

2026

CIP MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS

OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN THE MARITIME AND PORT SECTORS

12TH EDITION



OEA | OAS



CIP

Inter-American
Committee on Ports



IPCSA

International Port
Community Systems
Association



North American Marine Environment Protection Association

NAMEPA



SLOM

Sociedad Latinoamericana de
Operadores de Terminales
Marítimo Petroleros y Monoboyas

2026 MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS

12TH EDITION

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING PORT MANAGEMENT

OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN THE MARITIME AND PORT SECTORS

The 2026 Maritime Award of the Americas includes the category Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors, organized by the Secretariat of the Inter American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States.

Now in its' 10th edition, the Award recognizes a female port and maritime professional who demonstrated dedication, leadership and innovation, empowering other women through significant achievements, as well as professional contributions for the development of the maritime and port sectors of the Americas.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

 **Jorge Durán**
Chief of the Secretariat

The CIP Secretariat proudly presents the 2026 Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors, with the purpose of recognizing and celebrating the exceptional achievements, leadership, and professional trajectories of women who have made significant contributions to the development of the port and maritime industry.

We extend our most sincere and heartfelt congratulations to the distinguished recipient of this year's edition for her exceptional achievements and meaningful contributions.

 **Mona Swoboda**
Program Manager

By acknowledging the vital role of women in port development and elevating their contributions to operational efficiency, we not only promote empowerment but also help shape a more competitive, inclusive, and modern port-maritime sector. In this spirit, we are honored to congratulate the 2026 Maritime Award of the Americas "Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors" for her outstanding achievements and lasting contributions to the advancement of the industry across the Americas.

2026 MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS

*A career built on overcoming
resistance & building resilience.*



OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN THE MARITIME AND PORT SECTORS

MICHELLE SCIPIO-HOSANG

VICE PRESIDENT, PORT AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL ENERGY CORPORATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

2026 MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS



Michelle Scipio-Hosang is Vice President, Port and Estate Management at National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited. With twenty-six years of progressive service at the organization, she leads one of its most operationally critical divisions, overseeing port operations, marine services, estate management, fleet management, regulatory compliance, and commercial strategy.

Her portfolio encompasses the management of six hazardous petrochemical terminals at the Point Lisas Harbor, through which over twelve million tons of methanol, ammonia, and urea are exported annually. She also manages the Port of Galeota, a specialized offshore energy logistics hub serving Trinidad and Tobago's upstream energy sector.

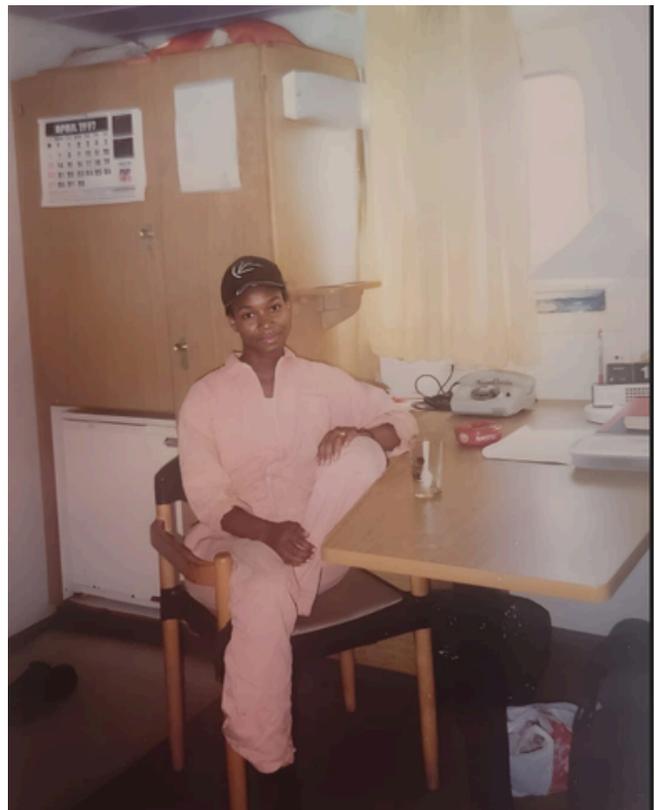
Michelle is responsible for a fleet of thirteen marine vessels — eleven tugboats supporting local and regional towage operations, and an offshore supply vessel operating domestically, regionally, and internationally. She oversees vessel acquisition, operational readiness, crew management, and strategic expansion.

She also oversees the Union Industrial Estate, comprising 336 hectares of developed land housing major downstream energy plants, along with HSSE, engineering, and project services. These facilities form a vital part of the national petrochemical value chain and require strict adherence to international standards.

Michelle leads a division of forty-nine shore-based professionals and approximately 120 seafarers. She is accountable for operational performance, safety oversight, asset integrity, commercial growth, and stakeholder coordination across government, energy companies, and international partners.

The scale and complexity of this role is significant. Her division operates continuously, twenty-four hours a day, supporting the uninterrupted movement of petrochemical products through nationally critical infrastructure. The operational environment encompasses harbor towage, offshore marine support, terminal management, port security, estate management, and environmental compliance — all under a single divisional leadership structure.

Her role requires balancing immediate operational demands with long-term strategic development across fleet modernization, environmental sustainability, commercial growth, and regulatory compliance. Operational demands with long-term strategic development across fleet modernization, environmental sustainability, commercial growth, and regulatory compliance — a breadth rarely consolidated under a single leadership position in the Caribbean maritime sector.



