

# TACKLING GREEN ISSUES INTERACTIVELY

The inaugural GreenPorts America Congress concluded with an interactive workshop addressing environmental performance and sustainability in ports, terminals and shipping.

The range of issues raised in the workshop reflected topics discussed during the congress – resulting in an overwhelming need to focus on strong 'partnerships and collaboration' between industry players.

Dr Chris Wooldridge of Cardiff University facilitated the session which was designed to inspire creative thinking using unique mindmap-styled templates designed specifically for the session by Australian-based visual artist Dr Sue Pillans and Renee Hovey from Sprott Planning and Environment.

## MIND-MAPPING

Following formal 'snapshot presentations' to set the context, workshop participants worked in small groups to examine industry challenges and opportunities and were encouraged to contribute to the fields outside of their direct working environment to allow different and diverse feedback. The delegates in the workshops were primarily from ports



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(57%), however other players were also represented such as consulting professionals (30%), shipping lines (9%) and terminal operators (4%).

Dr Wooldridge actively encouraged participants to engage in dynamic discussions and was assisted by international presenters including Kurt Nagel, President and CEO of

## The interactive workshop

American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), Renee Hovey from Sprott Planning and Environment (Australia), Tracy Fidell from WSP (USA), David Bolduc of Green Marine (USA) and Jan Fransen of the Green Award Foundation (The Netherlands).

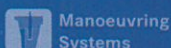


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## OUTCOMES

The workshop results produced a comprehensive list of challenges and opportunities. Across ports, terminals and shipping, the top challenges identified education and knowledge sharing and internal organisational pressures.

Responding to the challenges, a comprehensive range of opportunities was presented from the workshop, with partnership and collaboration appearing at the top of the list. This reflected the strong message throughout the conference of supporting a philosophy to collaborate with others to achieve best practice.

The conference provided an inspiring platform of best practice examples and this was reflected in the workshop outcomes with a focus on knowledge sharing, integrating systems and processes, new technology, alternative fuels and energy transition.

The workshop outcomes also found collaboration was critical in working with the community to improve port-city integration.

## SOLUTIONS

During the interactive workshop, delegates were also asked 'What does leading



environmental performance look like and the what are the 'Best innovation/initiatives to improve environmental performance?'

Responses to the question of 'leading environmental performance' included a need to focus on 'enabling drivers' such as strong leadership, transparency, trust, willingness to try/fail and collaboration.

Responses to 'innovations and initiatives' included a continued focus on automation, new technologies and big data solutions.

The over-riding message from the interactive session was that the commitment to collaboration is required. This is consistent with

## ■ Collaborative thinking

the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) 17 'Partnerships' - to enable success throughout the sector including improved access to 'unlock' project finance and stronger relationships with local communities. Critical though, is strong and committed leadership.

It was concluded that the SDG platform provides a robust, comprehensive platform for ports, terminals and shipping sectors to improve collaboration and environmental performance and transition towards advancing sustainability.

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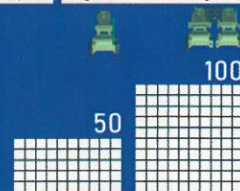
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