

PRESS RELEASE

300 staff from international shipping terminal in Vietnam taught defensive driving techniques

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APM Terminals and AIP Foundation conducted truck driver road safety trainings at Cai Mep International Terminal (CMIT), which is located in the fast-growing market of Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province, Vietnam. The terminal neighbors National Highway 51, a notoriously dangerous roadway on which vulnerable users, such as motorcyclists and bicyclists, drive alongside heavy container and truck traffic. This new curriculum aims to make the CMIT-affiliated truck drivers, employees, and the community surrounding the international shipping port safe by promoting strong driving skills and defensive driving techniques. Three hundred truck drivers, health and safety staff, and sub-contractors from CMIT, a subsidiary of APM Terminals, attended the inaugural training.

“Some of the most dynamic and high-growth areas for our business are in low- and middle-income countries like Vietnam,” Kevin Furniss, Vice President of Health, Safety, Security, Environment and Sustainability, said. “As container throughput increases at CMIT, we are committed to equipping our drivers with the necessary skills to be safe on the road, contribute to our communities, and best facilitate global trade.”

In July and August 2016, AIP Foundation and APM Terminals conducted a baseline survey to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of truck drivers. The research spurred the development of this more comprehensive safety-training curriculum that covers issue areas such as drowsy driving. *Lifting Safety* will use these activities to build drivers’ capacities to be role models on the nation’s highways and in their communities.

“Like many of my fellow truck drivers, my family and I live close to the port,” Vo Tan Luc, a truck driver, said. “Improving my driving skills is going to help me keep myself and my wife, children, and coworkers’ families safe in our community.”

A Master Trainer’s Guide is being developed alongside the pilot trainings. APM Terminals and the Vietnamese government plan to expand the curriculum to other terminals in the country and internationally. Representatives from the National Traffic Safety Committee, Ministry of Transport, National Traffic Police, Ba Ria-Vung Tau Provincial Traffic Safety Committee, and traffic police attended the trainings.

“I highly appreciate this program for its remarkable results, and hopefully we can bring this meaningful work to other domestic terminals,” Mr. Tran Huu Minh, Deputy Chief of the National Traffic Safety Committee, said. “We expect our agencies to continue making positive changes so they can gain experience to help them implement similar road safety activities in the near future.”

“Vietnam’s road safety issues are unparalleled in many parts of the world and the country loses an estimated 3% of its annual GDP due to crashes,” Mirjam Sidik, CEO of AIP Foundation, said. “Equipping industrial truck drivers with the knowledge to act safely when behind the wheel is a critical step in alleviating these losses and promoting stronger growth in the country.”

APM Terminals, headquartered in The Netherlands, is an international terminal operator with facilities in 69 countries. The *Lifting Safety* program was launched in Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province in December 2016 during a road safety knowledge exchange between truck drivers and primary school students.

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About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. Since 1999, AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.aip-foundation.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

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