



**WELCOME  
RECEPTION**

**(During CERAWeek)**



**Tuesday**  
March 24, 2026



**6:00PM - 9:00PM**



**Haynes and Boone**  
1221 McKinney St, Houston, TX 77010

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## **Program**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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### **6:00 PM Registration & Networking**

### **6:45 PM Welcome Remarks Haynes Boone**

- Mark Tidwell, Partner, Haynes and Boone (Host)

### **Welcome Remarks BRATECC**

- Carla Lacerda, President, BRATECC

### **Special Remarks**

- H.E. Ambassador Breno Costa, Consul General of Brazil in Houston
- Mariana Trevizan, United Airlines
- Moji Karimi, CEO, CEMVITA (Bio-Horizon)
- Pietro Mendes, Director, National Agency for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP)
- Roberto ARDENGHY, Presidente/CEO, Brazilian Institute of Oil, Gas and Biofuels
- Renata Baruzzi, Chief Engineering, Technology, and Innovation Officer, Petrobras
- Carla Lacerda, Closing Statements (Recognition Jane Stricker, introduction Sophia Cunningham, HETI/GHP)

### **6:50 PM Networking Reception**

### **9:00 PM Reception Adjourns**



**HE Ambassador  
Breno Dias da Costa**  
CONSUL GENERAL OF BRAZIL  
IN HOUSTON

Born on December 13, 1958, in Rio de Janeiro (RJ), Ambassador Breno Dias da Costa holds a degree in Economics from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (1981). He earned a master's degree in Foreign Policy and Diplomacy (2021) from the Universidad de Defensa de Honduras, graduating with the distinction Summa Cum Laude, with the thesis titled "Policy Analysis of the Republic of Honduras to Prevent, Ensure Security, and Regulate Irregular Migration Flows to the United States."

He joined the diplomatic career in 1987. He completed the Diplomat Improvement Course (CAD) in 1997 and the High Studies Course (CAE) in 2006, with the thesis "The United States and the Reform of the United Nations Security Council: The Evolution of the U.S. Position and its Effects on Brazil's Candidacy for Permanent Membership on the UNSC."

In Brazil, he has worked in several departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Deputy Head of the Central and Northern America Division and as Head of the Non-Renewable Energy Resources Division. Abroad, he was posted at Brazilian Embassies in Lagos, London, Caracas, Washington, and Asunción. Since 2012, he has headed several missions, including serving as Interim Representative at the Brazilian Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS), and as Ambassador of Brazil to Honduras and Nicaragua.

As of April 2025, he serves as Consul General of Brazil in Houston.



## **Carla Lacerda**

PRESIDENT  
BRAZIL-TEXAS CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

Carla Lacerda has been an effective leader of the energy sector through her work with the business community, government, and regulatory agencies. She retired as President of ExxonMobil Brazil, managing a robust upstream portfolio. Carla was also chairperson of ABEP/IBP Brazilian Petroleum Institute, overseeing various aspects of advocacy and regulatory frameworks for industry. In 2023, she was honored in receiving the ANP Award for Industry Person of the Year, in recognition of the 20+ years of work to encourage investments, research, development, and innovation efforts. Currently, Carla is President of the Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce (BRATECC) in Houston, Texas, and a Non-Resident Fellow with the Institute of the Americas at University of California San Diego (UCSD), in the Energy and Sustainability Program. In these positions, she is dedicated to fostering Brazil-US investment opportunity relationships, plus sharing of knowledge of new technologies, energy transition, and innovation. Carla is also active in Women's Leadership Mentorship Programs and development of young leaders.



