



CMOU CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF ADVANCING MARITIME SAFETY AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

The Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMOU) commemorated its 30th Anniversary with a distinguished Dinner and Awards Ceremony held on 17 June 2026 in Georgetown, Guyana. The event brought together Heads of Maritime Administrations, representatives of Member Authorities and Associate Members, regional and international partners, current and former Port State Control Officers, and other distinguished guests to celebrate three decades of regional cooperation and achievement in advancing maritime safety, maritime security, environmental protection, and compliance with international maritime standards throughout the Caribbean region.

In his address, CMOU Chairman, Mr. Michel Amafo, highlighted the Organization's evolution from an ambitious regional initiative into a respected and influential maritime body that has contributed significantly to safer seas and more responsible shipping throughout the Caribbean. He noted that over the past thirty years, the CMOU has strengthened inspection regimes, enhanced technical cooperation among Member States, developed the professional competence of Port State Control Officers, and fostered strong partnerships across the international maritime community.

Hon. Thandi McAllister MP, Parliamentary Secretary brought remarks on behalf of the Government of Guyana and stressed the importance of regional cooperation as expressed through the CMOU. She highlighted the progress that Guyana has made in the development of their maritime infrastructure and underscored their continued commitment to the CMOU and the safety of shipping in the region.

Secretary-General Jodi Munn Barrow emphasized the invaluable contribution of Port State Control Officers, describing them as the backbone of the CMOU. She paid tribute to the dedication, professionalism, and expertise of the officers who work daily to ensure compliance with international maritime standards, safeguard lives at sea, protect the marine environment, and uphold the credibility of the Caribbean as a responsible maritime region.

The anniversary celebration also recognized several individuals and organizations whose leadership, dedication, and support have made significant contributions to the growth and success of the CMOU over the past three decades.

Awards were presented to former Chairman Ambassador Dwight Gardiner for his outstanding leadership and stewardship from 2009 to 2018; current Chairman Michel Amafo for his exemplary leadership and commitment since 2019; the Netherlands Shipping Inspectorate for its invaluable contribution to the development of the CMOU Port State Control Technical Manual; Jacqueline Blackman for her instrumental role in strengthening the Organization's governance and administrative framework; Colin Young, former Regional Maritime Adviser (Caribbean) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), for his longstanding partnership and support to maritime

capacity-building in the region; and Dionne Thaxter, CMOU Administrator, for more than two decades of dedicated and distinguished service to the Organization.

Special recognition was also accorded to the Maritime Authority of Suriname for its commitment and support in hosting the CMIS Database since 2005 and to the Maritime Authority of Jamaica for its steadfast commitment and generous support in hosting the CMOU Secretariat since 2002.

At the closure of the Thirty-First Meeting of the Caribbean Port State Control Committee (CPSCC 31) on 18 June 2026 in Georgetown, Guyana, a special award was presented to Secretary-General Jodi Munn Barrow in recognition of her outstanding leadership, dedication, and contribution to the advancement of the CMOU and Port State Control throughout the Caribbean region. The award acknowledged her commitment to strengthening regional cooperation, promoting excellence within the Organization, and enhancing the international standing of the CMOU. The presentation served as a fitting tribute during the CMOU's 30th Anniversary celebrations and recognized her significant contribution to the Organization's continued growth and success.

Throughout the celebrations, participants reflected on the achievements of the CMOU over the past three decades and reaffirmed their commitment to the Organization's founding principles of cooperation, professionalism, consistency, and adherence to international maritime standards. They also recognized the importance of preparing for future challenges, including digitalization, emerging technologies, decarbonization, and evolving regulatory requirements within the global maritime sector.

As the CMOU looks toward the future, it remains committed to strengthening Port State Control throughout the Caribbean region and ensuring that maritime transport remains safe, secure, environmentally responsible, and supported by a robust and effective inspection regime.

The 30th Anniversary celebrations served not only as a reflection on the achievements of the past but also as a renewed commitment to building upon the strong foundation established over three decades of regional cooperation and maritime excellence.

About the CMOU

The Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMOU) is a regional agreement among Caribbean maritime administrations established to eliminate substandard shipping through a harmonized system of Port State Control inspections. Through cooperation, information sharing, training, and technical assistance, the CMOU promotes maritime safety, security, environmental protection, and compliance with international maritime conventions throughout the Caribbean region.

For Further Information

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