



# Gathering in Long Beach

## AAPA Convention Brings Port Delegates and Dollars to Town

Long Beach will be buzzing with seaport executives from throughout the Western Hemisphere in late September, when the Port of Long Beach hosts the 93rd Annual Convention of the American Association of Port Authorities.

The AAPA convention – to be held at the Long Beach Entertainment and Convention Center and the adjacent Hyatt Regency and Renaissance hotels – is expected to attract 1,000 to 1,200 seaport officials, engineering and security consultants, trade media and their guests during five days

of business meetings, technical tours and receptions.

The event will be good for the Long Beach economy. The Convention and Visitors' Bureau estimates that the convention will generate \$2.5 million in revenues – with most of that going to local hotels, restaurants, tourist attractions and shops that will be included in the five-day program of events.

The Hyatt and Renaissance hotels in downtown Long Beach expect to book

more than 2,500 room-nights for the conventioners, and both the Hyatt and Convention Center will cater breakfasts, luncheons and evening events for the hungry crowd.

"These are the kind of events that our hotels, restaurants and retail businesses rely upon for their existence, and these events

equate to tens of thousands of dollars in tax revenues for our city as well as jobs," said Steve Goodling, president and CEO of the Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Plus, research shows that out-of-town guests especially

enjoy shopping and dining while traveling. We appreciate the Port of Long Beach wanting to share our great city with their colleagues. Support such as this from local businesses and individuals gives our city a competitive edge for convention business."

### Western Hemisphere Delegates

AAPA delegates are expected to register from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, South America and all over the United States, said Yvonne Smith, director of communications



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“By coming together, we learn from one another, and we identify common solutions to some of these challenges. ”

Richard D. Steinke  
Port of Long Beach  
Executive Director, and  
former AAPA chairman



for the Port of Long Beach, who is managing the convention.

While in Long Beach, seaport officials will tour the Port of Long Beach and the adjacent Port of Los Angeles. Some delegates will view the port's on-dock rail yards and the Alameda Corridor from aboard vintage rail cars, provided by Pacific Harbor Line and Anacostia and Pacific Co., Inc.

Daily business sessions will explore common challenges facing the world's seaports – such as a need for higher security, and a desire for improved productivity and technology within shipping terminals. And with the growth in international trade impacting seaports throughout the United States, port officials will discuss common challenges that they face in protecting the environment and reducing roadway congestion, while handling ever-growing volumes of cargo.

### Common Solutions

"Most people think that the nation's seaports are all very competitive, but in reality, many of us are facing the same problems of burgeoning growth in light of skyrocketing import trade," said Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard D. Steinke, who is a former chairman of AAPA.

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from one another, and we identify common solutions to some of these challenges."

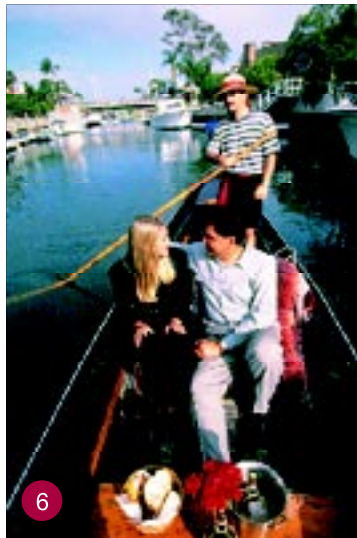
### Visiting Long Beach Sights

At the end of a long day of meetings, the seaport officials – and their guests – will have plenty of opportunities to sample the sights, sounds and flavor of Long Beach. Receptions are planned around Rainbow Lagoon, aboard the Queen Mary, and at the Aquarium of the Pacific for the final night's black-tie gala.

On one evening, guests will have a free "dine-around" night, and will be encouraged to dine at the plethora of restaurants now available along Pine Avenue, the Pike, Shoreline Village and Queensway Bay. Spouses will enjoy gondola rides in Naples, and will visit the Long Beach Museum of Art,

the Museum of Latin American Art, and shop in Belmont Shore and the Long Beach Market Place.

"Our goal is to make Long Beach a memorable experience for every delegate and every guest," Smith said. "These are high-level executives who have money to spend. We want them to return to Long Beach again in the future, and to tell their friends about us. We want them to know that Long Beach is not only an impressive seaport, but also a very impressive city with a lot to offer."



### Photo Captions:

1. The Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center will be a venue for this year's convention of the American Association of Port Authorities.
2. The colorful sights and sounds of Long Beach will be showcased during the AAPA convention.
3. Receptions are planned around downtown's Rainbow Harbor, at the Queen Mary and the Aquarium of the Pacific.
4. A "dine around" night will showcase restaurants on Pine Avenue and elsewhere in downtown Long Beach.
5. The Hyatt Regency is one of the host hotels for the AAPA convention.
6. Spouses will have the opportunity to enjoy a gondola ride in Naples.