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ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

FOCUS

Newsletter of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

**DRR IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR:
A NEW PAGE IS TURNED IN THE CARIBBEAN**

SPOTLIGHT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES:
IMPROVING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND ENABLING GROWTH**

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The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It was established in 1948 to support Latin American governments in the economic and social development of that region. Subsequently, in 1966, the Commission (ECLA, at that time) established the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain to serve all countries of the insular Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname, making it the largest United Nations body in the subregion.

At its sixteenth session in 1975, the Commission agreed to create the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) as a permanent subsidiary body, which would function within the ECLA structure to promote development cooperation among Caribbean countries. Secretariat services to the CDCC would be provided by the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Nine years later, the Commission's widened role was officially acknowledged when the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) modified its title to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Key Areas of Activity

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean (ECLAC/CDCC secretariat) functions as a subregional think-tank and facilitates increased contact and cooperation among its membership. Complementing the ECLAC/CDCC work programme framework, are the broader directives issued by the United Nations General Assembly when in session, which constitute the Organization's mandate. At present, the overarching articulation of this mandate is the Millennium Declaration, which outlines the Millennium Development Goals.

Towards meeting these objectives, the secretariat conducts research; provides technical advice to governments, upon request; organizes intergovernmental and expert group meetings; helps to formulate and articulate a regional perspective within global forums; and introduces global concerns at the regional and subregional levels.

Areas of specialisation include trade, statistics, social development, science and technology, and sustainable development; while actual operational activities extend to economic and development planning, demography, economic surveys, assessment of the socio-economic impacts of natural disasters, data collection and analysis, training, and assistance with the management of national economies.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean also functions as the secretariat for coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). The scope of ECLAC/CDCC activities is documented in the wide range of publications produced by the Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain.

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Barbados	St. Kitts and Nevis
Belize	Saint Lucia
Cuba	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Dominica	Suriname
Dominican Republic	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	
Guyana	

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CONTENTS

DRR in the Education Sector - A new page is turned in the Caribbean	3
Spotlight on Violence Against Women	6
Expert Group Meeting on Knowledge Management for Development	8
Caribbean Economies: Improving the Investment Climate and Enabling Growth	10
Regular Features	
Recent ECLAC Publications	14
Upcoming Events - 1st Quarter 2010	14

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DRR IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR - A NEW PAGE IS TURNED IN THE CARIBBEAN



At the conference facilities of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) in Kingston, Jamaica on 26 and 27 October 2009, some 25 experts, drawn from the Ministries of Education of Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia sat with their counterparts from national and regional academic institutions and United Nations Organizations to discuss a number of pertinent issues of concern to the Sector such as the impact of natural disasters on the education sector; the workings of emergency plans and programming at the national level for the education sector and recommendations for the strengthening of DRR in the education sector.

It was the first time that experts from the English speaking Caribbean drawn from the education sector, were meeting to discuss disaster risk reduction (DRR). Experts came from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, Mona Campus, Jamaica; the United Nations System including representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Jamaica; and the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and from local and regional organizations which included the Children's Advocate, Jamaica, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Office of Disaster Preparedness Emergency Management (ODPEM); and officers of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, convened the expert group meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Education Sector, in collaboration with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) to explore policy

recommendations drawn from national experiences that might be replicable at the subregional level.

The meeting also had as its purpose the value of providing a forum in which the Ministries of Education, regional academic institutions and development partner organizations from the Caribbean could meet and share experiences and build a community of practice.

The meeting was formally opened by Dr. Pauline Knight, the Director General (Ag.), of the Planning Institute of Jamaica, who expressed her pleasure at the collaboration between ECLAC and PIOJ in the convening of the expert group meeting on an important area for the development of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). She expressed her agreement with those who held the view that natural hazards posed the single greatest potential threat to the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS, and particularly so in the light of climate variability and change. She highlighted what she termed the harsh reality for many Caribbean SIDS which in the aftermath of a natural disaster, have to fund rehabilitation efforts from loans, further adding to the debt burden of SIDS. She called on Governments in the subregion to factor disaster risk reduction into all their development plans and models and take a strategic and proactive approach to minimizing these risks.

She noted that Jamaica had begun to take such a strategic approach across all sectors, and in that regard, hazard risk, resilience and climate change adaptation was noted as a priority national strategy in Vision 2030, Jamaica's National Development Plan. She called on participants during their two days of deliberations to consider the fast tracking of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the education sector and proposed among a number of measures, the promoting of hazard

resilient construction of new schools, the establishment of protocols for the use of schools as shelters and establishing systems to document, analyze and respond to the experiences of children in disasters.

Mr. Jeremy Collymore, the Executive Director of CDEMA, in addressing the opening session, declared the education sector the critical bridge to the building of a culture of disaster risk reduction.

He thanked ECLAC and the PIOJ for this meeting which he thought would deepen the cooperation towards DRR integration in education. He highlighted the outcomes of a long period of seeking to strengthen the links between disaster risk reduction and the education sector. These included the development of a framework for a diploma in disaster management studies, and a post graduate programme at UWI, and the development of interactive guidance and other resource materials for teachers and students at both the level of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

He shared with participants the key objectives of the Education Sector Sub-Committee of the Harmonization Council of the CDEMA. Among those highlighted were to provide overall guidance at the education sector level to facilitate the mainstreaming of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) at the national and regional levels; to identify challenges and gaps regarding the implementation of CDM at the sector level; and to articulate priority CDM results for the sector. He indicated that CDEMA viewed the meeting as another critical medium for informing and enriching the consultative stakeholder discourse and noted that CDEMA had been in discussions with ECLAC to become a member of the Committee. ►

