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Workshop:

Ports as Energy Innovation Hubs

Date: Thursday, November 16th, 2023

Theme: Shipping

In the global economy, transportation and logistics play pivotal roles. During the workshop Ports as energy innovation hubs, participants explore practical avenues to innovate ports responding to societal needs, utilising the symbiosis of collaboration, and enabling technologies. Speakers from industry and research discussed the importance and possible pathways of innovative ports. The multi-use approach for ports incorporating transport, renewable energy, and digital connectivity would lead to a holistic approach. The need for ports to evolve into energy innovation hubs for a greener future was mentioned by the industry. The concept of "Energy Hubs" for sustainable port development was explored from several dimensions. Ports could be transformed into local energy producers or providers for the city or region based on close located industry. Furthermore, the importance of value chain traceability related to the used fuel by the shipping companies was discussed. Renewable fuels such as methanol or ammonia could be produced and provided by ports to reduce the amount of 43% of shipping fuel around the world. This approach is also a key component in achieving carbon-neutral energy solutions, especially for industries with diverse energy needs. The circular approach of using the energy from electric cars loaded on ships in ports could lead to a more efficient use of energy and reduces energy loss. Nevertheless, the workshop underscored the essential role of new investments in operational value chains and infrastructure. The workshop underlined the importance of targeted actions, innovative solutions, and collaboration to transform ports into energy innovation hubs. The journey toward sustainable shipping and port operations is a global responsibility. It is imperative to foster international collaboration, embrace green energy trends, and collectively steer toward a future in all sectors. Ports could become green energy trendsetters and rich countries will be the drivers of new concepts, but a global common decision is needed in this worldwide operating sector.