

2026

CIP MARITIME AWARD OF THE AMERICAS

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING PORT MANAGEMENT

12TH EDITION



OEA | OAS



CIP

Inter-American
Committee on Ports



OAS | CIM



IPCSA
International Port
Community Systems
Association



North American Marine Environment Protection Association
NAMEPA



SLOM
Sociedad Latinoamericana de
Operadores de Terminales
Marítimo, Petroleros y Monoboyas



I. About

The port sector is key to socio-economic development, with around 95% of exports in Latin America and the Caribbean moving through ports. Recognizing their role in regional growth and competitiveness, the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States (OAS) promotes the development of competitive, secure, sustainable, and inclusive ports that operate efficiently, minimize environmental impact, and support local prosperity.

II. Objective

Launched in 2014, the **Maritime Award of the Americas** is organized by the CIP Secretariat, in collaboration with strategic partners such as the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), 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). It recognizes outstanding contributions and successful practices in the port sector of the Hemisphere that demonstrate excellence, innovation, leadership, sustainability, and replicability.

III. Categories

In this **12th edition**, the **Award** will honor winning entries for their positive contributions to the development of the port sector in the Americas, in **three main categories**, as well as the **2026 Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors** category.

1. Green Initiatives in Ports/Terminals

For successful practices that promote impactful environmental sustainability and reduce the ecological footprint of port and terminal operations.

For example: Use of renewable energy; waste reduction and recycling initiatives; smart environmental monitoring and emissions tracking; sensitization initiatives; educational programs; etc.

2. Digital Transformation

For successful practices in adopting digital technologies to improve operational efficiency, transparency, sustainability, and competitiveness.

For example: port community systems; digital twin; AI-based cargo flow management or predictive maintenance; paperless cargo clearance; blockchain integration; etc.

3. Port Security and Risk Management

For successful practices that strengthen physical and/or cyber security, improve risk management, and enhance operational continuity in the face of emerging threats.

For example: Development of comprehensive port security risk assessments; deployment of advanced port security enhancement plans; joint security drills with stakeholders, such as customs and emergency services; etc.

4. Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors 2026

Recognizes a woman whose leadership and achievements have significantly contributed to the development of the port sector in her country and the Americas. Open to women at all levels employed in ports, terminals, port authorities, and related organizations in [CIP-OAS Member States](#).

IV. Evaluation Criteria

The Jury Committee will consider the following evaluation criteria and using a point system:

Innovation and Leadership (max. 40 points)

Does the practice/candidate:

- Promote the use of technologies and tools that go beyond "traditional" approaches?
- Promote the creation of strategic alliances with stakeholders from different entities and/or sectors?
- Promote lessons learned and knowledge exchange?
- Promote initiatives that contribute to the community?

Sustainability (max. 30 points)

- Does the practice/candidate promote training and/or capacity building initiatives?
- Does the practice/candidate promote instruments to monitor and evaluate impact?
- Are the accomplishments presented transferable?

Efficiency (max. 30 points)

- Did the practice/candidate accomplish specific objectives?
- Is positive impact verified through measurable indicators?
- Have (human, financial, technical) resources been streamlined to reach the stated objectives?

In addition to the aforementioned guidelines, the applications for the 2026 Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors category must also include:

- **Curriculum Vitae** (max. 2 pages), including a brief description of the current position the candidate holds (must have a minimum of eight years' experience in the maritime and port sectors);
- **Essay** to briefly showcase the candidate's professional contributions and how she empowers women to take leadership (750 words);
- **Letter** from the candidate's organization in support of her nomination (1 page);
- **Additional documents** such as certificates, diplomas, recognitions, relevant to the candidate's nomination;
- **Proof** that the candidate is a citizen or permanent resident of any of the [CIP-OAS Member States](#).

V. Eligibility

The **2026 Award** is open to both public and private ports, terminals, National Port Authorities, and/or companies and institutions of the port sector from any of the [CIP-OAS Member States](#). Candidates in the **2026 Outstanding Woman in the Maritime and Port Sectors** category must be currently employed in one of the above.

VI. Guidelines

To be considered, each application must include the **application form** (NOTE: the Outstanding Woman category has its own separate form), as well as an **executive PowerPoint presentation** showcasing the application. The presentation may include indicators, images, and/or promotional material (no videos). Documentation shall not exceed 10MB and must be submitted electronically (PDF and/or PowerPoint) in English or Spanish, to Ms. Mona Swoboda, CIP Program Manager, mswoboda@oas.org cc. Ms. Mónica Blanco, CIP Project Coordinator, mblanco@oas.org no later than **March 4, 2026**. You will receive a confirmation of receipt within three (3) business days.

VII. Jury Committee

The Jury Committee includes representatives from:

- Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States (OAS);
- International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA);
- Latin American Society of Marine Oil Terminal Operators and Single-Buoy Mooring (SLOM);
- North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA);
- OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD-OAS);
- OAS Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM-OAS).

VIII. Evaluation Process

The CIP Secretariat will conduct a preliminary review to ensure applications meet all requirements. The Jury will select winners based on a scoring system, using the criteria outlined under item IV, emphasizing measurable impact and objective, verifiable criteria. Winners will be notified directly, with their National Port Authority copied, and announced through official CIP-OAS channels.

IX. The Prize

Winning entries will be recognized across the Hemisphere, featured on CIP-OAS platforms, and promoted internationally. Awardees will be honored at the *14th Regular CIP Meeting*, June 16 – 18, 2026, in Bridgetown, Barbados. This provides an excellent opportunity to network with industry leaders and receive:

- ✓ Award Plaque at the Award Ceremony;
- ✓ Participation at no registration cost in the *14th Regular CIP Meeting* (sessions that are open), June 16 – 18, 2026 (NOTE: Each winner is responsible for the cost of air fare, accommodation, and per diems);
- ✓ One full year associate membership in the CIP-OAS at no cost (value of up to US \$ 10,000), if applicable, with access to strategic industry information and capacity building.

X. Timetable

Call for Entries	January 12 – March 4, 2026
Winners' Announcement	March 25, 2026
Award Ceremony	June 16, 2026

XI. Special Considerations

- Institutions applying to multiple categories must submit a separate form for each.
- The CIP Secretariat can assist with questions about requirements and the application process, as outlined in these guidelines.
- The CIP Secretariat will not disclose the application status before the official Winners' Announcement.
- Inquiries attempting to influence the evaluation will result in immediate disqualification.
- A disqualification is not appealable.

XII. Questions?

For questions, please contact Mona Swoboda, CIP Program Manager at mswoboda@oas.org cc. Mónica Blanco, CIP Project Coordinator, mblanco@oas.org