The Regional Adviser of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Dr. Asha Kambon welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked the PIOJ for partnering with ECLAC on the convening of the meeting and for partnership in the undertaking of a macro socio-economic assessment in the subregion earlier in the year. She highlighted one of the key lessons learned from undertaking damage and loss assessments over the years, and stated *“ if Caribbean SIDS do not work to reduce risk and vulnerabilities, then there will be little or no momentum for development, as much of their energy and resources would be spent on reconstruction or getting back to where the societies were before a disaster.”*

She also asked the meeting to note that risk was a social construct and as such it was defined by the social positions, relationships and roles played by the different actors - individuals, households, communities and institutions in the society. She reminded participants that what was considered unacceptable risk for some was considered acceptable risk for others. Therefore, risk reduction was a complex social process which must engage diverse and frequently antagonistic social actors in the risk analysis scenario. It was not purely a technocratic problem with a technocratic solution. In regard to the education subsector, she reminded participants that formal certification was a key factor in explaining the difference between poverty and wealth and that education was critical in the creation of a flexible people, who were adaptable to change. As inhabitants of small island States, they would have to adapt to the climate variation and changes and its impact that confronts us all today.

The Impact of natural Disasters on the Education Sector in selected Caribbean States: Preliminary findings

Preliminary findings of a study on the impact of natural disasters on the education sector in selected Caribbean States was presented by the Regional Adviser of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The study highlighted the general vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS to extreme events and the negative impact on the education sector. It noted that

although the social impact on the education sector had not been fully valued, for the period 2000-2008, rough estimates suggested that approximately US\$ 3 billion dollars in damage had been caused to school infrastructure and over a half million children had been disrupted from school attendance.

The study further suggested that there were limitations to the valuation of the total effects on the education sector as many external costs could not be fully captured. However, the study argued that disasters could present an opportunity to impact the education sector positively: if in fact safer schools were built in the aftermath of disasters; and if the inherited structural inequalities in the education system, which often favoured students from the higher income households over those from lower income households, were addressed.

A number of recommendations were made by the study, among them were that more information regarding vulnerabilities, hazards and risk be generated and used in informing the DRR policy in the education sector and that a scaling up of the inclusion of DRR in the school curricula through teacher training was required. It was asserted that better management and use of educational statistics was necessary in order to be able to ascertain the impact of disasters on the educational performance of students.

A round table discussion followed the presentation. Participants took the opportunity to identify issues that were of particular concern. Agreement was expressed with the call for the conduct of vulnerability studies so that informed decisions could be made regarding rehabilitation programmes to critical infrastructure in the education sector. Participants also concurred with the notion of using a multi-hazard approach. The view was expressed that more assistance was needed to design adequate planning on the part of school administrators to accommodate students during periods of emergency. Some participants expressed the view that there was a need for more references to local situations in the various textbooks and/or workbooks so as to arouse and maintain students' interests. The meeting expressed agreement with the position that technical teams from the

MOEs should be integrally involved in the plans for design, development and maintenance of school infrastructure.



BIS photo / Peter Ramsay

Shared Experiences in DRR

Experts from six countries shared their DRR experiences.

The representative from the **Bahamas** informed participants that like its Caribbean neighbours, the Bahamas experienced the devastating impact of hurricanes. He recalled that in 2004, when Hurricane Jeanne and Frances devastated some of the islands of the Bahamas, it left some 14,000 students in the public school system without full days of formal education for some two to three weeks. In response, the MOE had developed a programme which focused on mental, physical and practical awareness. There was also an action plan which was managed by the disaster preparedness and recovery committees. A prevention maintenance schedule for physical plant ensures its soundness in regard to roofing systems, electrical systems and plumbing. Repairs to the education sector infrastructure are dealt with by the local government bodies. In order to address the transfer of DRR knowledge to the student population, the MOE has published a Primary School Supplementary Workbook, and a Teachers manual. A comic book has also been prepared for dissemination to the general population. Information is widely disseminated by the MOE on its Learning channel on television which is aired weekly.

The representative from **Belize**, in her presentation, noted that the MOE has no national disaster policy but each school seeks to develop its own risk reduction plan and to date, six Districts have schools in which such plans have been developed. More efforts, she emphasized were necessary to ensure that the existing plans were operational. However, she shared with participants

the best practice of one District, Corozal, in which the plans were operational. In this District effective mitigation efforts were established so that schools had been relocated from less vulnerable zones and were built in accordance with hurricane standards. She reported that retrofitting was taking place although not always at the desired pace but this was constrained by available resources. She also stated that protocols were well established for the use and management of shelters.

The representative from the Commonwealth of **Dominica** informed the meeting of a number of effective responses to previous catastrophes which the MOE spearheads or is an active partner. These included the hosting of a disaster preparedness day and the conduct within the school system of frequent drills in response to different potential disasters. Mr. Jean Jacques explained the significance of the employment of a maintenance officer in the MOE who is a civil engineer responsible for retrofitting educational facilities and the implementation of successful mitigation initiatives regarding the infrastructure of the MOE. He proffered a number of areas on which MOEs could focus to strengthen DRR in the sector. These included disaster retrofitting of school buildings prior to the hurricane season, the insuring of new school structures, greater involvement of school personnel in the development of consistent and detailed planning and mitigation policies and programmes.



