Participants

- Port Authority of New York/New Jersey – New York, NY
- Port of Corpus Christi Authority – Corpus Christi, TX
- Port of Long Beach – Long Beach, CA
- Port of Portland – Portland, OR

The Port EMS/SMS Assistance Program is a partnership effort of AAPA, its members, and GETF, with participants cost-sharing the technical guidance and facilitation of the project. AAPA's Harbors, Navigation and Environment Committee recommended adoption of this project and the Committee will be involved in reviewing and coordinating activities over the two-year project period. This project advances the common commitment of AAPA and GETF to actively promote world-class performance in the public port sector through the adoption of continuous improvement management processes. The 1st *Port EMS Assistance Project*, which concluded in December 2005, was developed as part of the ongoing Sector Strategies Program (www.epa.gov/sectors) partnership with U.S. EPA's Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation.

An EMS is a set of management processes and procedures, based upon the ISO 14001 international standard, that allows an organization to analyze, control and improve the environmental consequences of its activities. Benefits experienced by similar organizations include improved overall environmental performance (including areas not currently regulated), expanded pollution prevention opportunities, improved compliance, and enhanced operational control and efficiency.

An SMS is a set of plan-do-check-act based processes, similar in general structure to an EMS, for managing Ports' security risks and legal requirements. This approach helps ports identify vulnerabilities, establish action plans and ensure continuous monitoring and measuring – all done in coordination with a Port's strategic objectives and legal requirements (e.g., Marine Transportation Act, 33 CFR).

The February 2006 Kick-Off Workshop will be the first of four 2 ½ day training sessions, over a two-year period, each marking the beginning of a specific phase in implementation. Participants will receive technical assistance and support through a combination of site visits, all hands and one-on-one technical assistance calls, as well as access to a virtual private office for document and information sharing. The initial workshop will provide an opportunity for the nine participants to gather together to learn more about the project, to develop new relationships, to share information, and to prepare for development and implementation activities.



GETF (www.getf.org) is a Virginia-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to building the infrastructure for sustainable development. A central component of GETF's mission is to promote the use management system approaches. Additional information is available at www.peercenter.net.



AAPA (www.aapa-ports.org), the alliance of leading ports in the Western Hemisphere, protects and advances the common interests of its diverse membership of public port authorities from throughout the Western Hemisphere as they connect their communities with the global transportation system.