

10th Latin America Ports Forum

New trends in global trade and their impact on ports and logistics operators in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on opportunities

Day 1 – Wednesday September 3, 2025

8:45 Opening remarks

9:00 Opening presentation

The Panama Canal as a catalyst for the 2030 logistics strategy

Speaker: **Rodolfo Sabonge**, Strategy Director, **Ministry of Economy and Finance**

9:30 Discussion Panel

A Changing World: How Latin American and Caribbean Ports Are Preparing for New Global Trade Scenarios

Global trade has entered a new era and is undergoing rapid evolution, with potential relocations of manufacturing operations and the redesign of supply chains. How are port terminals in Latin America and the Caribbean preparing for this new scenario? Where do they see the greatest opportunities? What should port operators focus on to best take advantage of the opportunities of this new scenario?

Speakers: **William Elliott**, Presidente, **Colon Container Terminal**
Domingo Segundo Chinea, Presidente, **SPR Santa Marta**
Marlitz Bermúdez, Head of investments Americas, **APM Terminals**
John Bressi, CEO, **Tuxpan Port**
Enrique Piqueras, CEO, **PSA Panamá**

Moderator: **Michael Kristiansen**, Presidente, **CK Americas**

10:30 Keynote Presentación

Applied Intelligence: How AI and Video Analytics Are Redefining Smart Port Access

Speaker: **Sidnet Rückert**, Ports & Logistics Director, **ISS Intelligence Security Systems**

10:45

Coffee Break

11:15 Keynote Presentation

Panama Canal Water Strategy

Speaker: **Ing. Ilya Espino de Marotta**, Deputy Administrator and Sustainability Officer,
Autoridad del Canal de Panamá

11:45 Discussion Panel

Panama: Leveraging its Strengths as a Global Logistics Hub

As a global logistics hub, Panama is working to leverage its strengths and evolve to remain competitive in a dynamic environment. Digitalization, infrastructure modernization, promotion of the free trade zone regime, and the country's development as an energy hub are some of the areas in which Panama is advancing to consolidate its key role as a global logistics hub.

Speakers: **Jorge Barnett**, Director Ejecutivo, **Georgia Tech Panama**
Enrique Clement, Gerente de Mercadeo, **SSA Marine MIT**
Elvia Bustavino, Founding Partner & CEO, **Bustavino & Partners**
Alexei Oduber, Director Ejecutivo, **GAC Panama Shipping**
Jorge Bakarat, Presidente, **Maritime Policy Bureau**
Moderator: **Silvia de Marucci**, Directora de Promoción Internacional, **PROPANAMA**

12:45

Lunch

14:15 Discussion Panel

The USA Connection: Collaboration between Latin American and Caribbean and U.S. ports

According to some experts, the profound changes in global supply chains present an opportunity for Latin American and Caribbean countries, which must begin to think in terms of interconnectedness. What are the key strategies for fostering stronger ties? What role do ports, free trade zones, and logistics chains play in this new scenario? How has the relationship between the ports of the southeastern United States and those of Latin America and the Caribbean evolved to boost the region's logistics competitiveness and strengthen logistics chains?

Speakers: **Claudia Kattán-Jordán**, VP Central America, México and Panamá, **Crowley Logistics**
Robert Barceló, Senior Manager of Business Development, **Port Everglades**
Raúl Alfonso, Executive VP and Chief Commercial Officer, **Port Tampa Bay**
Moderator: **Steve Rothberg**, Founding Partner, **Mercator**

15:15 [Fireplace Chat](#)

The Strategic Role of Free Trade and Logistics Zones

Free trade and logistics zones have become key to the economic development of many countries in the region and to the competitiveness of port terminals and logistics chains. How have free trade zones advanced in the region? What is needed for their consolidation and growth? What new projects stand out in the region?

Speakers: **Ámbar Ruiz**, Directora Ejecutiva, **Á de Ámbar**
Julio Rodríguez, Director Ejecutivo, **Asociación de Zonas Francas de las Américas**
Gloria Morales, Directora Supply Chain, **S&GM CONSULTING CORP**

16:15

Coffee Break

16:45 [Presentation](#)

Latin American LNG market outlook and its impact on the region's energy logistics

Speaker: **Sergio Chapa**, Senior LNG Analyst, **Poten & Partners**

17:00 [Discussion Panel](#)

Energy Logistics Infrastructure: Focus on LNG, Clean Hydrogen, and Green Ammonia Projects

The energy transition has driven the implementation of new infrastructure for the storage and maritime transport of fuels such as LNG, and projects for the production of hydrogen and low-carbon ammonia will also bring associated port and logistics infrastructure projects. These projects can position Latin America and the Caribbean as an important energy logistics hub in the decarbonization process of the global economy.

Oradores: **Álvaro Ríos**, Director, **Gas Energy Latin America**
Oscar Santibañez, LNG Marketing Director, **Colon LNG**
TJ Gonzales, Commercial & Business Development Manager, **Port of Corpus Christi**
Moderator: **Rajan Vig**, Founder, **Indimex**

18:00

Welcome Cocktail

Day 2 - Thursday September 4, 2025

9:00 Opening remarks

Port and Logistics Modernization

9:10 [Keynote Presentation](#)

Proposals for a new port concession system

Speaker: **Guimara Tuñón**, Founder Partner-CEO, **Maritime Policy Bureau**

9:40 Presentation

Ports & Logistics in the Caribbean

Speaker: **Darwin Telemaque**, President, **Asoc. de Administración Portuaria del Caribe** (to be confirmed)

10:00 Keynote Presentation

Mexio's Ports Expansion Plan

Speaker: **Cap. Alt. Gutiérrez Gallardo**, Coordinador General de Puertos, **Estados Unidos Mexicanos**

10:30 Discussion Panel

Port Modernization in Latin America and the Caribbean: In Search of Competitiveness

The expansion of port infrastructure in Latin America continues, as does the modernization of its equipment. What are the drivers behind this process? How is the region's port landscape being reshaped? On which aspects of port operations should investments be focused?

Speakers: **Ricardo Román**, CEO, **Palermo Soc. Portuaria**
Iliana González, Directora Ejecutiva, **Asoc. De Terminales Portuarios Privados de Ecuador**
Dennis Chinchilla, Gerente General, **Intermaris**
Carlos Rivera, Marine Operations Director – Central America, **Crowley**

Moderadora: **Giomar González**, Directora, **BASC Panamá**

11:30

Coffee Break

12:00 Discussion Panel

Financing of the Port and Logistics Sector

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the future of global trade, investments in the Latin American port sector remain strong. How are they being financed? What are the main trends in port and logistics finance? Will mergers and acquisitions activity continue? How are governments investing in the sector? What role will multilateral organizations continue to play?

Speakers: **Ivan Nuñez**, Head, Project Finance & Infrastructure, **Bladex**
Antonio Arauz, Head of Structured and Corporate Finance, **CIFI**
Celeste Gincerain, CFO, **PTP Group**

Moderator: **David Taylor**, Maritime Specialist

13:00 Discussion Panel

Green Ports: Energy Transition and Its Impact on the Latin American Ports Sector

Sustainability is advancing in the port and logistics sector, both due to the need to reduce the carbon footprint of its operations and the increased efficiency achieved through new technologies. How is the electrification of port operations progressing? Is shore power part of the port sector's

plans in the region? What are the main obstacles to moving toward a green port model? What are the trends in fuel shifts in the shipping sector, and what is their impact on port infrastructure? How is financing for this transition being assessed?

Speakers: **Maxim Rebolledo**, Marketing & Origination Manager, **AES**
Mariana Torres, Oficial Senior de Inversiones, **IFC**
Alexis Rodriguez, Regional Head of Energy Transition, **AP Moller-Maersk**
Ervin Vargas, Director Técnico, **MTCC**
Moderador: **Raúl Ferro**, Director, **IndustryExchange**

13:45 Discussion Panel

Digital Transformation, Interoperability and Cybersecurity

Digitalization in the port and logistics sector is in full swing. What are its main focuses? What has the experience been like so far? Which aspects of operations most need to advance in digitalization? How are operators addressing the risks associated with cybersecurity?

Speakers: **Miguel Montesinos**, CEO, **Prodevelop**
Javier Díaz, Technical Officer, **MTCC Latin America**
Carlos Ungo, Head of Information Technology, **PPC** (invitado)
Moderador: **Carlos González España**, CEO, **Multimodal Consulting Firm**

14:30

Lunch

16:00

End of the 10th Latin America Ports Forum