Photo / Jamaica Gleaner

The representatives of **Jamaica** presented an overview on the Jamaican experience in disaster risk reduction. They indicated that for Jamaica, Hurricane Gilbert in 1988 was the wake up call. Since then programmes were introduced into the education sector to address mitigation, prevention, risk reduction, preparedness and vulnerability reduction. Jamaica is concerned that although

these programmes have been initiated, there still exists problems of delayed start of school, as a result of the use of the buildings as shelters, vandalism of property and the high incidence of absenteeism among the student population following disasters. They have recorded consistent increases in government expenditures as hundreds of schools are often affected and temporary measures have to be taken to support the resumption of classes. The experts from Jamaica reiterated the importance of having a national policy governing DRR in the education sector as much was being done but it was neither coherent nor consistent. They also expressed the view that it was important to formalize the relationship between MOE and ODPEM in regard to the use of schools as shelters so that necessary protocols could be developed and implemented.

The representative of **Saint Kitts** and Nevis presented a broad description of the structure of education and policy of the Government towards education. He outlined the multi hazard environment of St. Kitts and Nevis and noted that the use of schools as shelters had been discontinued so as to shorten the length of time which children had to spend without schooling. He also pointed to the construction of educational buildings in compliance with the building codes which had resulted in less damage to the infrastructure from the impact of hurricanes. He informed participants that there was, however, no DRR plan and urged them to undertake the important research which could assess the impact of disasters on the performance of students.

The representative of **Saint Lucia** informed participants that schools are the only main shelters available to the population during times of disasters so much had to be done to ensure that they were safe structures. DRR strategies are being developed and a number of policy documents were brought to the meeting's attention with the assurance that as soon as they were finalized they would be shared with the MOEs across the region. He raised the challenges posed by management of the A H1N1 pandemic and its impact on the operations of the schools.

A number of key issues were highlighted for attention by the Experts in attendance such as the need to examine the location of schools to ensure that they are not built in fragile or vulnerable areas; the need for proper identification, assessment and treatment of children who are affected by traumatic stress following a disaster; the need for standardized educational and training materials throughout the region; and the need to examine the relationship between education and poverty and absenteeism and achievements, in the light of natural disasters.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

There was general agreement that a draft subregional DRR policy should be developed which could then be adapted at the national level for application across all schools. Such a policy should address the multi-hazard environment of the Caribbean SIDS and seek to reduce the 'spill over' effects of one disaster triggering another.

With regard to the issue of how DRR knowledge should be disseminated, it was suggested that it be integrated in the curriculum for infusion throughout the primary and secondary levels and as stand alone courses at the tertiary level.

It was also recommended that DRR be taught in teacher training institutions as a core course.

The issue of safe schools held the attention of the meeting and it was recommended that there should be consistent maintenance of all schools and their equipment. This process could follow the pattern of a safety audit. The meeting called for greater compliance with the Caribbean building code specifications regarding both construction of schools and building materials. ►

(continued on page 13)

SPOTLIGHT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Photo credit - SJS

The year 2009 witnessed some very positive developments in the Caribbean subregion with respect to addressing the issue of gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence. In this respect the Caribbean could be said to be charting a new path.

It is very well known throughout the Caribbean subregion that violence against women continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing society, manifesting itself in a multitude of problems including physical violence, sexual violence such as rape and incest, and additionally, there are the growing incidences of human trafficking of women and children.

The available data reveal that many of the young women who end up in the criminal justice system are victims of some form of abuse either within the family or externally. More often than not, the alleged perpetrator is an adult male.

Numerous initiatives have been implemented to address this scourge, including the introduction of legislation on domestic violence, training of law enforcement and key front line intervention workers, such as social workers, paramedics and welfare officers and the provision of safe shelters for victims and their children.

What has been significant about 2009 is the direct response from Caribbean Governments, where the issue has been raised by Prime Minister of Guyana, the government of Trinidad and Tobago, which has stressed its commitment to the eradication of violence and pledged to provide the necessary resources to treat with this problem.

As recently as November 2009, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago revealed some heartbreaking statistics on domestic violence, where the Leader of Government Business in the Senate stated that during the past five years (2005-09), the Police Service recorded 6,415 reports of domestic violence and 120 deaths.

Similarly in Barbados, the government recently released the findings of a survey on the prevalence of domestic violence. The Minister with responsibility for Gender Affairs was quoted in the Barbados Advocate Newspaper as identifying the need to enforce legislation as one of the responses to addressing this problem, adding also that the Police Department was operating in a very strictly defined legislative framework.

This limitation on the legislative framework points to the need to review the current legislation not only in Barbados but throughout the Caribbean, where laws remain inadequate for addressing the problem and in many cases laws are either not well known or are not enacted.



The call for strong laws is in keeping with the United Nations Secretary General's Campaign "Unite to End Violence Against Women", which was launched in 2008. The campaign calls on Governments to put in place by the year 2015, strong laws, multi-sectoral action plans, preventive measures, data collection, and systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations.

In the Caribbean, with the assistance of UN agencies such as ECLAC, UNIFEM, PAHO and UNFPA, Caribbean Governments are taking steps to improve the collection of data on violence against women and to measure the effects on society. The data collection protocol on domestic violence was developed by ECLAC/CDCC in 2002, and is conceived as an instrument to facilitate the collection of reliable data to obtain a profile of the victims and perpetrators of violence; understand the frequency and incidence of domestic violence; identify the at risk groups; develop intervention programmes; and monitor the effectiveness of violence prevention and intervention activities.

UNITE to END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Among the countries implementing data collection protocols for gender-based violence are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. In 2008, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago began activities to pilot test and establish a Central Registry to collect data on domestic violence and invited ECLAC to be a member of the Committee, which meets on a monthly basis, to assist with the implementation process.

