2025 AAPA LIGHTHOUSE AWARDS
Illuminating Excellence in the Port Industry

Application Requirements

The Application should be organized into the following sections:

- **Introduction:** Provide a brief introduction of the port or company and relevant background. If applicable, describe any supporting applicants or collaborating entities involved in the initiative, highlighting their roles and contributions. Summarize the overarching purpose and objectives of the program/project and briefly touch upon the challenges or opportunities addressed by the initiative.

- **Background:** Elaborate on the background and context of the program/project including its genesis, historical background, relevant research or studies, challenges or issues addressed by the initiative, and any previous work done in the area.

- **Goals and Objectives:** Outline the specific goals, objectives, and desired outcomes of the program/project. Articulate what the program/project aims to achieve and the intended impact it seeks to make. Goals represent broad, overarching aims, while objectives are specific, measurable targets that contribute to achieving those goals.

- **Implementation and Resources:** Provide the details of how the program/project was implemented, including details such as the methodology, timeline, action plan, milestones, key activities, and the resources required (e.g., financial, human, technological) to execute the initiative successfully.

- **Award Criteria:** Explain how the program/project meets the 8 award criteria described below. Demonstrate how the initiative fulfills the requirements and showcases excellence in relevant areas. If the program/project is being submitted for multiple award categories, tailor the response to align with the particular award category's mission and scope.

- **Conclusion:** Summarize the key points presented in the application and highlight any notable achievements, lessons learned, future plans, or recommendations

Award Criteria

There are eight criteria used to evaluate the Lighthouse Award entries with a possible total score of 100 points. A program/project must receive a score of at least 70 points to be considered for an award. While **Criterion 1** is not to be specifically addressed in the written application, it will be considered as part of the overall judging process based on the judges' assessment of the application. **Criteria 2 through 8** should be clearly addressed in the application, with supporting details and examples wherever applicable. Note that **Criteria 7 and 8** are different for the Port Awards and the Maritime Innovator of the Year Award.

1. Content and Organization (10 points)

Evaluate whether the application is well-structured, clear, and thoroughly addresses each required section. High scores should reflect applications that are comprehensive, logically organized, and easy to follow.

2. Effectiveness (20 points)

Evaluate how well the program/project meets its stated objectives and addresses the specific needs and challenges within its category. High scores should reflect programs/projects that demonstrate clear success in achieving its goals and deliver measurable outcomes.

3. Innovation (20 points)

Assess the degree to which the program/project introduces new ideas, approaches, or technologies relevant to its field. This criterion should measure not only the novelty but also the practical application and effectiveness in advancing industry standards or practices. Programs/projects that bring transformative changes or set new benchmarks should receive high scores.

4. Impact (10 points)

Measure the tangible and intangible impacts of the program/project on its category and the wider port community, both in the short and long term.

Short-term Impact (5 points): Assess the immediate benefits and outcomes of the program/project. Consider the direct effects on the target audience. Programs/projects that demonstrate significant, measurable achievements in a short timeframe should receive higher scores.

Long-term Impact (5 points): Evaluate the potential lasting effects of the program/project over an extended period. Programs/projects that are likely to provide sustainable benefits, promote long-term change, or lead to lasting improvements in their category should be rated highly.

5. Integration (10 points)

Assess how well the program/project integrates with existing infrastructure, systems, and/or processes within its category. Programs/projects that demonstrate effective integration, promote collaboration, and create synergies with other initiatives should be rated highly. Consider how well the program/project complements or enhances the existing landscape.

6. Adaptability and Scalability (10 points)

Evaluate the program/project's adaptability to changing circumstances, emerging technologies, expansion, and evolving needs. Programs/projects should have mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and evaluation, allowing them to adjust plans and processes effectively. High scores should be awarded to programs/projects that are flexible, demonstrate a pathway for growth or adaptation in broader applications, or are responsive to new challenges and opportunities.

Port Awards

7. Resource Optimization (10 points)

Determine to what degree program/project resources were efficiently used and whether effective cost management practices and value engineering solutions were implemented. Programs/projects that maintain economic efficiency and minimize waste should score highly. Programs/projects that successfully leverage alternative funding mechanisms to reduce reliance on traditional funding sources should also receive higher scores.

8. Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback (10 points)

Review how well the program/project involves relevant stakeholders, including local communities, businesses, and government entities. High scores should go to programs/projects that effectively communicate with and engage these groups, incorporate their feedback, and address their concerns.

Maritime Innovator Award

7. Relevance (10 points)

Assess how well the innovation addresses current challenges or gaps within port operations, infrastructure, or stakeholder coordination. High scores should be awarded to innovations that demonstrate a clear understanding of the complexities of port environments and align closely with industry priorities such as digitalization, decarbonization, automation, and resilience.

8. User Satisfaction (10 points)

Review how well the innovation meets the expectations, needs, and preferences of its end users—whether they are ports, terminal operators, logistics professionals, or longshore workers. High scores will go to submissions with evidence of positive user experiences, such as testimonials, adoption rates, feedback surveys, or improvements in user performance. Consideration will also be given to the extent of stakeholder engagement during the design and deployment process.