Maritime collaboration in drive for data standardisation.

'True collaboration at its best' – that's how Richard Morton, secretary general of the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), describes the work by maritime NGOs to drive forward the standardisation of data at ISO level.

IPCSA is one of a group of maritime NGOs which are seeking to co-create a global digital ISO standard for the exchange of administrative and operational maritime data. Ensuring that vessels use harmonised data standards will ensure clear communication and open the door for improvements such as optimising port calls, reducing emissions and cutting berth waiting time.

The proposal is to work together to create a single, neutral technical standard under ISO Technical Committee 8 for administrative and operational data. The aim is for this Committee to continue the work on alignment of ISO 28005 to the IMO Compendium, assuming responsibility for defining the information exchange needs and application program interfaces (APIs) between ship and shore.

"IPCSA is delighted to be part of the global drive towards international standards and supporting international standard organisations," says Richard Morton. "IPCSA has formed its own task force for Just in Time/port call optimisation and its members are committed to supporting the development of international standards for all types of vessels. This IPCSA technical and collaboration work is being led jointly by IPCSA members from Portnet in Morocco and the Port of Rotterdam."

He adds: "IPCSA is looking forward to sharing our experience and knowledge of standards and data harmonisation. We are pleased that so many organisations have agreed to collaborate; this is true collaboration at its best."

• An invitation sent by NGO industry leaders Jeppe Skovbakke Juhl (BIMCO), Paul Goris (DryBulkTerminalsGroup), Jonathan Williams (FONASBA), Patrick Verhoeven (IAPH), Gregor Stevens (ICS), Paul Owen (IFSMA), Sabrina Delelis (IHMA), Richard Morton (IPCSA) and Ben van Scherpenzeel (ITPCO) puts forward the proposal to co-create a single- and neutral- supporting technical standard under ISO Technical Committee 8 for administrative and operational data. The aim is for this Committee is to continue the work on alignment of ISO 28005 to the IMO Compendium, assuming responsibility for defining the information exchange needs and application program interfaces (APIs) between ship and shore.

About IPCSA

IPCSA is an international association of sea and air port community operators, sea and air port authorities and single window operators that is recognised across the globe for providing advice and guidance on the electronic exchange of information across borders and throughout the whole supply chain.

This equates to the electronic exchange of information relating to more than 500 million TEU movements and 10 billion tonnes of cargo for air, sea and land transport – estimated to be in excess of 50 billion million exchanges every year.

IPCSA focuses on supporting and facilitating systems and innovations for Port Community System members and users, and promoting the use of international data standards in sea and air ports, at border crossings and via Single Window systems around the world. IPCSA is a recognised NGO with consultative status at UNECOSOC and IMO.

The PROTECT Group, part of the IPCSA family, develops and supports the electronic reporting required by authorities for vessels entering or leaving a port or port area. It maintains and develops EDI through the PROTECT Guide.

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