15 November 2019

<u>**Notice to Associations**</u>

Full implementation of Electronic Release Order for Import Container Release

To enhance the competitiveness of the Port of Hong Kong and to facilitate Hong Kong to become a Smart Port for future generation, Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association (HKCTOA) is delighted to announce the full implementation of Electronic Release Order (eRO) starting from 10 February 2020. Terminals will accept eRO for the release of import containers to truckers at their gatehouse in full scale.

The implementation of eRO is a digitisation initiative of HKCTOA to transform the import cargo workflow to paperless. It benefits all industry stakeholders including carriers, consignees, freight forwarders and truckers. HKCTOA members have started the trial run of eRO for import containers in January 2018. Having worked closely with stakeholders in the industry in the last two years, over 30,000 containers have been successfully released by eRO and majority of the shipping lines have already been offering the service to their stakeholders

During the trial period, HKCTOA has engaged OnePort to jointly collect views from the industry and requirements to enhance the system and its functions for providing fast, convenient and secured online exchange of import documents and instructions for paperless release of laden containers at container terminals.

With the industry's support, the trial run of eRO has proven to be successful. The processing time for the release of inbound containers has shortened from three days to couple of hours.

We hope to provide you an advance notice through this announcement in order to allow sufficient time for your members to prepare for this key step on HKCTOA's digitalisation roadmap, including registration with OnePort and familiarisation with the functionalities and workflow to get ready for the official launch.

With all the challenges the industry is facing and market demand for efficiency and visibility, HKCTOA will continue to collaborate with the industry to secure Hong Kong as a Smart Port, an international transshipment hub and a key gateway to China.

Members of HKCTOA include Asia Container Terminals, COSCO-HIT Terminals, Goodman DP World, Hongkong International Terminals, and Modern Terminals.