VIETNAM SEAPORTS ASOCIATION

**SECRETARIAT REPORT**

At the Annual Meeting 2018

September 20, 2018 – Cam Ranh City

Based on the program of activities for 2017-2018 as approved by the Annual Meeting 2017 in Da Nang City, the Secretariat has implemented last year activities with the results and evaluation given below. Further, based on the orientation and plan of actions for 2018-2019 as specified in the Report of the Executing Committee at the Annual Meeting 2018 in Da Nang City, the plan of activities and the budget for 2018-2019 have also been prepared for the opinions and decision of the Meeting.

1. ***Charter:*** the current Charter of the Association is the Charter as amended and promulgated by the Decision no. 132/QĐ-BNV of the Minister of Home Affairs on December 18, 2016. The provisions in the Charter allow entry of new membership including associated members who are not sea ports but have relationship and willingness to cooperation on a mutually beneficial manner with the Association. The approval of new member shall rest with the Standing Committee instead of the Executive Committee as previously specified. One new provision in the new Charter is that the representative of the member shall be decided by the member itself and not necessarily the legal representative of the member business entity.
2. ***Organization, personnel:*** On the organization of the Association, the 8th Term Executing Committee elected by the 8th Congress has 17 persons (2 more members as compared to the 7th Term) including the Chairman and 4 Vice Chairmen and the General Secretary. The VPA Secretariat became the internal organization of the Association and currently has 4 members from Saigon Port, Hai Phong Port, Ben Nghe Port and Saigon New Port. Under the general management of the Chairman, the VPA Office is staffed with 2 permanent employees and 1 part time employee working at the office space rented from Saigon Port. It is expected that once the Saigon Port head office is being relocated, the address of the Association will also be changed.
3. ***Member***: Currently the Association has 67 members who are sea port enterprises; including 24 state-own enterprises undergone equitization (38%), 10 JV enterprises with foreign investment, 6 private ports. Member ports relocated and terminated operations include Cat Lai Oil Terminal, Song Han 9 Terminal, Nguyen Van Troi Port. Member Ports having membership suspension due to various reasons include Saigon Petro Port, Cai Lan (CICT) Port, Dinh Vu PTSC Port.

 The new member joining the Association in 2017-2018 was:

* Hon Khoi Port of Khanh Hoa Salt Joint Stock Company

 Actually, most of the main seaports of Vietnam are already members of the Association. Nevertheless, considering the number of river terminals capable of receiving sea-going vessels and other entities having business relationship with sea ports, there are still a large number of potential new members, particularly associated members, to join the Association. In respect of cargo throughput, member ports are handling around 60% of country total volume in tonnage and about 90% of total container volume. Most of the remaining throughput include bulk, liquid cargo volume going through cement, fertilizer, clinker dedicated terminals, oil factories and off shore crude oil exploration output.

1. ***Membership fee***: to date, most (62/67) of member ports have contributed membership fee of 2018 based on the new membership fee scheme as proposed by the Standing Committee and approved by majority of member ports, though the fees are considered rather high for many member ports having encountered difficulties in business operations. Member ports have in fact trusted and supported the Association for its role and capability in contributing to the common cause of port development; by funding various activities of the Association, including to meet the commitment in international relations and to conduct many other concrete tasks in the best interest of member ports, to support the reform, development of the maritime subsector and the national economic development more effectively.
2. ***On the port management and operation efficiency***, in 2018, the VPA Office has started the collection of statistics for assessing the performance in handling of container and general cargoes and had received the responses of about 1/3 of the member ports. The initial encouraging results show that the productivity of the main ports of Vietnam, although not yet comparable to leading world ports, is higher than the world average productivity. Other interested findings were mentioned in the Executive Committee Report. In the near future, VPA shall solicit support from member ports in providing statistic information, practical experiences and insight for deeper assessment and recommendations on improvement of productivity, quality of port operations based on international performance indicators, and if possible, those indicators on green port, ICT application, ecommerce, 4.0 technology in port operation and business.
3. Activities of the VPA affiliates: Shipping Times Magazine had maintained its operations despite limited manpower. In the past, the magazine has obtained regular support by many member ports. However, to have better condition for development, the magazine would need additional support for more regular publication with more comprehensive and specialized contents to meet the demand of member ports and the maritime community at large.

 The VPA website has just been redesigned with new features and accessible using various devices including mobile phone. VPA office is planning further upgrades with additional information and applications providing more contents and services to member ports and the community.

1. ***Consulting and recommendation to the sector and State***

In recent years, the Ministry of Transportation and the Maritime Administration have had great effort to resolve issues arising from the market relating to sea ports. The VPA Office, together with member ports, has had many opinions, recommendations on different maritime legislative issues as requested, including:

* Port business operation requirements
* Increase the efficiency and competitiveness of the deep water ports
* Customs legislation in ports
* Resolution of overdue cargoes in ports
* Floor rates for port handling service and port charges
* Master planning of ICD and logistics services
* Mobilization of capital investment for logistic infrastructure development..
* Port development management body

In addition, other agencies such as Finance - Customs, Planning & Investment, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce (VCCI) and some local agencies have requested our opinions on other draft legal documents relating to port development master planning, business conditions, maritime trade, trade facilitation, economic integration following the international free trade agreements, conventions ratified or contemplated by Vietnam. In particular, the Government Office has recognized recommendations of the VPA regarding the development of port infrastructure, competitive market and has demanded VPA to actively participate in achieving the targets of the sector. In foreign relations, international economic integration, VPA has also obtained guidelines and approved annual plan of activities from the Party Central Agency for Foreign Relations.