Other positive developments in 2009 saw the CARICOM Secretariat spearheading a project that is expected to reduce the incidence of violence against women in the Caribbean. The main components of this project are the establishment of an office of the Special Advocate against gender-based violence and the development of an advocacy and communication strategy to improve the framework for research, advocacy, public education and policy development for the prevention of gender-based violence. ECLAC is a member of the CARICOM working Group on Gender-based violence which was established to assist with implementation of this project.

During 2009, the ECLAC Subregional Office for the Caribbean representing the UNTT's Gender Working Group in this area supported a number of activities in Trinidad and Tobago, which sought to address the issue of gender-based violence. Among these were the International Women's Day (IWD) March organized by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, under the theme "women and men: united to end violence against women," on Sunday March 8; the lunchtime address to the Rotary Club - 12th March 2009; the public lecture organized by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI, St. Augustine to commemorate the international day against violence

against women on 20th November 2009; and participation in the radio discussion hosted by the NGO Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) on 103FM on 25 November at commemoration of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, where a UN perspective on the commemoration itself, and the Secretary-General's campaign UNITE to End Violence Against Women, was provided.

In addition, ECLAC assisted with the coordination of the panel discussion on "Domestic Violence, gender-based violence and coercion by members of the protective services and avenues for recourse," as part of its contribution to the leadership workshop on "Building capacity among leaders of vulnerable groups", hosted by the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP), and UNAIDS on 17 November 2009.

This panel discussion threw light on an oft ignored problem of gender-based violence in our society, namely the violence that is meted out to vulnerable groups such as men who have sex with men, commercial sex workers and transgenders, and the intersection between violence and HIV.

At the international level, positive developments are also taking place, as seen by the decision of the Statistical Commission, at its 39th session, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 62/133, to approve the formation of Friends of the Chair group to conduct an in-depth technical review of proposed indicators to measure violence against women.



Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General

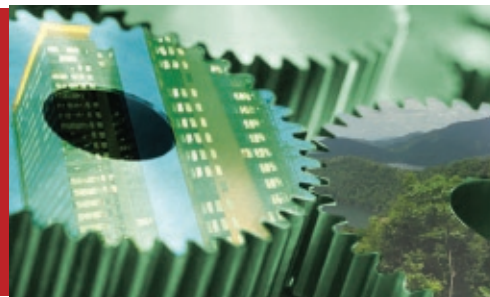
In his IWD message, the UN Secretary General called for economic and social policies to support women's empowerment and for an end to the habitual and socially ingrained violence that mars lives, destroys health, perpetuates poverty and prevents us from achieving women's equality and empowerment. He also called for positive images of women in the media, for laws that not only say violence is a crime, but laws that hold perpetrators accountable and for these laws to be enforced.

Efforts at ending violence against women can only succeed in an environment that is conducive to such efforts, and as 2009 draws to a close, the Caribbean is witnessing the growing enabling environment to address the issue of violence against women and uphold the right of women to live a life free of violence. ■



UNITE to END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT



The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean recently convened a *Regional Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Knowledge Management for Development*, which was held on 17 November 2009 at the Subregional Headquarters in Port of Spain.

The objectives of the Meeting were to increase awareness on the topic of knowledge management as a tool to promote economic development, environmental protection and social empowerment and to advance discussions towards a practical knowledge management approach for the Caribbean.

The findings of a report that was prepared by the ECLAC's Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre on the topic of Knowledge Management for Development was presented at the meeting, and served as the basis for deliberations.

The EGM also offered participating countries and institutions the opportunity to share their views on the role of indigenous knowledge in participatory approaches for sustainable development; as well as country and institutional experiences on knowledge management for development.

The following is a summary taken from the report of this meeting.

REGIONAL APPROACHES TO KM

ECLAC

The opening session was led by Mr. Neil Pierre, Director, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. The approach to knowledge management by ECLAC in the Caribbean subregion

is two-fold: firstly, internal, focused on the need to organize and codify ECLAC resources in a manner to support its analytic and research efforts (internal skills audit/skills bank, digitization of all past and present products, development portal and Intranet); and secondly, external, aimed at promoting knowledge management as a development tool for the Caribbean. The EGM, he stressed, was primarily about this second approach.

Knowledge management involves distinct but interdependent processes of knowledge creation, knowledge storage and retrieval, knowledge transfer and knowledge application. At any point in time, an organization and its members can be involved in multiple knowledge management processes and chains¹.

The knowledge management framework advanced by ECLAC considers six main elements: inputs, processes and tools

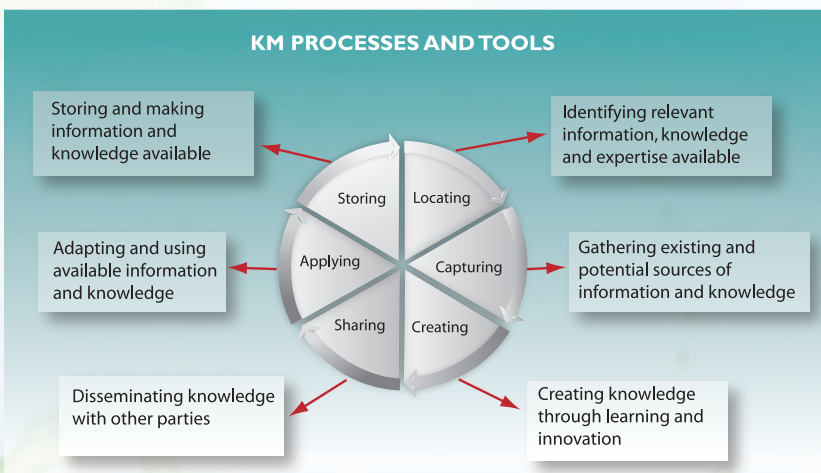
(see Figure 1), outputs, pillars (on which all the above are built), the environment or context in which this, like any other system, operates and the monitoring and evaluation of knowledge management initiatives.

