

International Day of Education



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BAHAMAS MILITARY & MARITIME ACADEMY

23 January 2025



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“AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in an Automated World”

Today, on the International Day of Education, we celebrate the transformative power of learning as a pillar of national security and societal progress. This year’s theme, “AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in an Automated World,” underscores the urgency of preparing the citizenry to thrive in an era of rapid technological change. The Bahamas Military and Maritime Academy (BMMA) embodies this vision, merging education with innovation to address critical challenges like workforce adaptation, climate resilience, and food security.

Rooted in Service and Love of Country

The BMMA’s origins trace back to the Royal Bahamas Defence Force’s Training Department, which for decades served as the cornerstone of military education under the leadership of Commodore Raymond King, Commander of the Defence Force. With 37 years of distinguished service, Commodore King envisioned transforming the RBDF’s training programs into a comprehensive institution accessible to all Bahamians. His tenure as Training Officer laid the groundwork for the BMMA, bridging military precision with civilian innovation. Today, the Academy honors this legacy by offering programs that blend traditional socioeconomically viable careers with cutting-edge advancements in maritime strategy, cybersecurity, and sustainable technologies.

The MSDCF: A Blueprint for Regional Progress

The Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) is the cornerstone of the United Nations’ partnership with the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, designed to accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It emphasizes collaborative action to tackle systemic issues such as climate vulnerability, economic inequality, and institutional capacity gaps. Structured around four priorities and eight outcomes, the framework provides a cohesive strategy for fostering inclusive growth, protecting natural resources, and strengthening justice systems.

The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, through the Ministry of National Security, has embarked on a transformative initiative to establish and subsequently gain accreditation for the Bahamas Military and Maritime Academy (BMMA). Guided by the standards set by the National Accreditation and Equivalency Council of The Bahamas (NAECOB) and other quality assurance authorities, the BMMA represents a bold step forward in aligning education with national security and sustainable development.

As we stand on the cusp of launching this groundbreaking institution, we reflect on the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Philip Davis, who, in February 2022, signed the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF). This framework, spanning 2022 to 2026, aligns The Bahamas with the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing four priorities and eight outcomes critical to the region’s progress. In just three short years, the BMMA has emerged as a tangible manifestation of this commitment, positioning itself as a beacon of progress in realizing the MSDCF’s priorities and outcomes. Today, we proudly highlight how the Academy is advancing these goals, ensuring The Bahamas remains a leader in sustainable development and regional collaboration.

This alignment ensures The Bahamas' national efforts, including the establishment of the BMMA, contribute directly to regional and global sustainability targets. Below, we detail how the Academy advances each of the MSDCF's priorities and outcomes.

PRIORITY 1: **Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience**

The BMMA drives economic transformation through innovation and education, directly contributing to Outcome 1 (a more productive and competitive business ecosystem) and Outcome 2 (a diversified and sustainable economy). By integrating advanced technologies into our curriculum, we prepare a workforce capable of thriving in a rapidly evolving global economy.

- *School of Business and Information Technology*: Develops expertise in entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and innovative business models, ensuring students are prepared to drive economic growth in a tech-driven world.
- *School of Engineering and Technology*: Equips students to address regional challenges through sustainable innovation in renewable energy, coastal resilience, and smart infrastructure. With a focus on island-specific solutions, the school emphasizes IoT-enabled systems and advanced materials for climate-resilient energy grids, storm-resistant construction, and sustainable maritime technologies.
- *Department of Industry Partnerships and Workforce Development*: Collaborates with local and regional partners to design training programs for high-growth sectors critical to the Caribbean, including green energy and digital innovation. Emerging technologies, such as Web3 for decentralized supply chain transparency and no-code/low-code automations, ensure the nation remains competitive in sustainable and tech-driven industries.

PRIORITY 2: **Equality, Well-being, and Leaving No One Behind**

The BMMA is committed to Outcome 3 (eliminating discrimination and advancing those at risk of being left behind) and Outcome 4 (ensuring equitable access to quality education, health, and social services).

