

## **Maritime Technological Cooperation Centre (MTCC) Caribbean**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Southern Sub-Regional Workshop**

**University of Trinidad and Tobago Maritime Campus, March 18-19, 2019**

- Professor Sarim Al-Zubaidy, President of the University of Trinidad and Tobago
- Ambassador Aad Biesebroek, Head of Delegation of the EU to Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Colin Young, IMO Regional Adviser for the Caribbean
- Mrs. Vivian Rambarath-Parasram, Director and Head MTCC Caribbean
- Representative of the Maritime Administrations of the Caribbean
- Government representatives, other distinguished guests

Good Morning

It is my privilege to stand before you here this morning to bring greetings on behalf of the Ministry of Works and Transport, Maritime Services Division at MTCC-Caribbean's 2<sup>nd</sup> Southern Sub-Regional Workshop

I will like to start by acknowledging the European Union as the funding agency for this very important project '**Capacity Building for Climate Mitigation in the Maritime Shipping Industry**' and the IMO for implementation of the Global MTCC Network, one of five global centres hosted by our very own University of Trinidad and Tobago, Maritime Campus.

The success of this project would not be possible without the cooperation of the regional maritime administrations and our shipping stakeholders.

My colleagues, Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the importance of shipping to global trade and commerce and its importance to our local economy.

In almost every industry, shipping is critical for import of raw materials or export of finished products. As a developing nation, like most of us in the Caribbean, we identify maritime transport as essential to growth and development.

This, however, must be done SUSTAINABLY.

Although international shipping is a modest contributor to overall carbon emissions and is the most energy efficient mode of mass transport, IMO has taken the stance that shipping must do its part to improve energy efficiency and control emissions as sea transport is expected to grow with expanding world trade.

To do this, a shift away from industry norms is required.

Decarbonising the shipping industry requires

- improving energy efficiency onboard,
- strengthening our regulations,
- uptake of new technologies,
- exploring alternative and renewable energy sources,
- building capacity and
- making sound decisions from reliable data.

The role of MTCC is particularly important in moving us toward this target: Reducing greenhouse gases and improving energy efficiency in the shipping industry.

MTCC works with regional maritime administrations and shipping stakeholders to promote the uptake of energy efficiency measures on ships and to establish a pilot system for data collection and reporting on ship fuel consumption.

As the Head of T&T's maritime administration, I can assure our full support toward the project as I am confident in the leadership and expertise UTT has to offer in executing the project which is evident by their progress thus far.

This will also make my job easier in *sustainably* expanding our maritime sector.

T&T's National Development Plan (Vision 2030) requires the implementation of strategic actions to support new and emerging sectors. The Maritime Sector is identified as one of seven (7) key national economic sectors for expansion and further development.

In this light, the Government is looking at *Blue Economy* initiatives to sustainably harness coastal and ocean resources for economic prosperity. The maritime sector is currently exploring cold stacking and transshipment as revenue generating options.

Our sheltered Gulf of Paria, strong shore-base support due to a well developed oil and gas industry and competent and qualified local seafarers places T&T in an advantageous position for easy implementation and regulating of these maritime sub-sector activities.

The benefits not only include direct forex input into the economy but the opportunity for employment and increased cadetships.

As a Small Island Developing State, it is important to harness the resources our oceans have to offer. This would result in an increase in vessel activity in our waters. Therefore, placing environmental sustainability at the core is of utmost importance.

The work that MTCC is doing will help us better understand levels of emissions and potential impacts from shipping.

It will also enhance awareness and build capacity in the industry to address greenhouse gas mitigation and place us in a better position to improve energy efficiency and move toward cleaner fuels with accurate data to make policy decisions.

In closing, climate change is real; a trend analysis of temperature based on data from the Trinidad and Tobago meteorological office has revealed that over the last thirty years the average temperature in Trinidad and Tobago has been increasing. One only has to take a drive along the East Coast of Trinidad to see the evidence of rising sea levels. It is important that Caribbean countries, vulnerable to climate change do our part to address mitigation of greenhouse gases from shipping. It is therefore critical that this workshop yields inputs that can be utilised to reduce the shipping sectors carbon footprint in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you a successful workshop as we work together over the next two days. I thank you for your attention