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Committee on Ports

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For immediate release

CIP Secretariat Honors Top Port Practices and Announces Outstanding Woman in Its 2026 Maritime Award

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States (OAS) promotes competitive, secure, sustainable, and inclusive ports that support efficient operations, environmental protection, and community prosperity. Since its launch in 2014, the CIP Maritime Award of the Americas is organized by the CIP Secretariat, in collaboration with strategic partners such as the Latin American Society of Marine Oil Terminal Operators and Single-Buoy Mooring (SLOM), the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), and the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

The CIP Maritime Award of the Americas is open to National Port Authorities, public and private ports, terminals, port operators, and maritime organizations from the 34 OAS-CIP Member States. It recognizes outstanding contributions in the Hemisphere's port and maritime sectors that exemplify excellence, innovation, leadership, sustainability, and replicability.

For its 12th edition, themed "Recognizing Outstanding Port Management," the Jury Committee received 30 high-caliber entries from eleven (11) countries across the Americas, all reflecting a strong commitment to operational excellence and regional port development.

Following a highly competitive evaluation, the winning entries of the CIP Maritime Award demonstrated strong, verifiable indicators, exceptional performance, and clearly achieved objectives across the following categories:

- Green Initiatives in Ports/Terminals: **Porto de São Francisco do Sul, Brazil**, is recognized for promoting impactful environmental sustainability and reducing the ecological footprint of port and terminal operations through sustainable dredging.
- Digital Transformation: **Barbados Port Inc. (BPI), Barbados**, is recognized for adopting digital technologies via its National Port Community System (PCS) to improve operational efficiency, transparency, sustainability, and competitiveness.
- Port Security and Risk Management: **The National Port Commission (CPN) Designated Authority, Guatemala**, is recognized for strengthening physical security, improving integrated risk management, and enhancing operational continuity in the face of emerging threats.

The CIP Maritime Award of the Americas also recognized **Michelle Scipio-Hosang, Vice President of Port & Estate Management at National Energy in Trinidad and Tobago**, as the *2026 Outstanding Woman in the Port and Maritime Sector* for her leadership, achievements, and contributions to the development of the port sector in Trinidad and Tobago and the region.



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Michelle Scipio-Hosang has built a 26-year career at National Energy, rising from technical marine roles to executive leadership and becoming the first woman in Trinidad and Tobago to qualify and serve as a marine engineer. As Vice President of Port and Estate Management, she oversees six hazardous terminals, a 13-vessel fleet, offshore support services, and regulatory compliance; operations that run 24/7 and underpin the nation's energy sector. Under her leadership, the company's towage market share grew from 25% to 75%, revenue increased from TT\$18 million to over TT\$160 million, and the fleet was modernized with low-emission vessels, aligning growth with environmental responsibility.

Michelle has also been a driving force for gender inclusion in a male-dominated industry. About 50% of senior roles in her division are held by women leading critical operations, and she has mentored female professionals from cadet to senior levels. Her leadership has strengthened operational performance, regulatory compliance, and sustainability, while creating real opportunities for women to lead in the maritime sector.

All awardees will receive recognition throughout the Western Hemisphere via various communication and media channels, including the publication on www.portalcip.org, and will be honored during the CIP 14th Regular Meeting, to be held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in June, 2026.

The CIP Secretariat wishes to thank all the institutions that participated in this edition of the Award for their important commitment to the port sector in the region and extend their most heartfelt congratulations to the winners for their outstanding accomplishments.

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About:

The OAS Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) is the only permanent inter-governmental forum that brings together the National Port Authorities of the 34 OAS Member Countries and leaders of the maritime-port industry to promote the development of a secure, competitive, sustainable, and inclusive sector in the Americas. The CIP works under four mandates and six priority areas, constantly monitoring the gaps in a continuously changing maritime and port sector to bring concrete results to regional matters and challenges. The CIP's Mandates are: Policy dialogue; Capacity building; Technical assistance; and Cooperation with the private sector. The CIP's six priority areas are: Logistics, Innovation, and Competitiveness; Port Protection and Security; Sustainable Port Management and Environmental Protection; Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation; Waterways, Inland and Cruise Ports; Port-City Relation, Social Responsibility and Gender Equality. For more information visit: www.portalcip.org