



GREETINGS BY:

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President, UTT

**Maritime Technology Cooperation
Centre Caribbean**

2nd Southern Sub-Regional Workshop

‘Capacity Building, Technology Uptake and Data Collection’

Date: 18th – 19th March, 2019

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Venue: UTT Chaguaramas Campus
2nd Avenue North,
Western Main Road,
Chaguaramas

SALUTATIONS

- His Excellency Ambassador Aad Biesebroek, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Colin Young, Regional Maritime Advisor - Caribbean, International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- Lieutenant Commander Ronald Alfred, Director of the Maritime Services, Ministry of Works and Transport
- Representatives and stakeholders of the local and regional Maritime Industry
- Professor Mark Tupper, Programme Professor Centre for Maritime and Ocean Studies, UTT
- Ms. Vivian Rambarath-Parasram, Director and Head MTCC Caribbean and Assistant Professor- Maritime Studies, UTT
- Senior Academic and Corporate staff, UTT
- Students and Teachers
- Specially invited guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Chaguaramas Campus of The University of Trinidad and Tobago, the proud host institution of The Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre for the Caribbean. As you may be aware, the MTCC Caribbean, one of five such centres established under the Global MTCC Network Project of the International Maritime Organization, is funded by the European Union and aims to build capacity for climate mitigation in the local and regional maritime industry.

Climate change is imperative to all of us and the rigorous work being facilitated by MTCC Caribbean, only serves to drive the national and regional agenda for reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions from shipping, and the uptake of ship energy efficient

technologies and operations. As a Small Island Developing State, Trinidad and Tobago notes with grave concern, the devastating effects of climate change and its long-lasting impact on our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences. To mitigate these challenges and accelerate ongoing efforts to inform and implement policy regarding climate change at the national level, UTT, through the MTCC Caribbean, has adopted a strategic approach towards research and development in positive climate action, which is closely aligned to the United Nation's Sustainable Developmental Goal 13.

However, it must be underscored that actions in the maritime sector cannot be done in isolation. They must be complemented, supported and enabled through appropriate governmental policy and legislation. Yet the

enabling environment for optimised, efficient maritime logistics is lacking in most Caribbean territories. Indeed, the entire region has been slow in taking decisive action on climate change mitigation as production structures and consumption patterns remain carbon intensive. Moreover, maritime concerns have not been adequately featured in the national dialogue for climate action. This paradigm must evolve, and advocacy initiatives increase, as the economies and societies within the region are highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Keeping this at the forefront of its operations, since its historic launch in March 2017, the MTCC Caribbean has achieved much. To date, some of the major achievements of the MTCC Caribbean include collecting data from over 1,000 vessel calls at ports within the Caribbean region,

and the successful hosting of one Regional Workshop and six Sub-Regional Workshops, inclusive of today's, which facilitated the sharing of knowledge and the enhancement of skills and competencies amongst all stakeholders. Additionally, the MTCC Caribbean successfully executed a Technology Needs Assessment, which detailed the priorities of stakeholders in the adoption of technologies, practices and policy reform in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, the continuous display of excellence by the MTCC Caribbean was further endorsed by the International Maritime Organization at its recently completed mid-term evaluation, and I quote, "*The Caribbean team is one of the strongest of the five MTCCs and is comprised of highly qualified personnel with diverse academic/research, managerial and industry*

backgrounds". As President of UTT, I stand here this morning and **proudly** share with you that the Technical Secretariat of the MTCC Caribbean is staffed exclusively with graduates of UTT's Bachelor of Science in Nautical Science/Maritime Operations and Master of Science in Operational Maritime Management programmes.

This promising endorsement from the IMO provides the impetus for the MTCC Caribbean to continue to promote the objectives of the Global MTCC Network Project and the green shipping agenda in the region. This certainly augurs well for the work being done, as the MTCC Caribbean is currently creating the first baseline of maritime energy efficient technology in shipping in the Caribbean. Furthermore, it is the intent of the MTCC Caribbean to move towards self-sustainability by

expanding its research agenda and testing innovative technologies to promote positive climate action in the maritime sector, a critical move, which is quite necessary as it increases the likelihood of its continued sustainability.

I take this opportunity to applaud the hardworking staff of the MTCC Caribbean, for the successful hosting of today's 2nd Southern Sub-Regional Workshop. Indeed, they have certainly established themselves as a well-respected and reliable institution with a highly impressive network of national and regional partners. Displaying a seamless integration of sorts, the work of the MTCC Caribbean is closely linked to that of UTT's Centre for Maritime and Ocean Studies, the only one of its kind in the Caribbean, which boasts of a cadre of highly qualified staff and a suite of internationally specialised accredited

degree programmes by IMarEST - The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology. The cross-collaboration of knowledge, education and expertise across several disciplines and among academic and industry stakeholders alike, allows the MTCC Caribbean to effectively execute its mandate. With the harnessing and effective use of available resources for integrated collaboration, UTT is well poised to be the leader in climate research for the region.

In closing, I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to the local, regional and international organisations that have greatly assisted the MTCC Caribbean to achieve its goals. On behalf of The University of Trinidad and Tobago, I thank you for your continued support, and look forward to our future collaborations. Without your active

cooperation and promotion of the objectives of the GMN Project, we cannot hope to achieve the much-needed regional approach to positive climate action in the maritime sector. You are the champions for implementation in your respective territories, and your candid input as to the current state of readiness of your maritime administrations is necessary to enable the design of effective implementation strategies. I wish you a productive and fruitful workshop and an enjoyable stay at UTT's Chaguaramas Campus, as you work with the MTCC Caribbean in mitigating climate change in the maritime sector.

Thank you.