

OUTSTANDING WOMAN Maritime Award of the Americas 2023

"Integral Management for Port Sector Modernization in the Americas"



OAS | More rights
for more people



CIP | Inter-American
Committee on Ports



OAS | CIM



North American Marine Environment Protection Association

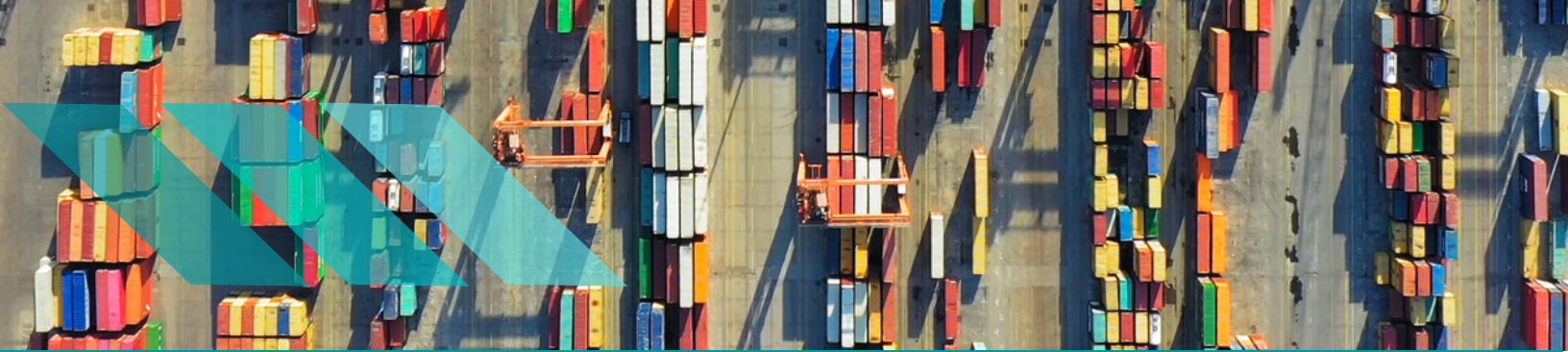
NAMEPA



SLOM
Sociedad Latinoamericana de
Operadores de Terminales
Marítimo Petroleros y Monoboyas



DEPARTMENT OF
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



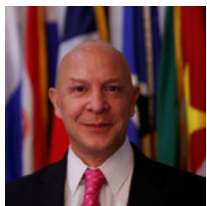
Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors 2023

7TH EDITION

The 2023 Maritime Award of the Americas includes the category Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors 2023, organized by the CIP Secretariat, in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States.

Now in its' 6th 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
Inter-American Committee on Ports

The 9th edition of the CIP/OAS Maritime Award of the Americas was designed to recognize successful practices carried out by public or private institutions that promote the modernization of the port and maritime sector in the region. Additionally, the CIP awards the Outstanding Women in the Port and Maritime Sector 2023, now in its 7th edition, with the sole purpose of recognizing the exceptional trajectory of women in the port sector. In this regard, we extend our most sincere congratulations to the winners of the Maritime Award of the Americas 2023.



Mona Swoboda
Program Manager
Inter-American Committee on Ports

The strategies that promote integral port management, including competitive digitalization, cyber security, sustainable port management, and empowerment and equality, among other aspects, are fundamental to the modernization of the maritime and port sector. In the same way, recognizing and making visible the fundamental role played by women in port development contributes significantly to the efficiency of the industry. Having received a record number of entries in this edition of the Award, it is an honor to congratulate our 2023 Maritime Award of the Americas winners for their invaluable contributions to the port and maritime sector in the Americas.