The findings of the report prepared by ECLAC included outlines of:

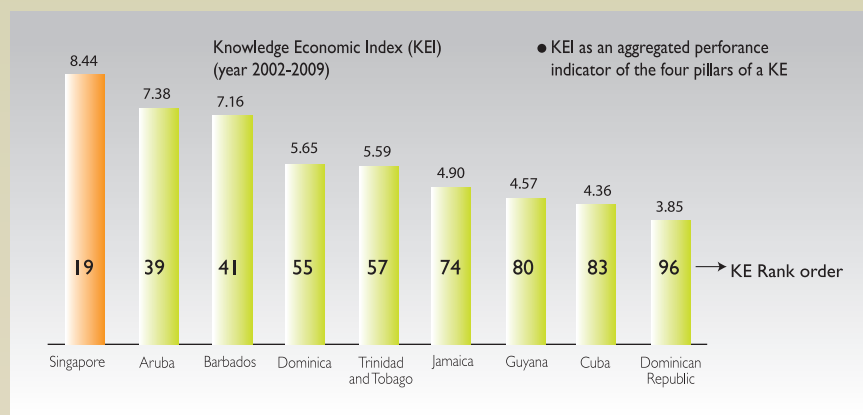
- World Bank Knowledge Economy Model (KBE) and its four pillars;
- Knowledge-Based Development Model of the Asian Development Bank
- Development challenges facing the Caribbean.

In the KBE model, the analysis of the Caribbean Knowledge Economies revealed that some countries such as Barbados and Aruba were able to make progress on some of the KBE pillars while others lag behind as evidenced by the composite knowledge economy index and selected indicators. (See Figure 2)

Figure 1 Knowledge Management Processes and Tools



¹ Alavi, Maryam and Dorothy Leidner, (2001). "Knowledge Management and Knowledge Management Systems: Conceptual Foundations and Research Issues", MIS (Management Information Systems) Quarterly, Vol. 25 No. 1, pp. 131.

Figure 2 Knowledge Economy Index for selected Caribbean countries

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of information derived from the Knowledge Assessment Methodology (KAM 2009) Database of the World Bank's Knowledge Management for Development (K4D).

What is a KE? An economy in which the generation and exploitation of knowledge plays the predominant part in the creation of wealth.

Aruba, Barbados, Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago are the countries with more potential to become Knowledge Economies.

The development challenges facing the Caribbean were referred to in the context of development indicators, and showed the significant improvements the subregion has been able to achieve (on education, gender parity and hunger eradication), as well as the remaining challenges yet to be confronted (HIV/AIDS, maternal health and child mortality). Highlights included the importance of KM initiatives such as the framework advanced by ECLAC and others being developed and/or implemented in the region to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Crafting a Caribbean Framework for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge, (TK), Folklore and Genetic Resources” presented by Ms. Mary-Ann Richards, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Regional Coordinator and Consultant.

The Intellectual Property (IP) System is the only one in place for recognizing creativity and acknowledging ownership of ideas and products. Many countries in the Caribbean are not IP conscious and as such do not consider IP as something that affects them; either because of their country size or the assumption that IP only pertains to the music industry. WIPO is an intergovernmental body that brings countries together to discuss IP-related issues and continues to play a key role in assisting Caribbean Member States to develop a harmonized

framework for the protection of traditional knowledge.

Despite its great socio-economic importance, Caribbean TK has been rarely documented and as result little or nothing is known in terms of “who develops a registry of TK, who owns TK, who determines access to TK and who has the right to access TK”. Threats to TK include the fact that it is undervalued, unappreciated and held in low esteem. Methods for protecting TK include contracts, registries and libraries.

There is an urgent need to develop a system to capture, use, preserve and disseminate TK for/to younger generations; and to develop multi disciplinary teams for protecting TK at the national, regional and community levels. The challenge is to determine how IP could serve local purposes before it is actually adopted.

INSTITUTIONAL AND COUNTRY APPROACHES TO KM

Nutrinet.org by the World Food Programme – presented by Ms. Tayra Pinzón, World Food Programme (WFP) Panama National Officer, and Ms. Yarabin Deicaza, Consultant for NUTRINET Panama

Nutrinet.org is a web-based Knowledge Management model spearheaded by the World Food Programme. This initiative has a dual purpose, as a network for raising awareness on hunger eradication and malnutrition amongst policy makers,

decision makers and practitioners; and as a web-based platform for facilitating access to best practices. At the core of this approach is the importance of having both the involvement of community of stakeholders and the support of participating governments within the Latin America region.

LAC Knowledge-based Economies: Strategies and Enabling Innovation Environment” – presented by Prof. Miguel Carrillo, Executive Director, Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business:

Knowledge is seen as a key factor of innovation. With reference to a business environment, companies, such as Coca-Cola, have over the years focused on innovating the message/symbol of their products and the way this message/symbol gets conveyed to the consumer (development of new perspectives on the same product), rather than innovating the product. What is absent in the Caribbean, is knowledge of the cognitive and emotional markets of the consumers. The challenge of knowledge management is how to create, deliver and capture value. The most innovative countries have been those better at capturing value, i.e., using knowledge to innovate.

He also presented other concepts associated with knowledge and innovation, as well as some observations which included the following: ►

(continued on page 13)

CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES: IMPROVING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND ENABLING GROWTH



INTRODUCTION

Over the last decades Caribbean economies have been dependent on the United States and European countries as markets for their goods and services, namely tourism and primary agricultural commodities. These countries are also the main sources of foreign exchange in the form of remittances and foreign direct investment (FDI).

