



Alliance of the Ports of Canada, the Caribbean,  
Latin America and the United States

## News Release

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## Commerce Dept., AAPA Sign Memorandum to Help Increase U.S. Exports

**Oakland, CA (July 19, 2011)** – Committing to work together to help increase U.S. exports, the American Association of Port Authorities ([AAPA](http://www.aapa-ports.org)) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) today signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) at the Port of Oakland. This historic MOI implementing the "Partnership with America's Seaports to Further the National Export Initiative" supports President Obama's goal of doubling exports announced during his State of the Union speech in 2010. Under the agreement, ITA and AAPA will partner to coordinate communications, idea exchanges, activities and services that assist U.S. businesses in exporting; and to increase awareness of the available services, trade missions, programs and overseas events that involve U.S. export opportunities.

Signatories to the MOI include the Honorable Francisco J. Sánchez, Under Secretary, International Trade Administration, United States Department of Commerce and AAPA President and CEO Kurt Nagle.

"AAPA and the Department of Commerce share a strong interest and commitment to increasing trading opportunities for U.S. products abroad," said Kurt Nagle, AAPA president and CEO. "We believe a collaborative approach between Commerce and America's seaports is the best way to ensure the success of this important national initiative."

Mr. Nagle emphasized that achieving the President's goal requires both helping our exporters and improving our transportation infrastructure. "As recognized by the Export Promotion Cabinet in their report to the

President on the NEI, we must improve our transportation infrastructure to fully realize the potential gains from the NEI and to sustain U.S. international competitiveness," said Mr. Nagle. "This partnership and investments in infrastructure will pave the way towards a prosperous future for all Americans."

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### **About AAPA**

Founded in 1912, AAPA today represents 160 of the leading seaport authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean and more than 300 sustaining and associate members, firms and individuals with an interest in seaports. As a critical link for access to the global marketplace, each year, Western Hemisphere seaports generate trillions of dollars of economic activity, support the employment of millions of people and, in 2008, imported and exported more than 7.8 billion tons of cargo, valued at \$8.6 trillion, including food, clothing, medicine, fuel and building materials, as well as consumer electronics and toys. The volume of cargo shipped by water is expected to dramatically increase by 2020 and the number of passengers traveling through our seaports will continue to grow. To meet these demands, the AAPA and its members are committed to keeping seaports navigable, secure and sustainable.



[Click here to find out more about AAPA's Awareness Initiative](#)

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