## **Jane Stricker**

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,  
ENERGY TRANSITION  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
HOUSTON ENERGY TRANSITION  
INITIATIVE THE GREATER  
HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

As Senior VP, Energy Transition and Executive Director of the Houston Energy Transition Initiative, Jane leads the Greater Houston Partnership's efforts to leverage the region's energy leadership to accelerate global solutions for an energy-abundant, low-carbon future. She leads a coalition of industry, academic, and community partners to ensure the long-term economic competitiveness and advancement of the Houston region towards a more sustainable energy future. Prior to joining the Partnership, Jane spent over two decades at bp, where she held roles in marketing, corporate finance, governance, and compliance. Among her many accomplishments, she developed and delivered the 2019 National Petroleum Council study on carbon capture, use and storage in coordination with the U.S. Department of Energy. Jane serves on the Boards of Greentown Labs, North America's largest cleantech/climatetech incubator, and BCarbon, a non-profit carbon registry that catalyzes widespread ecological regeneration. She also serves on the advisory boards of the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Energy Center and Special Olympics Texas, an organization committed to providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Jane holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore and an MBA from Loyola University in Chicago.



## **Mariana Trevizan**

CORPORATE SALES MANAGER  
BRAZIL AT UNITED AIRLINES

Mariana is an experienced professional with a career spanning multinational airlines in the commercial sector. With expertise in business development, sales strategy, and customer relations, she has demonstrated strong capabilities in complex negotiations and driving growth within the tourism industry.

Currently at United Airlines, the world's largest airline, Mariana is responsible for overseeing corporate revenue for Brazil.

Mariana holds a degree in Advertising (Advertising & Propaganda) from Universidade Metodista de São Paulo and an MBA in Marketing Communication from ESPM.



## **Mark Tidwell**

PARTNER AT HAYNES BOONE

Mark Tidwell is a partner at Haynes Boone in the firm's Intellectual Property Practice Group in the Houston office. His practice focuses on the prosecution, acquisition, licensing, divestiture, and enforcement of patent rights, as well as trademark, trade secret, and copyright matters. He has filed and prosecuted hundreds of patent, trademark, and copyright applications and is recognized in Intellectual Asset Magazine's (IAM) Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Practitioners for patent prosecution and intellectual property transaction work. He also serves as a guest lecturer on intellectual property at the Texas A&M Mays School of Business. He often works with cross-border companies to develop an intellectual property strategy as they engage with the U.S. market.



## **Moji Karimi**

CEO AT CEMVITA

Moji Karimi is a futurist entrepreneur and co-founder & CEO of Cemvita, an industrial biotechnology company operating at the intersection of energy and nature. Cemvita's mission is to make the sustainable option the most economical choice by converting waste carbon streams into renewable natural oil and bio-based products at commercial scale.

With active operations and partnerships in Brazil, Cemvita is advancing first-of-a-kind biomanufacturing projects that support the country's leadership in the circular bioeconomy and low-carbon fuels. The company works closely with Brazilian industry, research institutions, and state stakeholders to deploy scalable solutions aligned with Brazil's agricultural and energy strengths.

Moji holds an M.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering and previously led the commercialization of subsurface DNA sequencing technologies before founding Cemvita. He serves as an advisor and board member across the climate and bioeconomy ecosystem and is passionate about strengthening Brazil-Texas innovation and investment ties.



## **Pietro Mendes**

DIRECTOR AT THE NATIONAL  
AGENCY OF PETROLEUM,  
NATURAL GAS AND BIOFUELS  
(ANP)

Director at the National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP), he has been a career civil servant at the Agency since 2006, serving as a Regulation Specialist. He previously served as Secretary of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels at the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME).

He works on strategic initiatives, with a focus on expanding natural gas supply (gas release), combating fraud in the fuels market, and accelerating oil and gas bidding rounds.

He holds a degree in Chemistry, a Ph.D. from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Simon Fraser University (SFU), Canada.



## **Renata Baruzzi**

CHIEF ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY,  
AND INNOVATION OFFICER,  
PETROBRAS

Renata Baruzzi has a degree in Mathematics from the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), a specialization in Strategic Technology Management from COPPE/NCE and in Business Administration from IBMEC, as well as several extension courses abroad, including the Advanced Management Program (AMP) at Harvard Business School. She joined Petrobras 38 years ago and worked at the Cubatão Refinery (RPBC) and Paulínia Refinery (REPLAN) during the company's first 8 years. She began her management career in 2001 in HR, then moved to Engineering, where she worked at all management levels for 12 years, becoming Executive Manager of ETM-CORP (Engineering, Technology and Materials – Corporate) in 2012. She has international experience, where she served as Corporate Manager at Petrobras America Inc (Houston, TX) from 2015 to 2019. He was currently managing the Integrated Logistics Management area.



