

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING
COMMITTEE, MS. YIANNITZAH JACOBUS**

**Delivered at the 51st Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean
Universities, Research, and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL)
held at the Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort on June 6, 2022**

[Introduction video to the ACURIL 2022 Conference](#)

Bon bini, welcome, bienvenidos, bienvenue!

What a few years the past years have been. A pandemic, the new normal, almost every other month new regulations, people not being able to live their lives as they're used to, but still throughout this all, we kept going.

Who would have thought when we left the ACURIL conference in Aruba, that we would have to wait so long to see each other again. When I look around this ballroom, I realize that despite all the hard work, the sleepless nights, and long meetings, we made it happen! Today we're welcoming you to our beautiful island, and to this informative, tech savvy conference with digital advancements which are new to the Acuril conference system.

Change management and resiliency. We, of the National Library of Curacao, know all too well what these words mean. We've encountered challenges throughout the last years and in all this trying to build the library of the future for our island. A library that would offer a safe environment for our community, high tech digital resources, combined with physical books, reading programs and programs to stimulate digital and media literacy.

Working together with regional and international libraries for example, the alliance we have with the National Library of the Netherlands, and those of our sister islands, Aruba, Bonaire, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba. Collaborating with each other, but not losing our identity and keeping our vision close to our community and culture.

As we open our conference I encourage you to get informed, be creative, and get inspired by this exceptional program we have prepared for you, but most of all, especially in these times of change, remember to stay close to your heart, to grow our libraries into change resilient institutions for our communities.

Once more I welcome you to our beautiful island of Curaçao and wish you a fruitful conference where we reconnect with each other.

Thank you very much

June 6, 2022