It is this dependence that has resulted in the Caribbean being severely affected by the global financial and economic crisis which unfolded in the United States and pervaded other major economies in mid 2008. Despite the underlying massive debt to GDP ratios, unsustainable fiscal deficits, minimal international reserves and high external account deficits, most Caribbean economies recorded positive growth rates in the years immediately prior to the crisis. However, as the crisis filters through the Caribbean via a fall in tourism receipts and foreign direct investment, depressed demand for commodities and reduced access to credit, economic growth is expected to contract in several countries in 2009.

As an immediate response to the crisis several governments have removed the Common External Tariff on selected goods, expanded safety net programs and tried to maintain economic activity by undertaking projects that create employment. However, some of these measures are not sustainable and therefore as a long term strategy, governments need to create an enabling investment climate for both domestic and foreign firms. That enabling environment requires investment in human capital and infrastructure, diversification of markets and public private partnerships.

The impact of the global crisis

The World Bank predicts that economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean will contract to 2.2% in 2009, compared to 4.2% in 2008. These results were due to contraction in demand for commodities (lower exports) and tourism, lack of or difficult access to credit and a halt or slowdown in foreign direct investment. As a result it is expected that the already unsustainable fiscal deficits, massive debt to GDP ratios and high current account deficits will be made worse by the crisis, further restricting government's ability to implement countercyclical policies.

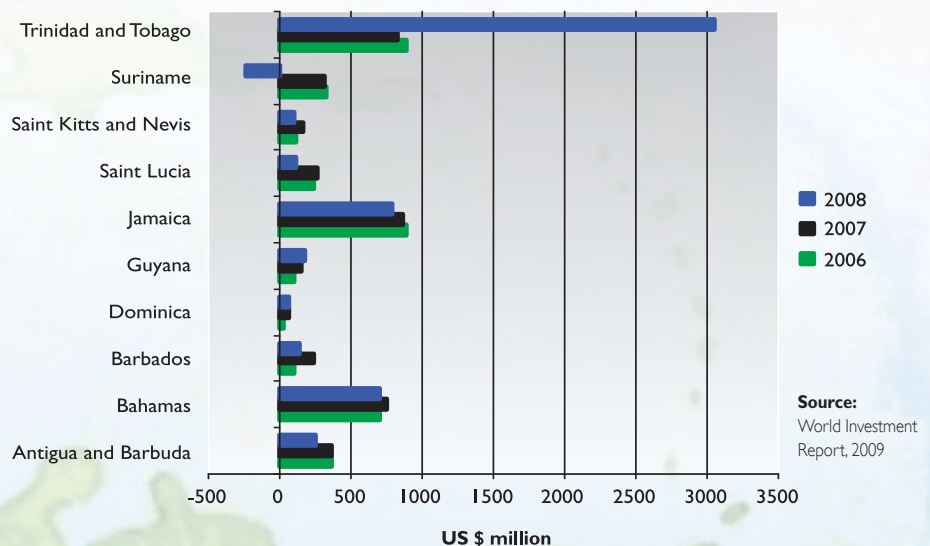
A major casualty of the financial and economic crisis is foreign direct investment (FDI) flows or foreign savings which many Caribbean countries are dependent on. In the Caribbean, the data available indicates a drastic decline in FDI¹.

(See figure 1). Foreign direct investment in Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Suriname declined the most as credit became harder to access due to the gloomy economic climate.

The decline in economic activity has also led to a worsening of the labour market in the region. In Barbados and Jamaica the employment rate for the first half of 2009 compared to the same period last year declined by 3.4% and 2.7% respectively. This in part reflected the increase in urban unemployment from 7.9% to 10.1% in Barbados and 10.9% to 11.3% in Jamaica². This pattern is expected to be the same throughout the region. In addition to the worsening labour market prospects, there is limited scope for employment abroad and migrant remittances have actually declined, affecting the most dependent. In effect, the crisis has increased that pool of persons now dependent on government safety nets.

The crisis has also threatened the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as slower

Figure 1: FDI flows in selected Caribbean countries 2006 - 2008



¹ World Investment Report 2009.

² ECLAC/ILO Bulletin No 2. The Employment Situation in LAC. Crisis in the labour markets and countercyclical responses.

economic growth means fewer resources, less trade opportunities for developing countries and reduced aid flows. Despite the fact that data is not yet available on the full extent of the impact of the global slowdown, some data suggests that major advances in the fight against extreme poverty has stalled. According to the MDG report³, in 2009 an estimated 55 million to 90 million more people across the globe will be living in extreme poverty than anticipated before the crisis. This is of particular concern to the Caribbean as many countries have high poverty rates. (See figure 2)

The figure also indicates the huge disparity in poverty rates in the Caribbean and at the same time the lack of availability of updated data. The challenge remains as to how to convert economic growth to poverty reduction despite the strong positive link established in economic literature.