It can be said that never before had there been continuous and extended effort in amending the legislation system in general and maritime legislation in particular by related agencies in recent time, with the consultative role of the associations. However, till now, many of the opinions, recommendations by VPA in general and by member ports in particular have not yet been considered and resolved on time by various reasons.

Based on the recommendations proposed by VPA in 2017 and additional opinions of some member ports, the VPA recommendations to relevant authorities on the occasion of the Annual Meeting this year are included in the Meeting document and to be submitted to relevant authorities.

1. ***International Integration***.

 This year, following the plan as approved by the Party Central Agency for Foreign Relations, VPA shall send delegations to APA meetings such as:

* The 39th APA Working Committee Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in September 2018 (5 delegates)
* The 13th APA Sports Meet - Technical Meeting hosted by Indonesia in JogJakarta in October, 2018
* The 44th APA Meeting in Singapore in November 2018

For the next year, in addition to the annual APA regular activities as above, it will be VPA turn to host the APA HRD Seminar in Vietnam and to participate in the 13th APA Sports Meet hosted by Indonesia by year end in Yojakarta. Indonesia was the overall champion of the 12th APA Sports Meet hosted by Vietnam in 2016 in HCMC. In preparation for this 13th APA Sports Meet, Indonesia shall host the Technical Committee Meeting also in JogJakarta in October 2018; at this meeting, VPA shall be required to register the games and categories to compete. Member ports having conditions are proposed to consider sending officials and athletes to participate; at least in such games as golf, tennis, badminton, table tennis and if possible marathon, futsal. At the 12th APA Sports Meets hosted by Vietnam in 2016 in HCMC, APA athletes had excellent performance and Vietnam was overall runner-up only after Indonesia.

 In addition, under the policy and guidelines of the Executive Committee, VPA shall have its international relations promoted and shall participate actively in cooperation, connectivity activities with the ports in APEC area to be well informed and to carry out the cooperation programs between the ports in Vietnam and those in the region and internationally under the Free Trade Agreements (FTA) frameworks.

1. ***Corporate social responsibility.***To date, corporate social responsibility of the Association has obtained full support from the Executive Committee and member ports and become the regular undertaking included in VPA plan of activities and annual budget. Beside the donation of 70 million VND to support the building of shelter for one poor household in the province of the host port this year, VPA together with the traditional sponsor Stinis have agreed to contribute 200 million VND to support 3 poor households of the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/dioxinand 3 poor households of the Association for the Blind of Cam Ranh City as arranged by Cam Ranh Port in contacting the Department of Labor – War Invalids and Social Affairs of Cam Ranh City for selection by consensus and certification.
2. Financial Report from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018 is presented in Annex 1. Followed by the separate book keeping Financial Report of Stinis Charity Fund as Annex 1b. Comparing to the Budget, the actual spending of the last fiscal year has large discrepancy in 2 items: firstly the provision for 800 million budget for hosting the 39th APA Working Committee was not used due to Cambodia acceptance to host instead; and secondly the provisions totaling nearly 300 million VND not utilized for carrying out new tasks envisaged by the Association. On the other hand, it should be well noted that the Association is much better off than other associations in conducting its activities thanks to the effective support and contribution of the member ports, the traditional sponsors and in particular the precious contribution of Stinis for the corporate social responsibility of the ports of Vietnam.
3. ***Budget for 2017-2018*** for the activities of the Association mentioned in the report of the Executing Committee is prepared as Annex 2 for the consideration and decision of the Meeting; in which, in addition to the budgets projected for the regular annual activities, there are provisional budgets for developing the new activities such as ICT applications, subject studies and particularly budget for implementing the works of the task groups under the direction of the responsible Executive Committee members.

In addition to the activities mentioned, we expect more participation of the Executing Committee and the member ports in the activities to be performed by VPA. It should be mentioned that until now, there have been many the functions, duties of the Association following the Charter are still pending due to lack of capacity and participation.

 In conclusion, with the above summarized presentation of the main activities to be conducted for next year together with the proposals by the Secretariat, we expect he Executing Committee and the Meeting to consider and give specific opinions and decisions. Member ports are also proposed to participate more actively in supporting the Secretariat to carry out successfully the plan of actions of the Association in the year to come with the objectives to meet the increasing demand and requirements of member ports.

On this occasion, the VPA Secretariat would like to thank the agencies, organizations and individuals within and outside the association for the trust and effective support extended to VPA Office to facilitate the execution of our duties and tasks in the past. We expect receiving the same in the future and together with more effective collaboration and cooperation.

Thank you and best wishes of good health to all and success to the Meeting./





