IPCSA welcomes Prince Rupert Port Authority as first North American member

The International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA) has welcomed its first member from North America – Prince Rupert Port Authority.

As one of Canada's leading ports, Prince Rupert is North America's largest, ice-free harbour and the closest west coast North American port to Asia, offering the shortest trans-Pacific route. It also has direct access to North America's heartlands by rail, an important advantage for many shippers.

The Port of Prince Rupert handled a record 24.1 million tonnes of cargo in 2017; this was a rise of 28% on 2016, and included a 26% increase in its intermodal container business as well as strong growth in dry bulk cargoes.

A recent study demonstrated the significant rise in economic benefits for British Columbia that have resulted from the increase in trade volumes through the Port of Prince Rupert's facilities over the past decade. An estimated CAN $35 billion of trade is shipped through the port annually, and the port generates more than $1 billion in economic activity in Northern British Columbia, with over 3,100 full-time jobs directly related to moving international trade.

Richard Morton, secretary general of IPCSA, said: "We are delighted to welcome our first member from North America – this is an exciting expansion of our membership and geographical reach. Prince Rupert Port Authority has clear ambitions to grow its volumes and increase visibility in the supply chain.

"Within IPCSA, we look forward to sharing and exchanging knowledge based on the experiences of members around the world. Meanwhile, IPCSA members look forward to learning more from Prince Rupert Port Authority's perspective.

"IPCSA continues to go from strength to strength, with a growing membership and wider geographical spread. As an association, we are representing its members at the highest levels, including through our consultative status at the International Maritime Organization and Special Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC."

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Notes to Editors:

IPCSA was originally founded as the European Port Community Systems Association in 2011, by six European-based PCS operators. It was relaunched in 2014 as an international association, reflecting its growing membership outside Europe .

Today, IPCSA's members operate across the world, exchanging electronic information at more than 100 sea and air ports, rail and inland waterways, and border crossing points. This equates to more than 350 million TEU and 7 billion tonnes of world trade a year, a reach of over 1 million users, and exchanging over 20 billion messages per annum.

IPCSA's membership provides representation in each of the five UN Regional Commission regions. This geographical reach enables it to address the needs of members on a regional as well as international basis.

IPCSA has consultative status at the International Maritime Organization and Special Consultative Status at UN ECOSOC, both providing an important platform for representing the needs of its members and its members' users at the highest level. IPCSA also takes part in international standards meetings including WCO, ISO, UN/CEFACT and IATA.For further information on this Press Release or on IPCSA, please contact Richard Morton, Secretary General of IPCSA.

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