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**BUSINESS WORKING GROUP JOINS PORT OF PALM BEACH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MANUEL ALMIRA FOR MEETING WITH CHINESE SISTER PORTS**

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – The Port of Palm Beach is bringing together a multi-entity senior management working group of top-level officials from Enterprise Florida, Palm Beach County’s Business Development Board and Tourist Development Council as well as the area’s intermodal logistic center developers, Florida Crystals and Treasure Coast Intermodal Campus.

What is planned to be a series of monthly meetings for the working group began Friday (July 1) at the Port of Palm Beach with more than a dozen senior management officials. The next meeting for the group is scheduled for August, and will be chaired by Port of Palm Beach Executive Director, Manuel Almira.

Institution of the meetings comes following the April visit of Thomas Voss, the liaison for the Chinese Ports, and acceptance of Sister Port Agreements with Yanti Port and Lianyungang Port by Chairman Wayne M. Richards of the Port of Palm District Board of Commissioners.

“I was pleased to be briefed that the meeting was so productive and that so many key management representatives participated,” Richards said. “The return of these meetings on a regular basis will be a great benefit to all the respective constituencies and will go a long way toward helping all who set policy to better understand how we can capitalize on the emerging global markets.”

Goals include:

- Cooperation between the ports and their respective countries that will allow the exchange of pertinent information about the cargo and cruise industries, developing port infrastructure and marketing research to increase traffic;
- Facilitation of mutual investment and business interests;
- Development of relevant educational and training programs;

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