

2026 AAPA LATAM – CIP PORT INDUSTRY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

1. ABOUT

Ports contribute significantly to global development. As trade facilitators, they integrate the functions of supply chains such as services in logistics, information, and business. Per the International Maritime Organization (IMO), up to 90 percent of the world's trade is carried by sea. In the Americas, the impact of ports as industrial clusters is critical. In the region over 95% of exports are moved through ports, making them a significant driver of economic growth and prosperity, when facilitating trade in a sustainable, resilient, secure, and inclusive manner.

The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) LATAM and the Secretariat of Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States (OAS) recognize the importance of a competitive port industry for the economic and social development in the region. Committed to promoting integrated port development, the AAPA LATAM and CIP Secretariat have partnered for the 5th edition of the *Port Industry Award of Excellence* to honor ports in the Americas that demonstrate excellence in their operations and contribute to the economic and social prosperity of the societies in which they operate.

2. CATEGORIES

1. Technology and Innovation

For ports and/or terminals that integrate technology and innovative technological solutions into their operations to boost efficiency, increase competitiveness, and improve the quality of services.

2. Port Performance and Growth

For ports and/or terminals that improved their port performance and/or increased their trade volume with concrete and measurable positive operational and/or economic impacts.

3. Public-Private Partnerships

For ports and/or terminals that promote public-private strategic alliances with stakeholders from different entities or sectors for sustainable and efficient port development.

3. Eligibility

The Award is open to both public and private ports, terminals, and port operators in any of the [OAS-CIP Member States](#).

4. Evaluation Criteria

The Jury Committee will consider the following evaluation criteria, among others:

- Efficiency and capacity, verified through measurable indicators;
- Economic benefits and multiplying effects, for local and/or national economies;
- Competitiveness, through trade and supply chain facilitation;
- Cooperation and integration with port industry stakeholders to foster operational sustainability.

5. Jury Committee

The Jury Committee is comprised of representatives from:

- American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) LATAM;
- Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the OAS;
- Selected AAPA LATAM - CIP Subject Matter Experts.

6. Guidelines

Each entry must be submitted via the [online application form](#), including all informational documentation, including one (1) executive presentation (Power Point, max. 10 slides), with measurable indicators that demonstrate and verify impact; related documents, pictures and other graphic material that showcase impact; promotional material, if applicable, no later than **July 8th, 2026**. You will receive a confirmation of receipt within three (3) business days.

7. Evaluation Process

Each entry will be evaluated using the criteria outlined under item 4. The Jury Committee will recognize those submissions as winners that show measurable impact through *verifiable* indicators. Once the evaluation process is concluded, the winners will be notified directly. All winning institutions will be recognized and announced through official AAPA LATAM and CIP-OAS media outlets.

8. The Prize

Awardees will receive recognition throughout the Western Hemisphere through various communication and media channels, including the publication on AAPA LATAM and CIP-OAS websites. Importantly, they will be honored during the 2026 AAPA LATAM Annual Convention, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, December 1 – 4, 2026. Here, the winners, in addition to having the excellent opportunity to network with other industry leaders, will receive:

- ✓ Award Plaque;
- ✓ Participation *free of charge* of one (1) representative, as well as participation of one (1) representative at a 50% discount, to attend the 2026 AAPA LATAM Annual Convention (please note that attendees are responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses);
- ✓ Recognition at the Award Ceremony, December 2, held in the course of the Convention;
- ✓ Publication of the winning entries in the AAPA LATAM and CIP-OAS Newsletters;
- ✓ Hemispheric-wide recognition through all other AAPA LATAM and CIP-OAS media outlets.

9. Timetable

Call for Applications
May 6 – July 8, 2026
Winner's Announcement
July 30, 2026
Award Ceremony
December 2, 2026

10. Questions?

For any questions relating specifically to the Award, please contact Mona Swoboda, CIP Program Manager, mswoboda@oas.org and copy Mariana Granados, AAPA LATAM Program Manager, mariana.granados@aapalata.m.org