INDEX

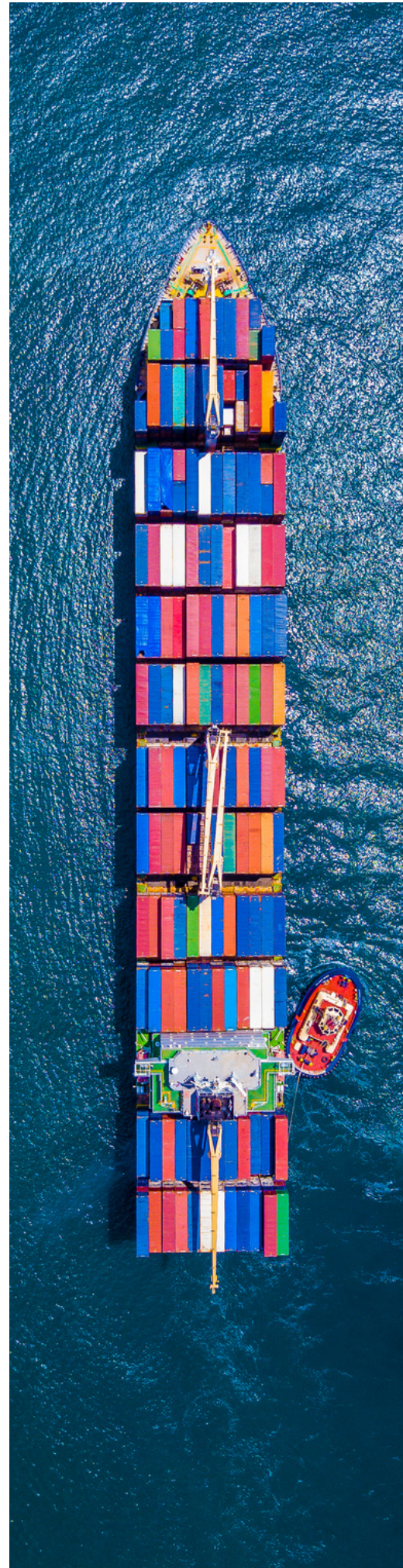
1

Outstanding Woman
Mervel Kotzebue-Fleur



5

Honorable Mention
Carla Monrabal



**OUTSTANDING WOMAN
IN THE MARITIME AND
PORT SECTORS 2023**

Mervel Kotzebue-Fleur
General Manager
DP World Paramaribo



"MRS. KOTZEBUE - FLEUR EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT TO ALL LEADERS AT DP WORLD PARAMARIBO ON EVERY LEVEL AND DEMONSTRATES THIS BEHAVIOR THROUGH LEADING BY EXAMPLE."

A professional portrait of Mervel Kotzebue-Fleur, a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark blazer over a white top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blue and white abstract graphic with circular and flowing shapes.

MERVEL KOTZEBUE-FLEUR

SURINAME

The contributions and track record of Mervel Kotzebue-Fleur, General Manager of DP World Paramaribo from 2017 to date, have contributed to the outstanding growth, development and management of her company.

Mervel Kotzebue-Fleur holds the position of General Manager at DP World Paramaribo and is responsible for the Business Unit Strategy as part of the Global Organization. Mervel ensures that the allocation of resources is optimal to maximize profits and oversees the day-to-day operations to ensure that the overall activities of the terminal are executed without delays. In this process Mervel directs, motivates and instructs all team members to act in accordance with the company's objectives and policies, while ensuring quality service to customers.

Mervel's professional achievements include:

- Establishment of DPWorld Logistics in Suriname in 2021.
- The establishment of the Cosco agency in Suriname in 2018.
- Supporting the creation of the CMA CGM agency in Guyana.
- Managing CMA CGM's presence in Suriname where it became market leader.
- Establishing the logistics and distribution of Coca-Cola's business in Suriname.

As a professional, she has made sure to lead in an inclusive way, driving the growth of women's careers at DP World. Mervel encourages women to actively participate in decision-making processes, allowing them to participate



in monthly meetings where they present their ideas and objectives to the management team. Mervel appointed the first female HSE supervisor within her company, and participates in DP World's mentoring programme, "Mentor Her", to foster the professional growth of young women.

