



Tessa Major

*International Business & Innovation Director at Porto do Açú
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Dear colleagues, customers, partners and friends from the Porto do Açú community

In these stressing times during which we hear so much about the coronavirus and its implications, we have luckily also been immensely inspired by signs of hope and unity. People and companies from different industries and nationalities are joining forces for a bigger cause: the **well-being** of our entire community.

Porto do Açú is a great port of international trade in Brazil, but above all, we are an essential player for community-building. Therefore, driven by one of our main core-values , **collaboration**, we have taken on a leadership role in the study and analysis of important measures in the fight against Covid-19 and are currently cooperating with a wide range of national and international partners. It is our absolute priority to ensure the health and safety of everyone while maintaining the port operational and this is why we've mapped out the operational challenges and applied solutions of several ports around the world. This exchange of best practices is intended to benchmark and improve where needed our own approach and has already been shared with a variety of ports in the region so they can do the same. After all, collective and collaborative action will be one of the key ingredients in staying safe and combating the spreading of the virus.

Leveraging and recognizing our efforts in this regard, Porto do Açú was invited to be **Chair of the Covid-19 task force** by the International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), aiming at analysing and managing the impacts of this virus on

the international port industry.

International Association of Ports and Harbours is a globally recognized and respected non-governmental and non-profit organization that represents more than 200 ports in approximately 90 countries worldwide. Its members represent more than 60% of the world's maritime movements and its mission is to promote the interests of ports worldwide throughout collaboration between members and the sharing of strategic information.

So therefore, after recently being elected vice-president of IAPH for South and Central America, on behalf of Porto do Açú, I will also be leading this initiative of IAPH. We will now be joining forces in this challenging journey with a dedicated group of engaged professionals, from different parts of the world and with a great diversity of ideas and experiences. Throughout this exchange with our partners we will be able to ensure **a continuously updated information flow** applicable for the constant improvement of all safety and preventative measures at Porto do Açú and within the community in which we operate. Moreover, we will be able to support other ports in making well based decisions within an adequate timeframe. The task force will be composed of various renown port specialists from all over the world such as Antwerp, Rotterdam, London, Felixstowe, Los Angeles, Guangzhou and Busan.

As we also plan to keep track of the economic implications, I am very pleased we will also be able to rely on the support of professors Theo Notteboom



(Universities of Shanghai, Ghent and Antwerp) and Thanos Pallis (University of the Aegean), two internationally renowned port economists.

Striving continuously for benefits to our employees, customers, suppliers, partners and the community is **a commitment of Porto do Açú** that can be unfolded into various initiatives and actions. We will keep moving forward, we will keep looking forward; together with you, our colleagues and friends; together with the logistics and maritime industry, together with our international friends & partners. Please count on me as I am counting on you towards resilience and togetherness during this particular journey, we stand together, we care together! Thank you for your continued commitment to our community and to Porto do Açú. #portodos

Click here to read the first version of the best practices benchmark that we've developed in partnership with 11 foreign ports from several continents all over of the world. Our partners are globally recognised as leading logistic gateways for their regions and based on their unique characteristics and stage in the Covid-19 curve, they will each contribute with different experiences and solutions.

Please also be sure to check out all updates and initiatives from Porto do Açú on our dedicated Covid-19 page.

For more info on IAPH's task force, you can visit the dedicated page on their World Ports Sustainability Program (WPSP) website called **'WORLD PORTS COVID19 INFORMATION PORTAL'**

Warm regards,

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