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Draft Concept Note
Virtual Seminar on the Port Experience in the Caribbean
25th – 26th October, 2021

Introduction

The Latin-American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) in collaboration with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Digital and Collaborative Port Networks and the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC), will organize a ***Virtual Seminar on the Port Experience in the Caribbean*** on 25th-26th October, 2021.

As a Founding Observer of the ACS, SELA and the ACS have shared a fruitful and solid collaboration since the inception of the ACS and have many synergies in the execution of their commitments to the sustainable development of the Greater Caribbean. Maritime transport is fundamental to regional trade in the Caribbean. One of the main objectives of this seminar is to improve port management and operational efficiency within the region. The supply chain disruptions and recurring bottlenecks in ports that resulted from the pandemic demonstrate the inefficiencies in the sector, so it has become a challenge to maintain the fast, efficient and profitable movement of cargo in a cost-effective manner.

On the other hand, the health and economic crisis caused by the pandemic has also heightened interest in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), specifically those related to infrastructure and transport services. The challenge is to generate the economic, financial, technical, and regulatory conditions that allow maintaining these partnerships, collaboration, and cooperation between sectors. Global trends and the need for a robust and innovative transport system require significant capital-intensive investment. In that sense, public-private partnerships (PPPs) represent potential mechanisms to support the development of ports in the region. Research has shown that PPPs, which combine the capabilities of the private sector with the social responsibilities of the public sector, can make a significant difference in the development of a sustainable transport system. Within this framework, PPP becomes critical for effectively managing port operations especially within the context of a rapidly digitizing world. With this new drive for digital acceleration including the employment of innovative tools, methodologies, and technologies, having the right resources must be a key pillar for port development within the region. It is therefore crucial to develop the capacities for effectively maintaining these relationships and harnessing the resources made available through these relations.



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In this sense, this virtual seminar will focus on building awareness and capacity to effectively utilize PPP as a tool for port management efficiency. Together with this, it will highlight best practice examples and innovative procedures used by Port Authorities in the region to manage ports and facilitate trade. This event will constitute a platform for dialogue and a space to share ideas, lessons learned and experiences that will improve the port environment of the region and promote regional integration.

Impact

- Increase in port management and operational efficiency by exposing the region's ports to best practices and innovative port management methods

Objectives

- Facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and knowledge on best practices in digital and collaborative port management
- Provide a platform for dialogue on improving port management and operational efficiency among stakeholders
- Strengthen knowledge about managing Public-Private Partnerships projects linked to the maritime-port sector

Expected Results

- Greater awareness of the advantages of digitization and modernization of processes and their impact on port management and logistics
- Promotion of the adoption of innovative and efficient practices that improve port management and facilitate trade
- Strategies and methodologies articulated for greater operational efficiency and port management
- Use of PPP models as financing mechanisms for maritime transport development projects

Methodology

This two-day virtual seminar will offer participants the opportunity to interact with the main port managers in the Caribbean. The sessions will be organized as follows:

Day 1 – (October 25th, 2021)

The first session of the seminar will facilitate a discussion on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). PPP is a relatively new approach to Port management development within the region, and can play a critical role in advancing port development within the region.



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Understanding how to effectively close public-private relation gaps would avail the resources needed for efficacy port operations. During the session, participants would have the opportunity to engage global experts in the field of PPP to explore the scope and operation of PPP for the port sector and the people first approach to PPP. This session will comprise of two (2) experts from leading international organizations. Each presentation will be followed by responses from Countries that have had experience with PPP or are in the process of developing a PPP framework for Port Management. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session in which the participants can engage the presenters. Each presenter will be allowed thirty-five (35) minutes to present after which, countries would each have five (5) minutes to respond.

Day 2 – (October 26th, 2021)

This session will showcase four (4) presentations by four (4) port authorities in the Caribbean region. These Ports are leaders in operational efficiency and port management and have successfully applied various innovative tools, methodologies and technologies that have allowed them to optimize their port activities. These best practice examples from within the region will focus on areas including the implementation of the Maritime Single Window, the development of Port Community Systems, innovative technologies for advancing Port Security and the use of innovation for logistics efficiency. Each presenter will be allowed a total of twenty (20) minutes to present on the identified topic. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session where participants can engage presenters on the topics explored.

The seminar will be held virtually through the Zoom platform in English, French, and Spanish, with simultaneous transmission through the channel of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) on YouTube.

Target sectors

- ICT
- Blue economy
- Maritime transport

Target participants

- Port authorities and associations
- Exporting companies
- Investment and trade promotion agencies
- Development agencies
- Logistics Operators
- Regional cooperation organisations



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- Private sector organizations
- Public sector agencies
- Business support organizations
- MSMEs
- Policy makers
- ACS, SELA and PMAC members

Date and Time

The seminar is scheduled for **25th and 26th October 2021 at 10:00 am a 12:00 PM (AST)** via Zoom.