

**WELCOME WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ACURIL, DR.  
ELIZABETH PIERRE-LOUIS, AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY**

**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 9, 2022**

Mr. President, Mme Immediate Past President, Members of the Local Organizing committee, Members of the ACURIL board, Acuril members and friends, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the closing ceremony of the LI annual conference, ACURIL 2022 Curacao.

This morning I went swimming. As some of you know I love to swim far until my head looks like a tiny pin from afar. The water was transparent, and I felt free and strong. I turned to look at the shore and I could see some people about. I started to swim back.

But things started to shift very slightly, the waves got a bit higher and the current stronger. I started to doubt myself, a little panic started to rise. It lasted a few seconds until I did a quick body check, no cramps, no pain, breath normal, stamina high. Nothing physical then. I started to relax and regain confidence.

Back on the shore, I lay on my back and looking at the beautiful Caribbean sky, I starting to think back at what had happened to me and put it into perspective to all I had heard learned, shared and practiced along this week. About resilience and change management, about trust, about the sometimes long lonely road when dealing with change and quasi euphoria of a job well done.

This morning became a metaphor also of my past year or so as Acuril Executive Secretary trying to push further along towards the horizon, keeping trust in the values we share as my compass, sharing and learning with others, and always reminded, under a beautiful blue Caribbean sky of the incredible luck we have to live, learn, exchange and thrive.

The road is there, and we can choose to go ahead, together.

June 9, 2022