

PORT OF LE HAVRE AUTHORITY



For Immediate Release

Agreement between the Organization of American States & the Inter-American Committee on Ports and Port of Le Havre Authority & SOGET on technical cooperation.

Washington D.C. – Septembre 29, 2008

The Organization of American States (OAS) through the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) signed today a technical cooperation agreement with Port of Le Havre Authority and SOGET.

The agreement will provide cooperation on four initial areas: training, technical assistance on logistics, events cooperation and exchange of information

According to **José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General** of the Organization of American States:

The Agreement will benefit greatly Member States by the diversification of port technology and know how, the development of training programs and opening specialized training opportunities at French ports, the access to the state of the arts in port automated systems, the exchange of best practices in port operations, cooperation on implementation of technical programs for the execution of activities in both hemispheres, the exchange of information and the promotion of ports in the European Hemisphere, among others.

The purpose of the Inter-American Committee on Ports is to serve as a permanent inter-American forum of the member states of the Organization, for the strengthening of hemispheric cooperation in the area of port-sector development and we are pleased to welcome a knowledgeable partner, stated **Carlos Callegos, Executive Secretary** of the Inter-American Committee on Ports. Port of Le Havre Authority has a strong track record in port development such as Port 2000 container terminal, training port officers from our Hemisphere for the last 20 years and a leading expert in Port Communities

According to **Jean Pierre Lecomte, Chairman of the Board** of the Port of Le Havre Authority:

“This agreement is a significant step in developing our mission of technical cooperation in the Americas. Port of Le Havre Authority has participated in more than 300 projects in

120 countries and trained more than 7500 Port officers from around the world through the IPER Institute “.

The agreement was signed by the Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. José Miguel Insulza, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Port of Le Havre Authority, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lecomte and the Chief Executive Officer of SOGET S.A., Mr. Jacques-Ritt. Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS has been presenting a summary of the agreement and the Inter-American Committee on Ports was represented by its Secretary, Mr. Carlos M. Gallegos.

Christian Leroux, Vice Chairman of Port of Le Havre Authority and President of UMEP, Port of Le Havre Trade, Professional and Labour organization mentioned that the agreement will create optimal conditions to drive the port economy in the Americas

The CIP has recently identify Logistics a key area for Port Development and we will be very honoured to support the CIP in this matter at a time where trade facilitation and security is on top of the agenda for everyone, stated **Jacques Ritt, Chief Executive Officer** of SOGET, a Port of Le Havre subsidiary.

About The Organization of American States

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) is a committee of the Inter-American Council on Integral Development (CIDI), established in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 1573 (XXVIII-O/98) of the General Assembly, and in accordance with Articles 93 and 77 of the Charter of the Organization of American States and Articles 5 and 15 of the Statutes of CIDI.

About Port of Authority of Le Havre

With a global traffic of nearly 80 millions tons in 2007, The Port of Le Havre is the 5th largest port in Europe in tons and the French leading port for foreign trade and containers, handling over 60% of the French market with 2.64 million TEUs. Due to the opening of new facilities dedicated to containers: « PORT 2000 », traffic increased 23.4% in 2007 compared to 2006. As a consultant providing technical assistance and training, the Port of Le Havre Authority has worked with many port communities around the world, such as Peru, Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, and Chile.

About SOGET

SOGET is a subsidiary of Le Havre Authority and public private partnership with the Port of Le Havre Community and French Customs. SOGET mission is to enable Port Authorities, Port Communities and Customs to facilitate and secure the global trade by providing Cargo Community Systems and services. SOGET is a recognized expert at World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, CAF, AFD and a founding member of the SEFACIL research institute on supply chain security and trade facilitation along Port of Le Havre Authority and University of Le Havre.

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