2026 MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS

Michelle is recognized as the first woman in Trinidad and Tobago to qualify and serve as a marine engineer. In 1997, she obtained a UK Class 2 Certificate of Competency as a Marine Engineer Officer and served as Second and Chief Engineer. In 2000, holding the chief engineer responsibility, she completed a continuous fourteen-month sea assignment — at a time when women were largely absent from operational technical roles — establishing her technical credibility and setting a national precedent.

When she joined National Energy in 2000 as Supervisor, Marine Operations, the company outsourced the management of its fleet, which comprised two tugs and two workboats. She was tasked with assuming management and growing the business.

Michelle's professional achievements span technical pioneering, operational leadership, and strategic growth within the maritime sector.

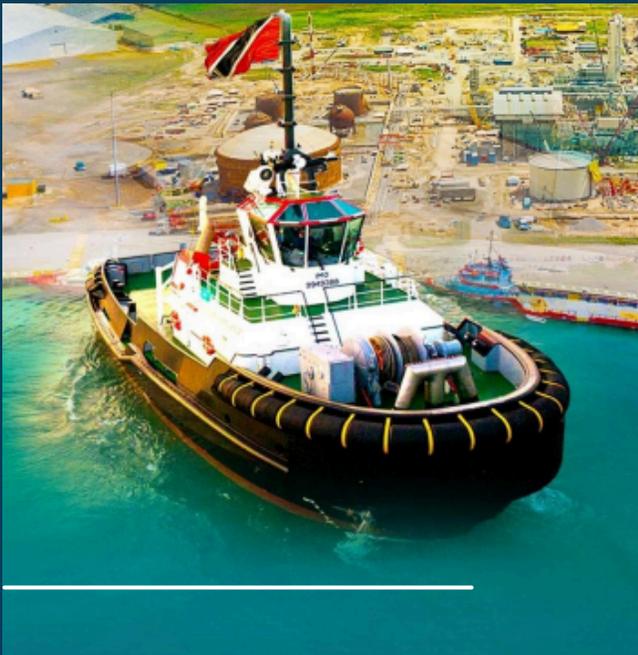
She led the transformation of National Energy's marine operations from a local harbor towage provider into the largest indigenous tug operator in Trinidad and Tobago and a competitive regional marine services provider.

Under her leadership, market share increased from approximately 25% to over 75%, with average monthly vessel calls reaching 384 in 2025. Revenue grew sixfold, from TT\$20 million to over TT\$120 million over two decades.

The fleet expanded to thirteen vessels, enabling diversification into regional towage and offshore marine support services for international energy operators including Shell, BP, TotalEnergies, EOG, BGP Offshore, and Petronas.

A defining milestone was the introduction of Trinidad and Tobago's first low-exhaust tug, National Energy Resilience, aligned with decarbonization objectives. Michelle directly oversaw acquisition, sea trials, verification of technical performance and commissioning. The fleet now includes three low-emission tugs, making it the only one of its kind in the country.

She also led the company's first transatlantic marine deployment, with the fast crew supply vessel National Energy Explorer sailing from Trinidad and Tobago to Angola to support international client operations.



This marked National Energy's entry into long-distance international marine support services and demonstrated the organization's ability to project operational capability beyond the Caribbean basin.

In 2024, Michelle established a Sustainability Council within her division to integrate ESG principles into divisional strategy and culture. This produced tangible results: the council's pilot project developed and implemented a Green Office Cleaning Solution for improved indoor air quality at the Port of Galeota, and the council now manages the port's GHG Reduction Plan and Green Port Certification initiatives. EcoPorts certification was achieved in August 2025.

Michelle has also demonstrated long-term commitment to mentorship, guiding a female cadet over a decade from entry-level to Chief Mate — a senior operational role — reflecting sustained investment in developing female maritime leaders.

“The only problem is that it’s a woman.” — Her supervisor’s words when she was hired. She got the job because she was the best candidate.



2026 MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS

She currently serves as Chairperson of the University of Trinidad and Tobago Maritime Advisory Council and is an active member of the Women in Maritime Association of the Caribbean, contributing to regional sector development.

For over fifteen years, she has supported the NGO Just Friends, coordinating fundraising initiatives to assist individuals facing serious medical challenges.

Within her division, approximately fifty percent of senior roles are held by women — the result of deliberate leadership decisions. Women are entrusted with major marine and infrastructure projects, they participate in high-level technical discussions, regulatory compliance matters, and marine construction initiatives, gaining practical experience in decision-making at an operational level.

Michelle's leadership philosophy is clear: women in the maritime industry must be positioned to deliver results that cannot be questioned or ignored. By assigning substantive responsibility rather than symbolic roles, she ensures they build the track record and visibility that drives career progression in a results-driven sector.

*A legacy defined by
creating the
conditions for others
to follow.*

2026 MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS

This publication has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports of the OAS based on the information received in the call for applications for the Award.

CIP Secretariat

Jorge Duran, Chief of the Secretariat
Mona Swoboda, Program Manager
Montserrat Ambriz, Program Manager
Sabina Malnis, Program Manager
Mónica Blanco, Projects Manager
Commander María de los Ángeles Salinas Pérez,
Advisor on Port Protection and Security

Editor

Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports

Design

Mónica Blanco, Projects Manager

Please note that the rights to the images belong to the winner.

Contact Us:



www.portalcip.org



cip@oas.org

