

Private Sector Declaration on Green Freight in Asia towards a Green Economy

To be announced on 6 December 2011

The efficient and reliable movement of goods and services is important in achieving sustainable development. While critical for economic growth, each of the main modes of freight – road, water, air, and rail – have impacts on the environment and society that need to be managed. Freight now accounts for 35% of the world's transport energy use, and is growing more rapidly than passenger transportation. Heavy-duty diesel vehicles are the biggest fuel consumers in Asia and account for the majority of air pollutant and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Asian transport and environment ministries called for improved freight efficiency as one of the sustainable transport goals under the Bangkok 2020 Declaration.

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that freight shippers, freight carriers, third-party logistics providers and industry associations are the key stakeholders in making the freight sector more sustainable, benefiting business, society and the environment.

We support the implementation of green freight programs and initiatives throughout Asia with a vision to help countries reduce fossil fuel dependency, improve air quality and minimize CO₂ emissions that contribute to climate change, whilst maintaining economic growth. Such programs can help the freight sector to: (a) become more competitive through reduced fuel costs; (b) improve on carbon accounting and reporting to clients; (c) enhance its reputation with public, customers and suppliers; and (d) provide input into the development of government freight policies and programs .

The success of green freight programs and initiatives can be ensured by:

- Defining clear objectives, scope, plan of action and timelines to introduce green freight programs
- Obtaining government endorsement and aligning programs with governmental policies
- Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach with defined roles and benefits for relevant stakeholders
- Establishing a clear governance structure and working mechanism, convened by a neutral body
- Creating and sharing success stories, best practices and knowledge
- Adopting consistent tools and methodologies for carbon measurement and reporting while ensuring data confidentiality
- Developing financial mechanisms and resources which support carriers to invest in cleaner technologies and strategies

We call on government agencies, international bodies, development banks and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the private sector to green the freight sector in Asia, and to ensure consistency between national programs across Asia as well as globally. We invite shippers, carriers, and third-party logistics providers to sign this open declaration.