Enabling growth by improving the investment climate

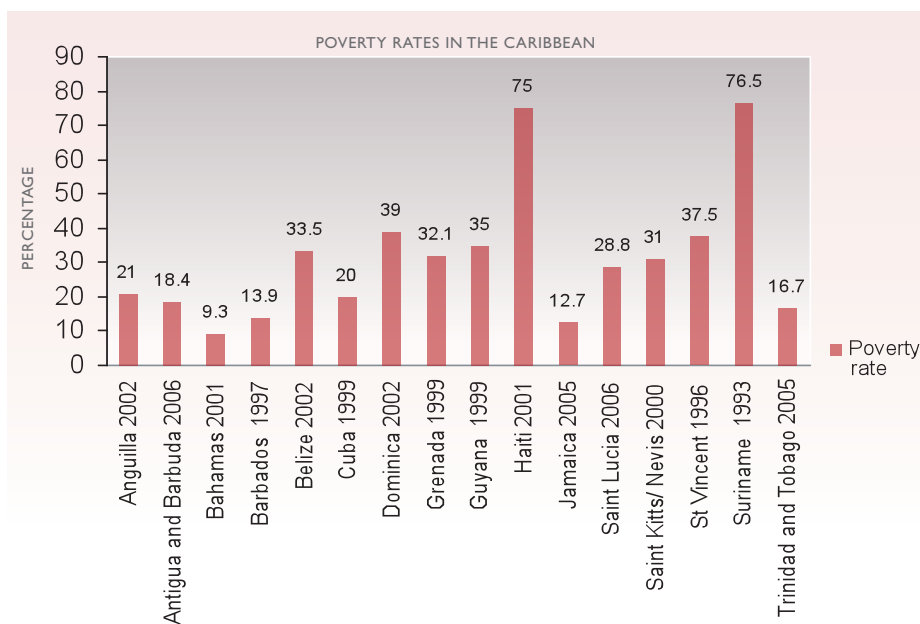
The World Bank defines the investment climate as the location specific factors that shape the opportunities and incentives for firms to invest productively, create jobs and expand.

These include security of property rights, regulation and taxation, provision of infrastructure, the functioning of financial and labour markets and the rules determining corporate and public governance. Therefore investment decisions are mainly influenced by the following:

- Political and economic stability and security
- Unambiguous regulations
- Realistic tax rates and good coordination of taxes
- Access to finance and infrastructure
- Skilled labour force

In addition, an enabling business environment should support the productive activities of the private

Figure 2: Poverty rates in the Caribbean by latest data available



Source: ECLAC: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): A Latin American and Caribbean Perspective CDB: Economic growth, poverty and income inequality (2008)

sector and lead to capital accumulation and innovation. Anos-Casero and Udomsaph (2009)⁴ found that firm-level productivity growth is directly linked to important factors in the business environment, namely; infrastructure, financial development, governance, labour market productivity and competition.

According to Doing Business 2010 report (The World Bank Group, 2009) the Caribbean would certainly need to improve its business environment in order to attract long term and sustainable investment.

The report listed quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 183 countries over time. A series of regulations affecting 10 stages of a business life were measured, some of which included: the number of procedures needed to start a business, registering property and paying taxes. Countries are ranked on their ease of doing business from 1-183 with first place being given to the country with

the highest score on the regulations. According to this report Singapore is ranked the best place for doing business. In the Caribbean the two best countries are Puerto Rico and Saint Lucia with rankings of 35 and 36 respectively.

The report also highlighted that the regional average for the number of procedures to start a business was 7.9, compared to 1 step in New Zealand and Canada. The number of days required for an entrepreneur to operate a business averaged 80 days in the Caribbean, though in individual countries it took less than 45 days, compared to 1 day in New Zealand. Time to deal with construction permits and time and cost to register property were very high, (See table 1).

Some of the indicators highlight the high cost of doing business in the Caribbean and the inefficiency of government services. Clearly government policy needs to address some of these issues in order to create a more conducive investment climate in the region. This can be fulfilled if government does the following:

- Invest in human capital (education and health to ensure a skilled labour force) ▶

³ United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009.

⁴ Anos-Casero, Paloma and Udomsaph, Charles. "What drives firm productivity growth?," Policy Research Working Paper Series 4841, The World Bank Group.

- Invest in infrastructure and complementary services (job creation and private sector support)
- Improve efficiency in government services
- Formulate balanced and transparent policies to manage investments (domestic and foreign)
- Ensure macroeconomic stability and good governance
- Ensure efficient use of expenditure on national security

Government expenditure in health and education is a good indicator of government investment in creating a highly skilled labour force. Figure 3 shows the level of expenditure on health and education as a percentage of GDP. Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had the highest level of investment in education over the period 2002-2004 and Barbados and Grenada spent the most on health in 2003.

The private sector also has a major role to play in creating that enabling investment climate. In addition to being innovative and efficient in the production of goods and services, the private sector needs to:

- Improve inter-sectoral linkages and efficiency in the use of foreign exchange
- Upgrade technology for competitiveness through innovation
- Exploit domestic, regional markets and emerging markets (China, India and Brazil)
- Convert scientific knowledge to commercial products
- Increase investment in research and development through public private partnerships

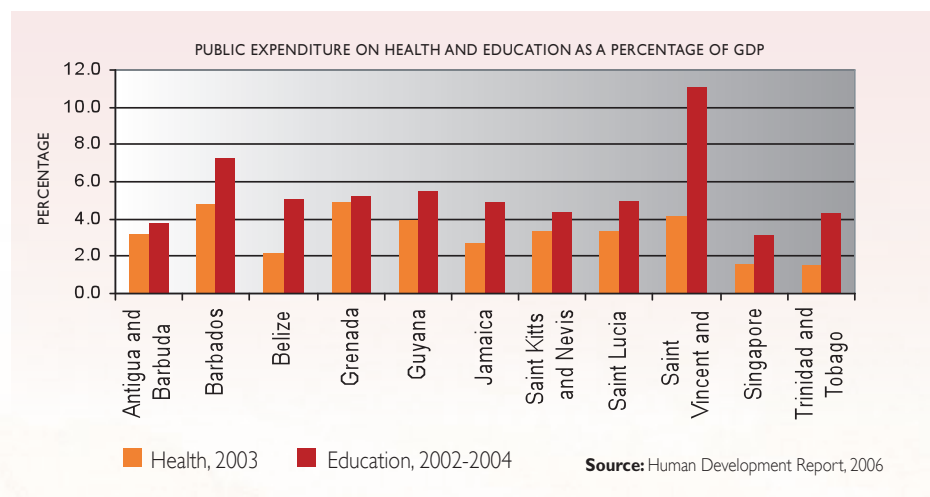
At a country level investment in research and development has been minimal. Expenditure on research and development as a percentage of GDP in 2002 was 0.08% in Jamaica, a slight increase over the 0.06% recorded in

