

PRESS RELEASE

AIVP Highlights Global Innovation and Local Action at 20th World Conference Cities & Ports in New York

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NEW YORK — The International Association of Cities & Ports (AIVP) proudly celebrates the successful conclusion of its 20th World Conference Cities & Ports, co-hosted with the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) from November 18–21. Under the theme “Navigating Change: Innovating Ports, Cities and Climate,, the conference convened hundreds of global urban-port stakeholders to exchange on sustainable, resilient, and innovative approaches to port-city development.

The conference program offered a rich combination of plenaries, technical labs, workshops, and site visits, addressing the full spectrum of port-city challenges. Sessions explored climate adaptation and coastal resilience, digital innovation and AI, energy transition, biodiversity, sustainable mobility, financing, and inclusive governance. Delegates engaged with international case studies from North America (such as San Diego, Seattle, Los Angeles, Quebec and New York), Europe (including Barcelona, Antwerp, Coruña, Marseille, Strasbourg, Hamburg), Asia (Busan, Singapore), and Africa (Marchica Med and Tangier, in Morocco, Douala or the National Port Authority of Cameroon), fostering cross-regional learning and sharing best practices for resilient, sustainable, and economically vibrant port cities. Technical labs showcased practical innovations, including sustainable dredging, new ways to move people and cargo, and the modernization of New York,s maritime terminals.

New York served as a living case study, with conference site visits and sessions highlighting transformative waterfront projects. NYCEDC showcased its “**Harbor of the Future**” initiatives, including the approved **Brooklyn Marine Terminal vision plan**, Hunts Point Marine Terminal redevelopment, micro-freight solutions at Downtown Skyport,

NYC Ferry optimization, and the **“Blue Highways”** network connecting the city by water. These projects illustrated how port-city innovation can drive sustainable economic growth and climate resilience.

The conference concluded with reflections on inclusive governance, innovative financing, and collaborative solutions for port-city challenges. AIVP also passed the baton to **Dunkirk**, host of the 2026 edition, emphasizing the importance of continued international exchange in building resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking port cities.

About AIVP

The International Association of Cities & Ports (AIVP) is the leading global network of cities and ports dedicated to sustainable urban-port development. Since 1988, AIVP has strengthened the relationship between cities and ports through innovation, cooperation, and environmentally and socially responsible practices. For more information, visit www.aivp.org.

About NYCEDC

New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization that works for a vibrant, inclusive, and globally competitive economy for all New Yorkers. We take a comprehensive approach, through four main strategies: strengthen confidence in NYC as a great place to do business; grow innovative sectors with a focus on equity; build neighborhoods as places to live, learn, work, and play; and deliver sustainable infrastructure for communities and the city's future economy.

More Information

Visit the official event page: <https://aivpworldconference.org/2025>

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