



**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY,
INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

ELEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe STEERING COMMITTEE
Agenda Item 9

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Creating Sustainable Value for All through Partnerships in the Blue Economy

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SUMMARY

Executive Summary: The health of the sea is fundamental to the livelihood and sustainability of coastal states as well as the international marine industry. This is especially relevant in the Caribbean region, which consists of over 15 small island developing states whose territorial jurisdiction consist of a large portion of land and water. Joint efforts through the formation of a regional association, will underscore the region's commitment to the safety and protection of the seas in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and allow for a consortium of related interests to collaborate. Additionally, it provides a vehicle for the marine and maritime industries to demonstrate and articulate its value proposition to governments, the public, and customers. To that end, it is recommended by the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) that a regional consortium be formed to address the needs and opportunities which exist in the Caribbean region. The CMU is well positioned to take the leadership role in establishing this consortium, with the support and involvement of other Caribbean and engaged entities.

Action to be Taken: Paragraph 2.2

1. General:

1.1 Introduction: The Caribbean Maritime University (CMU), in a thrust to advance and excel in the areas of tertiary maritime education, training, research and consultancy, has adopted a mandate to produce industry ready leaders through a "Blue Ocean" of strategic partnerships, research and applications. CMU has grown significantly, and through its multinational network, has gained expertise that has afforded the University the distinction of being an Educational Centre of Excellence. In partial fulfilment of this mandate, the University has sought partnerships with international entities such as the RAC-REMPEITC, North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WIMAC), the CMU WiMAC Student Chapter,



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Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), regional Fisheries Authorities, NGO's and Governments to prevent and respond to pollution in the marine environment by providing: research and development, training and workshops, technical support, subject matter expert consultancy, data and information and public awareness.

The University has several international accreditations, recognitions and certification from various entities such as, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT, UK), the Accreditation Service for International Schools and Colleges (ASIC, UK), FESTO (Germany) and the Lloyd's Register International Organization for Standardization (ISO) ISO:9001:2015 certification which bolsters the University's International value and standing as an industry leader in the Caribbean region.

1.2 Issue:

The health of the sea and connected bodies of water is fundamental to the livelihood of countries and their maritime and marine industries. As stated above, this is especially relevant in the Caribbean.

We believe that education and the human affinity for nature, fostered by a direct emotional connection with the marine environment, will restore the ability to properly steward between the people of the Caribbean and their pristine water-bodies. Through projects such as the Greener CMU Campus, the plan aims to educate the public about what lies beneath the surface of a body of water and how we can fight for our ecosystems through collective action, whilst fostering research and advocacy for the improved regulation of the Caribbean seas, the implementation of the key Maritime conventions, particularly MARPOL, and the influence of national's regional and international policies on the protection of the marine environment.

1.3 Relevant information on the issue: CMU and the Centre for Blue Economy

- Caribbean Maritime Institute became Caribbean Maritime University on September 28th, 2017, establishing several Faculties and Centres of Excellence during that transition.
- CMU attended the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee in May 2018.
- CMU aspires to be a key partner for marine environmental issues and actions in the Caribbean and will act as a focal point for facilitating MARPOL and other conventions in the Caribbean.
- The Centre for Blue Economy (CBE) will provide an umbrella for engaging industry, regulators, governments, conservation groups, educators and more in protecting the marine environment.
- CMU aims at building the logistics, engineering and marine biotechnology talent pool.

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- CMU's Palisadoes Campus is on track to go completely green utilizing solar energy.
- CMU focuses on industrial energy management.
- Research on utilizing seaweed and other flora as a carbon sink.

2. Action:

2.1 Recommendations on collaboration to address the issue:

- Support the efforts of RAC/REMPEITC/ IMO/ UNEP
- Support the development of the Caribbean Maritime University's CBE eg. Funding
- Participate in the development of regional waste reception facility plan
- Create large scale projects to address pollution through beach cleanups, school education projects, art competitions, etc.

2.2 Proposal for consideration:

This project will support the establishment of a named regional consortium for the CBE at the CMU in Jamaica. It will provide awareness about MARPOL as well as provide professional skills to the people of the Caribbean and the wider diaspora in overcoming the current issues being faced, including but not limited to:

- Using innovative research and implementation to positively affect the health of the water and aquatic life in and around the Caribbean.
- Train a minimum number of persons in international areas of interest.
- Maintain and support viable Blue Economy projects.
- Place emphasis on sustaining indigenous marine flora, fauna and other agricultural production in the Caribbean region.
- Revive the economic livelihood of underserved persons and communities across the participating Island members.
- Develop innovative ideas for eliminating sewage, industrial waste and trash in our Caribbean water bodies.
- Educate Caribbean people in the region on the importance of supporting our ecosystems and livelihoods.