



Caribbean Maritime Climate Action: Energy Efficiency Conference and Exhibition



Presenters and Participants at the MTCC Caribbean's Maritime Climate Action Energy Efficiency Conference and Exhibition

The MTCC Caribbean hosted its [Caribbean Maritime Climate Action: Energy Efficiency Conference and Exhibition Conference and Exhibition](#) (CONFEX) from February 24-26, 2021 and had over 210 registered participants from 36 countries across the globe. MTCC Caribbean is one of five (5) MTCCs that comprise the Global MTCC Network (GMN) Project. The GMN Project is funded by the European Union (EU) and is implemented by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) is the Host Institution of MTCC Caribbean.

The CONFEX opened with remarks from representatives of MTCC Caribbean, UTT, IMO and EU. In welcoming participants, Professor Marlon Knights, Assistant Vice President for Research, Impact and Postgraduate Studies, UTT, highlighted the importance of the maritime sector to world trade

and UTT's commitment to building knowledge and contributing to research in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Mrs Vivian Rambarath-Parasram, Director and Head, MTCC Caribbean, encouraged the stakeholders present to be cognizant of the Blue Economy paradigm that has emerged as a central focus for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and urged participants to ensure that their climate action agendas encompass issues of gender parity. Dr Jose Matheickal, Chief, Department of Partnerships and Projects, IMO, and Mr. Sanjin Soldatic, Charge de Affaires, Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago, both expressed congratulations to the MTCC Caribbean team and encouraged sustainability actions and continued collaboration among regional stakeholders.

The objectives of the Caribbean Maritime Climate Action Energy Efficiency Conference and Exhibition were to:

- Provide a highly interactive platform to facilitate knowledge sharing in the maritime domain;
- Connect maritime stakeholders and innovative solution providers to facilitate green technology uptake;
- Discuss the challenges, and formulate solutions for effective maritime climate action;
- Identify and leverage synergies to reduce the duplication of efforts; and
- Identify future opportunities for institutional, regional and international collaboration to bolster efforts within maritime climate action.

MTCC Africa, Asia and Caribbean provided an update of work done in their respective regions. The CONFEX also covered:

- Future ambitions of the GMN;
- Contemporary issues affecting climate action in the maritime sector;
- Facilitating blue growth in the Caribbean;
- Gender and climate action in the blue economy;
- Navigating to net zero;
- Current state of MARPOL Annex VI implementation; and
- Case studies on the technological consideration for the decarbonisation of maritime shipping.

Each day concluded with panel discussions with active engagement by participants from academia, industry and government representatives.

The CONFEX included a [virtual exhibition hall](#), which showcased technology, alternative fuel suppliers and

knowledge providers, such as PortXchange, SkySails Marine, Trillion, MAN Energy Solutions, Bergmann Marine and UTT for the duration of the event, in addition to various technology providers and experts presenting directly to the participants on day three of the CONFEX. The recording of the CONFEX can be accessed [here](#).

In concluding the CONFEX, the following summary of next steps were highlighted to inform future actions from the MTCC:

- Recognition of the need for continued work under the umbrella of the IMO;
- Promoting stronger collaboration across regions within the GMN Network;
- Acknowledging the need to make climate finance available to the various MTCCs to assist in progressing decarbonisation;
- Underscoring the need for urgent action in parallel with our capacity building efforts and the creation of an enabling environment for non-party stakeholders and private institutions to lead in implementation of climate action;
- An expansion in focus that looks beyond the ships, with ports and other sector beneficiaries
- The need for National Action Plans to provide the required visibility and ambitions for the domestic shipping sector; and
- The need to tap into and synergise with blue growth initiatives.

Participants underscored the importance of Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres in mitigating the impacts of the maritime industry on climate change.

To learn more about MTCC Caribbean, visit:

