



All in Black Party

"THERE ARE NO WORDS...."

UNBELIEVABLE!"

(Fernando Rivera, General Manager, CSA)



Yesterday's Sessions

As female writers in a male dominated conference we cannot help but revel in the fact that yesterday's female speakers outnumbered the male speakers, and how pleasant it was to see a female captain, LaDonn Allen, join the ranks.



Tokens of appreciation were given to David Jean-Marie, President of CSA and Fernando Rivera, General Manager of CSA for the hard work and enormous efforts that were made to make this conference such a resounding success.

Each was presented with a painting from renowned Curaçao artist, André Nagtegaal. Everyone seemed to be thrilled with the gift as numerous people posted pictures of the presentation at the exact same time on the CSEC App.

GLOBAL STATE OF THE INDUSTRY, HOW CRUISE LINES MAKE DEPLOYMENT DECISIONS, GLOBAL CRUISE COMPETITION

by Federico Gonzalez-Denton – Director, Government Relations, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

The Caribbean region has been the preferred region for cruise guests in the world, but competition in this industry is getting stronger, especially from Asia. This session discussed the need for the Caribbean to remain competitive, and in order to do so, we need to improve our marine infrastructure and develop our tour product by creating more exciting attractions and activities. Royal Caribbean is bringing a lot of innovation to its ships but the region also needs innovation in our destinations.





DISCUSSION ON CURRENT TRENDS IN FERRY SERVICES AND BLUE SKY VISION FOR CARIBBEAN ROUTES

by Dan MacDonald, Senior Project Manager, CBCL

Mr. MacDonald has been developing ferry terminals for many years and presented on the latest advancements and technologies in the industry. He talked about his vision for ferry services in the region linking many of the islands together and providing efficient and cost effective transportation between the islands. He had great feedback from the audience who were very enthusiastic about the possibilities of such ferry services and the potential for a positive impact on the tourism economy.

This is the 2nd time Dan MacDonald has spoken for the CSA. He was very pleased to present, and greatly enjoys the people of the Caribbean. He has gotten to know many of the members of CSEC and looks forward to working with them in the future.

VULNERABLE CARIBBEAN CORAL REEFS, COASTLINE AND ECONOMIES

by Dr. Judith Lang, AGRRA Scientific Coordinator Ocean Research & Educational Foundation

The beautiful pictures of coral reefs and marine life in Dr. Judith Lang's presentation inspired us to protect our underwater world. Mrs. Lang was short and concise about her message to the delegates, saying, "We all need to pull together to control our carbon dioxide emissions... but it CAN be done, and it will be done if we all work towards this."



WONDROUS WEST INDIAN WETLANDS

by Dr. Lisa Sorenson, Executive Director BirdsCaribbean

Lisa Sorenson made a case for more awareness, appreciation and conservation of the wetlands and other habitats that may seem barren to the 'naked' developer's eye, but that are actually teeming with wildlife. The ecosystem of the wetlands and their indigenous birds are so vitally important to our health, economy, livelihood and also our overall existence. We all feel rejuvenated when we spend time in nature and it enriches our lives on so many different levels.

Lisa would like everybody to "get involved and do your part," in activities such as: reducing our carbon footprint; sponsoring conservation or restoration projects; supporting a non-profit organization that's working towards raising awareness or save habitats.

"Try to do the right thing....have a conscience, don't be greedy, make sense all around."



The CSA Family: Insights from CSA Presidential Nominee: Juan Carlos Croston

Croston acknowledges that CSA has become a much more established organization in recent years, with a stronger foothold in different areas of the shipping industry because of its solid financial backing. CSA has also fortified the training process and initiatives, a project that has been a long-standing dream of many of the Past-Presidents of CSA. This year the CSA plans to have 12 training sessions with approximately 400 participants. The organization has expanded their membership base and solidified commitment from its members in the form of donations, and encouraged the sharing of knowledge and expertise, especially from the larger ports to the smaller ports.

If granted the privilege of becoming President, one of Mr. Croston's plans is to strengthen the administration role of the CSA, he notes "We want the CSA to become the standard bearer for shipping and maritime [activities] in the Caribbean." There are other organizations vying for this title, so Croston acknowledges the need for a strong Secretariat to carry through with this goal. The CSA has a number of MOU's recently signed and intends to have a more active role with the International Maritime Organization and to develop external funding for its programs.

Croston noted that he would be very honored to become the next President, as the CSA will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2020. He is all too aware of the close-knit feeling that the members of the CSA all share, and feels that the most important benefit of the CSA is that "We are like family."





Today's Sessions

8:30 AM

ANTI CORRUPTION – STRENGTHENING YOUR CONTROLS IN THE CARIBBEAN SHIPPING INDUSTRY

Paul Morrison-Saltchuk – Director, Internal Audit Saltchuck Companies

9:15 AM

ESTABLISHING A CARIBMEPA TO SAVE OUR SEAS

Carleen Lyden/Kluss – Executive Director, NAMEPA; Commander Keith M. Donahue – United States Coastguard

10:30 AM

CARIBBEAN MARITIME BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Ambassador Jules Bijl – Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Trinidad & Tobago

11:30 AM

AIR FREIGHT/SHIPPING INDUSTRY

Brian Abbott – President, AVSEC LLC





BRIDGES OF CURAÇAO



Meet 'The Swinging Old Lady' and Other Members of Her 'Royal Family.'

Just who exactly is this 'Swinging Old Lady'? She is one of the most treasured and revered old ladies on the island, and boy is she famous!

The 'Swinging Old Lady', as she is affectionately called, is the Queen Emma Bridge, our historical floating bridge that connects pedestrians crossing from Punda to Otrobanda, the two sides of historic Willemstad. The Queen Emma Bridge was originally built in 1888 by American Consul General, Leonard Burlington Smith, and sits on 16 floating pontoons, swinging open to allow ships to enter our sheltered port in the Anna Bay. When the bridge is open, pedestrians are carried to and fro by a free ferry.

Towering over her in the distance stands the Queen Juliana Bridge, a stationary bridge that is one of the tallest bridges in the world. Her construction was completed in 1974 and she stands approx. 185 feet above the sea level of the harbor. As cars drive over the bridge, the panoramic view from the top features the entire expanse of Willemstad, including all of Punda, Otrobanda and Scharloo, on one side, and the Anna Bay with the harbor, drydock and refinery on the other side.

The Queen Wilhelmina Bridge connects the commercial area of Punda with the up-and-coming business district of Scharloo. Originally a residential area, it features many grand historical homes from prominent Jewish businessmen in the community. Many of these beautiful gems have of late, been painstakingly restored and converted to office buildings.

The L.B. Smith Bridge is a small pedestrian drawbridge that connects Punda and Scharloo by the floating market. This bridge was built in 2007, and was named after the architect of the Queen Emma Bridge, the U.S. Consul General, and while not a member of the Dutch Royal Family, he is definitely a treasured 'royal' hero on the island.

And the newest edition to the 'royal family' is the Princess Amalia Bridge that was recently completed in 2016. This greatly anticipated bridge serves to further connect the pedestrians from the Waaigat and Scharloo areas to Punda, and facilitate further development plans that the CPA has in store for Waaigat.

The CPA is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the entire family of bridges and ensures that they remain iconic landmarks to our historical city. With all the beautiful bridges in Willemstad, unique in their own right, it's definitely worthwhile taking a stroll to visit our 'Royal Family'. As the Emma Bridge opens, sit back for a moment to watch the towering cruise ships, tankers and cargo ships enter our deep water harbor just a few meters away, framed by the backdrop of our picturesque historical waterfront with all its bright colors and lively shops and restaurants. And then as the ships venture further under the towering Queen Juliana Bridge into our protected port, it makes for a breathtaking experience and boundless photo opportunities.



Spouse Program

And while we were working, the spouses got treated to a day of relaxation. They definitely got their Zen going....Ahhhh.....Ommm