Mervel believes that corporate responsibility should progressively improve and transform society. DP World Paramaribo's corporate responsibility not only includes environmental programs and industrial safety initiatives, but also incorporates financial support for organizations such as the "Hotline for Children and Youth", which creates awareness campaigns that seek to end the use of violence against Surinamese children. In 2018, DP World Paramaribo received the Social Responsibility Award from the Surinamese Business Association. The success of earning the award was based on Mervel's vision of not only making environmentalism a separate corporate strategy, but adapting sustainable initiatives to everyday work activities.

Mervel understands that innovation can come from any level of an organization. One of DP World Paramaribo's latest digital innovations was the implementation of a ticketing system, proposed and designed by an employee. Instead of solving problems by hiring external companies, she tries to innovate by developing the human capital present at DP World Paramaribo.

On 15 March 2023, Mervel attended the Best Container Port 2022 award ceremony organized by Havenbeheer Suriname Port Management, to receive the Ludlow Stewart award for the best multipurpose port in the Caribbean.



This award was received after a successful presentation based on the consolidated data provided by DP World Paramaribo and NV VSH Transport, the two container terminal operators at the port of Paramaribo. Mervel established a unique, partnership-based alliance with Surinamese Port Management, leading to improved overall performance of the Surinamese terminal.

Mervel was recently appointed as Vice President of the Surinamese Business Association (VSB). Mervel is the first female vice-president to be appointed in 72 years. During her term as Vice President, Mervel will actively work on improving business conditions in Suriname for existing and emerging entrepreneurs.

We are proud to present the first woman from Suriname to win the Outstanding Woman in the Port and Maritime Sector award.

HONORABLE MENTION

CARLA MONRABAL
PRESIDENT

CONSORCIO DE GESTIÓN DEL PUERTO DE DOCK SUD



Carla Monrabal is the president of the Consorcio Gestión de Puerto Dock Sud (CGPDS) since April 2020, the first woman in the history of Buenos Aires to preside over a port. She assumed the position in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. She is the first woman to preside a port in the Province of Buenos Aires and assume the presidency of the Consortium of Argentine Ports (CPA), from April 2022.

As the first woman to preside over a port, she considers that she has a double responsibility: to manage well and with fairness. For this reason, she is promoting the implementation of gender policies for the first time in the history of Argentinean ports.

She also seeks to strengthen the links between the port and the community. Thanks to this action, it was recently recognized at the Avellaneda Industry Expo and by Mujeres Maritimas for its performance in this sector.

Monrabal helped to transform the hydrocarbon polluting port to one which for the first time in Argentinean history remediates pollution and set up a process of foresight control (with the First Environmental Management Plan in 2023, and the Dredging with remediation project which is still ongoing). Thanks to this, it became the first Argentine port to certify the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with the 2030 Agenda set by the United Nations. The CGPDS developed an Environmental Management Plan and verified the calculation of the carbon footprint, a tool that measures the emission of greenhouse gases and their impact according to international standards.

In addition, in a great coordinated effort with the Municipality of Avellaneda and the Río Santiago Shipyard, "Formar para Trabajar" was created as a program of vocational training that aims to generate opportunities through courses that allows a greater labour insertion for women, to reduce gender gaps in the port environment. Thanks to "Formar para Trabajar", a group of graduates is already in the pre-selection process of different companies, thus fulfilling one of the major challenges of this action, which aims to generate skilled labour within the community of Avellaneda and promote new tools for women to expand their job opportunities.

From her position, Carla also promotes stronger connections with her community and continuous training through the Gender and Diversity Commission of the Port of Dock Sud, with the aim of raising awareness of equal opportunities.



OUTSTANDING WOMAN Maritime Award of the Americas 2023

"Integral Management for Port Sector Modernization in the Americas"



Image rights correspond to the winning women/institutions.

This publication has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports of the OAS.

CIP Secretariat

Jorge Duran, Chief of the CIP Secretariat
Mona Swoboda, Program Manager
Montserrat Ambriz, Program Coordinator
Sabina Malnis, Projects Manager
Mónica Blanco, Projects Manager

Editor

Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports

Assistant Editor

Lya Ayarza