## **Roberto Ardenghy**

PRESIDENT & CEO,  
IBP - BRAZILIAN PETROLEUM AND  
GAS INSTITUTE

Currently CEO of the Brazilian Petroleum & Gas Institute (IBP), the main industry association in Brazil, Roberto Ardenghy is a former Brazilian diplomat with 30+ years of experience in government relations, infrastructure, energy, sustainability, and oil & gas, both in private and public sectors. Mr. Ardenghy is a reference in energy discussions in Brasil and abroad and he is a frequent speaker in international events related to energy transition, oil & gas and investment opportunities in Brazil, such as RIO OIL & GAS 2016/2017/2022, ADIPEC 2020, OTC 2015/2017/2021/2023, GASTECH 2022, STS Forum (Japan) 2022, CERAWEEK 2023 and Baker Hughes Annual Meeting (Firenze) 2023. On January 2019 he joined PETROBRAS as Chief of Staff of the CEO. He was later appointed Chief Executive (Board Member) in charge of Institutional & Sustainability areas, with responsibilities to oversee climate change, communications, social performance and government affairs. He worked as a diplomat at different Brazilian Embassies and Consulates abroad (Washington DC, Buenos Aires, Houston and New York). He also held senior positions in Brazil's federal government in Brasilia. From 2002 to 2007, he worked at the National Petroleum Agency ANP (oil regulator), with different responsibilities, including Chief of Staff, President of the Ethics Commission and Supply and Biofuels Superintendent. From 2007 to 2011 he took the position of Chief Corporate Affairs at BG Group in Brazil, an international oil company based in Rio de Janeiro. At that time he was professor of International Law at Candido Mendes University, and at the post-graduation program of COPPE - Federal University of Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ. Ardenghy is board member of the Brazil/American Chambers of Commerce in Rio de Janeiro, Houston and New York. He graduated in law at the Federal University of Santa Maria and earned a master degree in diplomacy and international relations at Rio Branco Institute. He also also has a post-graduate degrees in petroleum and natural gas by Federal University of Rio de Janeiro/COPPE. In 2014 Mr. Ardenghy wrote a thesis for the Advance Studies Program at the Brazilian Diplomatic Academy about Oil & Gas in Brazil and the Impact in the country's Foreign Policy. He is fluent in English, French and Spanish. He is married with two children.



## **Sophia Cunningham**

VICE PRESIDENT, HOUSTON ENERGY  
TRANSITION INITIATIVE (HETI)

Sophia Cunningham is vice president of the Houston Energy Transition Initiative (HETI) at the Greater Houston Partnership, the principal business organization for the greater Houston region. HETI promotes economic growth in Houston by convening energy industry members in support of technology, policy, and market initiatives for an energy-abundant, low-carbon future. At HETI, Sophia is responsible for efforts related to carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS), methane management, community engagement, climate equity, and stakeholder activation through the Initiative's Advisory Board.

Prior to joining HETI, Sophia was director of public policy at the Partnership. The Partnership's public policy team advances Houston's position as a great global city through policy that fosters economic growth and opportunity for all. Sophia was responsible for the Partnership's energy, sustainability, transportation and infrastructure policy portfolio.

Prior to joining the public policy team, Sophia worked for the Partnership's regional workforce development initiative, UpSkill Houston. During her time at UpSkill Houston, Sophia supported the development of employer-led programs that cultivate quality talent in the industries that drive Houston's regional economy.

Sophia received her Master of Science in Energy from Texas A&M University. She graduated from Davidson College with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She is an alum of the Center for Houston's Future Leadership Forum

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