



PRESS RELEASE

## **GS1 and APEC Model e-Port Network sign a Memorandum of Understanding boosting Sea Freight visibility efforts**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Brussels, 3 September:** The standardised exchange of data among stakeholders in the supply chain has the potential to transform trade in the APEC region with improved visibility and efficiencies. A key initiative aiming to enhance sea cargo visibility in APEC has taken a major step forward with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GS1 and APEC Model e-Port Network (APMEN) Operational Center. The agreement establishes the foundation for cooperation among the project partners for a second phase of APMEN Sea Freight Visibility Pilot Projects.

APEC has set targets to make supply chains more efficient and is working hand in hand with the private sector to reach their supply chain improvement targets under the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework Action Plan 2017- 2020 (SCFAP Phase II). Following this MOU between APMEN and GS1, the implementation of pilots will start in September 2019 including Shanghai and Xiamen port operators, APMEN AOC, 1-STOP and GS1 Australia, GS1 China and GS1 Hong Kong China, coordinated by GS1 Global.

Miguel Lopera, President & CEO of GS1 stated: *"This is great news as APEC's work to promote more efficient cross-border supply chains can now be supported by the use of GS1 standards. We view the strengthened cooperation with APMEN as a natural step in the evolution of how our standards system is leveraged in international trade. With a network of GS1 offices in 20 of the 21 APEC member economies, we are well placed to support the important work APEC is carrying out to improve efficiencies in cross-border supply chains and we look forward to working closely with APMEN on this initiative".*

The signing took place in Santiago, Chile, on 30 August and it was part of the 5th APEC Public-Private Dialogue on Advancing Trade Facilitation & Supply Chain Connectivity. The meeting was focusing on improving Sea Cargo visibility and Interoperability of single windows in the APEC region, among other things, and included updates on the overall progress to date of the development of APMEN Global Data Standards (GDS) pilot projects. At the event Shanghai E&P International, and 1-STOP also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Pilot Project of Sea Freight Visibility.

With GS1 EPCIS standards at the foundation of this initiative, this MOU also supports the ongoing APEC work of trialling and implementing GDS (Global Data Standards) in APEC supply chains. The piloting of GDS was first endorsed by APEC in the Beijing Leaders and Ministerial statements in 2014, and has since reached significant prominence and application in a range of APEC sub-fora including Committee on Trade and Investment, Life Science and Innovation Forum, and more recently in the ongoing work of APMEN.

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### **About APMEN**

The establishment of Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN) was officially announced in the 22<sup>nd</sup> APEC Leaders Meeting in Beijing in 2014, with the objective of enhancing connectivity among cargo

hubs in Asia Pacific to advance trade facilitation. At the same time it was announced that the Operational Center of APMEN (AOC) was to set up in Shanghai.

APMEN is managed and operated under a 3-level organizational structure: (1) APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (APEC CTI) is APMEN's overseer body. (2) APMEN Joint Operational Group (AJOG) serves as an APEC CTI ad-hoc working group, and is responsible for promoting and administering APMEN operation. (3) APMEN Operational Center (AOC) coordinates and undertakes the daily operational work of APMEN and runs APMEN in accordance with series of documents and strategies endorsed by APEC meetings. AOC encourages members of APMEN to explore pilot projects and propose solution studies in specific areas through APMEN.

## Contacts

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**About GS1** - GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation that develops and maintains the most widely used global standards for efficient business communication. We are best known for the barcode, named by the BBC as one of "the 50 things that made the world economy". GS1 standards improve the efficiency, safety and visibility of supply chains across physical and digital channels in 25 sectors. Our scale and reach – local Member Organisations in 114 countries, 1.5 million user companies and 6 billion transactions every day – help ensure that GS1 standards create a common language that supports systems and processes across the globe. Find out more at [www.gs1.org](http://www.gs1.org)

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