



AAPA Latino Congress in Santos breaks record for number of attendees and raises key challenges for the region's ports

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- Port event gathered more than 800 attendees during three days and allowed for an in-depth review of the industry's work. Regional collaboration to address the crisis emerges as one of the conclusions.

News on new investments and projects that will reactivate the regional port industry, discussions on key challenges for the sector in terms of costs, infrastructure and sustainability, and reflections on the need to establish collaborative alliances between the countries of the region, were key elements of the **XXX Latin American Congress of Ports (AAPA LATINO)**, which was held at the Santos Convention Center between November 28 and 30.



The important port event welcomed for the first time in this Brazilian city more than 800 representatives of port authorities, executives, managers, directors, consultants and



experts from the logistics industry, shipping, transportation, technology and terminals, among others, who came from thirty countries to be part of this annual event.

During the three days there was a massive technical visit to the Port of Santos, as well as meetings of the Latin American Delegation of AAPA, receptions and social activities in iconic and heritage sites of the city, an invitation of the Port of Barranquilla to the Congress 2023, the conference program and the exhibitors' fair, which for the first time brought together more than 100 suppliers from the logistics and maritime sector, including an unprecedented "tech show" with innovations and technological services.

After the three days, the president of the Port of Santos, Fernando Biral, highlighted that "regional integration is what brings us together, especially the countries that live from foreign trade through our ports".

"We have had, not only a record number of participants, but also a unique quality of speakers and great topics that were addressed here. Therefore, we are very satisfied and grateful for what happened these days in Santos. As the Port Authority, it has been an honor and we are very happy to have hosted the AAPA LATINO congress in our port," said the executive of the host port.

Meanwhile, Rafael Diaz Balart, AAPA's Latin American Coordinator, noted that "we can only express our gratitude for the participation of so many people, to the port of Santos, and to the organizing team that has worked so hard on this thirtieth anniversary. We had record of attendees from more than 30 countries. We are amazed with what happened here".

Zulma Dinelli, Congress Director and CEO of PR PORTS, said that "the success of the event was achieved thanks to a year of hard work by the organizing team; to a conference program that managed to address at the highest level the major issues that are on the agenda of the maritime-port sector; and the support of countless companies in the industry that find in the AAPA LATINO a place for networking and business development".

HIGHLIGHTS

During the agenda of discussions and panels, highlights included "**Scenarios and predictions for trade, shipping and ports**", with Jan Hoffman (UNCTAD); Ricardo Sánchez (Caribbean Research Institute); and Marisa Lago, U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, where the economic crisis, the thresholds of post-pandemic reactivation and the alarming increases in maritime freight rates were part of the reflection.



The conclusion? To be realistic, but not pessimistic, and to leverage in regional collaboration the opportunities to come.

The panel **"Port Investments and projects in Latin America"** was also noteworthy, where different infrastructure and modernization initiatives that countries such as Peru, Chile, Panama, Mexico and Honduras hope to implement in the coming years were presented.

"Energy Transition in Maritime Transport" addressed issues such as the decarbonization of the industry, sustainability and experiences in environmental matters; **"Port Productivity: Experiences and Recommendations for its improvement"** compiled good practices and strategies to face the new market demands; **"Major logistics projects in America"**, and the panel **"River Ports and Waterways"**, should also be highlighted for their diversity and quality in the points of view.

Other high-level sessions were **"Maritime Transport 2030: Countdown to Close the Digital Divide"**, where new collaborative resources for the application of technologies in the industry were reviewed; the roundtable #CHARLASdePUERTO - STRATEGIC DISCUSSIONS, under the slogan **"Dialogue between Terminals, Shipping Lines, Port Terminals and Port Authorities"**; the debate **"A New Era for Cruise Transport"**, the conversation **"Smart Financing for Strategic Growth"** and the panel **"Innovative Solutions for the Port Industry"**.

In parallel, the #PortTalks program opened a space for micro talks to address various topics of port interest, such as engineering, sustainability, port communication and others. At the closing ceremony, the **"Port Industry Award of Excellence 2022"**, jointly awarded by AAPA and CIP-OAS, and the **"Maritime Award of the Americas 2022"** from the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP), were delivered.

The ports and stakeholders awarded in different areas of activity were APM Terminals Callao (Peru); Porto do Itaqui (Brazil); Santos Port Authority (Brazil); the Manzanillo National Port System Administration (México); Terminal Internacional del Sur (Peru); Porto do Açu (Brazil) and Elvia Bustavino, Vice Minister of Maritime Affairs and Deputy Administrator of the Panama Maritime Authority, who was recognized as Outstanding Woman in the Port and Maritime Sector 2022.

Source: PR PORTS LLC