

Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran  
Closing Remarks as Prepared  
2012 U.S.-Taiwan Sustainability Symposium:  
Creating Sustainable Cities and Promoting Sustainable Ports in the Asia Pacific  
Region  
December 12, 2012

It has been an honor for me to collaborate with Kaohsiung Environmental Protection Bureau, the American Institute in Taiwan, and our esteemed colleagues and partners of many years at Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration. I would like to thank all of you for joining us, and all of our panelists for sharing their time and expertise.

I believe I can speak for all of us when I say that our gathering has been a productive dialogue and exchange of experience and ideas to achieve and advance sustainability. We all share an objective to grow our economies and our businesses while maintaining and enhancing environmental quality, social responsibility, and public health.

As Mayor Chu Chen and Vice Mayor Liu presented yesterday, sustainable development is a top priority for many of us. We are thrilled to learn of her vision to make Kaohsiung a sustainable and resilient city; with plans to implement green transportation, protect wetlands, develop green spaces, and transform from an industrial to a greener economy. We are also impressed by the vision to create the Asian New Bay that integrates the marine port with economic growth, environmental sustainability, green living and community health.

Through this forum, we have learned of the current efforts that each of the stakeholders is taking to advance sustainability and the results that we are all achieving. We heard from the environmental agencies, the ports officials, the city management, the researchers and academics, the non- government organizations, and the domestic, as well as the international shipping lines. We have also learned that we are on the verge of the next evolution in technology and practices in the movement of goods. In this context, we have come together as friends and colleagues, to work together on the next set of solutions that are going to be so valuable as we implement the next evolution in the movement of goods.

As several of our speakers have stated, there is strength in numbers and consistency. Achieving consistency or common practices is especially important because the vessels that call on the ports in Asia Pacific, call at our ports in the United States and the Americas.

The amount of trade between Asia Pacific and the US and the Americas is tremendous and is only going to grow. Equally important, the shipping routes between Asia and the world, as one of our speakers stated, go through some of the

largest cities and populations in the world. Therefore, I am pleased that we have not only met with old friends but made new friends in Taiwan and this Region. Friends who also have a vision and commitment to achieving sustainability, such as Indonesia.

As most of our speakers have stated, it takes partnership and collaboration to achieve practical and cost effective solutions. We all must work together to develop solutions that are sustainable in the long term and help us achieve our objectives to grow, protect the environment, and the health of the populations affected by emissions along the shipping routes and port cities.

As we close the forum, I would like to congratulate all the stakeholders on all the current efforts, and leave you with some thoughts for our next steps going forward. Taiwan is in a unique position to become a leader and model in this region in marine port and vessel sustainability. The stakeholders are present and are committed to sustainability and we encourage the Taiwan authorities to work together creatively with industry and communities to achieve cost effective sustainability solutions for this sector. Kaohsiung's vision to become a sustainable city and achieve the new Asia Bay, presents a unique opportunity for Taiwan to develop and adopt the best possible sustainability practices, and achieve the economic, environmental and social results. Implemented successfully, Kaohsiung's vision, could become a model in this region.

Equally important, our US ports continue to advance their efforts on sustainability. We also plan to engage key stakeholders who were not able to join us this time. That is the shippers, the supply chains, and the beneficial cargo owners. As much progress as we are making, we can only achieve sustainability if we address the movement of good in a holistic manner—from production of goods to delivery to the consumer.

Therefore, it is our objective to continue to strengthen and expand this network of experts to facilitate this ongoing exchange of expertise and creative thinking. We count on your participation and I would like to invite all of you to join us in continuing this dialogue in the summer of 2013 in the United States. At that meeting we look forward to reporting developments and results since this meeting, bring in other partners, address additional topics, and discuss solutions to the ongoing challenges.

To conclude, I believe that we have built a solid foundation for collaboration in this forum and we look forward to seeing all of you in the US in the summer of 2013. Thank you.