- *School of Health and Human Performance*: Dedicated to addressing health challenges facing The Bahamas, the School pioneers telemedicine and preventative care initiatives to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease—conditions that strain healthcare systems and hinder economic productivity.
- *School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences*: Promotes cultural preservation, social equity, and inclusive policies through the humanities, creative arts, and social sciences.
- *Center for Academic Success (CAS)*: Empowers students at every stage of their academic journey through personalized tutoring, career-readiness workshops, and data-driven advising, bridging gaps in literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking.
- *Division of Continuing Education*: Ensures learning extends beyond traditional classrooms with accessible, non-credit programs in personal enrichment, professional skills, and community leadership, fostering lifelong growth for working professionals, retirees, and underserved populations.



PRIORITY 3: **Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management**

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), The Bahamas is uniquely vulnerable to climate change. The BMMA is at the forefront of Outcome 5 (enhancing adaptive capacity for disaster risk management) and Outcome 6 (sustainable natural resource management).

- *School of Maritime and Coastal Studies*: Prioritizes coral reef restoration, storm surge prediction, and sustainable fisheries management to safeguard marine ecosystems critical to livelihoods.
- *Security and Sustainability Research Institute (SSRI)*: Drives research and scholarship to combat the Caribbean's existential threats—extreme weather, food insecurity, and governance gaps—through climate resilience (hurricane-resistant infrastructure, AI-enhanced disaster modeling), sustainable resource management, and equitable socio-economic strategies.

PRIORITY 4:
Peace, Safety, Justice, and the Rule of Law

The BMMA is a pillar of Outcome 7 (improving access to justice and promoting peace) and Outcome 8 (building safer, more inclusive societies).

- *School of Military Science and Strategy:* Provides advanced training in maritime strategy, cybersecurity, and disaster response, equipping military and civilian leaders with strategic expertise to counter emerging threats.
- *Department of Military and Maritime Training:* Situated within the Division of Professional Studies, this department enhances RBDF training by integrating academic rigor with global partnerships. Its programs address climate disasters, cyber risks, and transnational crime, merging military discipline with strategic expertise to safeguard sovereignty and tackle evolving security challenges.



Together, through education, innovation, and collaboration, we will safeguard our national progress and unlock the full potential of our people. Let us move forward with purpose and determination, honoring the vision of our leaders and shaping a future of resilience and shared prosperity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Origin Deleveaux, Jr., DD, MSc, JP., Commander
President, Bahamas Military and Maritime Academy (BMMA)



Urgent Action for a Transformative Future

At this critical juncture, The Bahamas faces an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that the rapid advancements in technology do not widen existing socio-economic disparities. The BMMA recognizes the challenges posed by automation and artificial intelligence, as highlighted in the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs 2025 report and is committed to preparing our populace for the Fifth Industrial Revolution. By fostering adaptability, innovation, and resilience, the Academy aims to ensure that our nation thrives in this transformative era.

Celebrating Nation Builders - Honoring Everyday Contributions:

In alignment with the MSDCF's inclusive ethos, the Academy will launch the Nation Builders Awards, an ongoing community-driven initiative recognizing individuals at all levels across the archipelago who contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From teachers integrating digital literacy into classrooms to straw vendors preserving our cultural heritage, this initiative celebrates the unsung heroes shaping our nation.

This effort is paired with urgent action: The forthcoming Workforce Transformation in the Age of AI and Automation Symposium, a critical event uniting educators, industry leaders, policymakers, and citizenry at a pivotal moment for our nation. As global trends accelerate, the BMMA is committed to ensuring that the Commonwealth of The Bahamas remains competitive, adaptive, and prepared to seize opportunities amid disruption.

"Together, through education, innovation, and collaboration, we will safeguard our national progress and unlock the full potential of our people." Dr. Deleveaux