Table 1: Indicators of doing business in the Caribbean

Stages of a Business life	Indicator	Regional Average	Best ranked country
Procedures to start a business	Number	7.9	1
Time to start a business	Days	80	1
Cost to start a business	% of per capita income	37.9	0
Minimum capital to start a business	% of per capita income	1.5	0
Time to deal with construction permits	Days	241	25
Time to register property	Days	99.7	2
Cost to register property	% of property value	8.5	0
Total tax rate	% of profit	41.5	0.2
Documents to export	Number	6	2
Time to import	Days	19	3
Cost to enforce a contract	% of claim	32.3	0.1

Source: Doing Business 2010 report, IFC

Figure 3: Government expenditure on health and education, 2002-2004



2001. In Trinidad and Tobago this ratio was 0.10% in 2001 and 0.14% in 2002⁵. This was very insignificant in comparison to the world average of 2.06% in 2002. In terms of sectoral expenditure on research and development in 2002, 48.2% was spent by the government while 34.5% was spent by private enterprises in Trinidad and Tobago. In contrast expenditure by enterprises was 64.5% in the United States and as much as 73.9% in Japan.

In conclusion improving the investment climate in the Caribbean would require:

- Invest in human capital, infrastructure and research and development
- Create better links with the Diaspora and regional and emerging markets (China, India, Brazil)
- Create a seamless landscape for investors and strong public private partnerships
- Improve access to financial assistance from multilateral institutions without excess conditionalities ■

⁵ Cimoli, Ferraz and Primi (2002), "Science and technology policies in open economies: The case of Latin America and the Caribbean". ECLAC series



(continued from page 5)

DRR IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR - A NEW PAGE IS TURNED IN THE CARIBBEAN

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

It was also felt that MOEs should encourage preventative maintenance and effectively solicit technical views in selecting locations for building schools to reduce vulnerability to multi hazards.

When seeking to address the methodology for arriving at a DRR strategy for the sector, groups agreed that DRR was a social construct and thus it was necessary to encourage dialogue with all stakeholders and to encourage public awareness campaigns using a variety of strategies. Information sharing of existing materials and other documents pertaining to policies and strategies that could help the education ministries to be more proactive was called for. Teachers' Unions should be brought fully on board as allies of DRR in the education

sector. Another recommendation was that MOEs should seek to strengthen partnerships with existing disaster committees, agencies and other stakeholders and in cases where such linkages were absent, efforts should be made to initiate such.

The issue of data management received wide support. The meeting called on MOEs to collate data and make them accessible to researchers and policy makers so as to foster informed decision making. Benefits could be derived by the MOEs themselves as this information could be used to strengthen the advocacy role of MOE's in DRR.

With regard to the use of schools as shelters, the Meeting suggested that DRR, shelter management and first

aid training should be made available to administrators at the senior level. There was strong agreement among experts present that schools that were used as shelters should be upgraded with facilities to accommodate such. The view was also expressed that the involvement of councilors to treat with the psychosocial trauma of children and their parents in the shelters would help to minimize further trauma and the integration of the children back in the school system.

The Meeting called for the establishment of a community of practice to continue the sharing of experience and to increase advocacy for strengthening DRR processes in the education sector. ■



(continued from page 8)

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT COUNTRIES

Three levels of knowledge can be distinguished namely ground level (users and operations), mid-level (engineers and development centres) and high level, (scientists and research labs) which together made up a knowledge trajectory. Some developing countries have been successful at developing ground-level knowledge (manufacturing), whereas more advanced nations have been able to develop high-level knowledge (design, innovation). Few countries in Latin America such as Brazil, Chile and Mexico have been able to move towards the higher end of the knowledge trajectory.

Europe's Skills Pyramid of INSEAD (European Institute of Business Administration) and its three tiers: Literacy and Basic Skills (tier 1), Occupational skills (tier 2) and Global Knowledge Economy (GKE) Talents (tier 3). GKE included the capacity to generate innovation, ability to lead in cross-cultural environments, ability to manage virtual teams, and the collective and individual capacity to address new issues

(e.g., climate change). Countries in Europe were at uneven but widespread levels of development with regards to each of these tiers of skills.

In comparing Quality of Education and Innovation Performance for the world's top 15 knowledge economies, it has been found by INSEAD that there was no apparent correlation between these two variables. For some group of Arab countries, however, there was a clearer correlation between higher quality of education and higher innovation performance (e.g., Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and Qatar).

According to the US Council on Competitiveness, "Innovation was considered the single most important factor in determining America's success in the 21st century", the Lisbon Agenda challenged the European Union member countries to make themselves "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world..."

INSEAD further considered a Global Innovation Index (GII) composed of 8 pillars: Institutions and policies, human capacity, infrastructure, market sophistication and business sophistication as GII inputs; knowledge, competitiveness and wealth as GII outputs. Some recommendations that could apply to the Caribbean region in this regard were stated as:

- i. Internationalization of trade between Latin America and the Caribbean;
- ii. Internationalization of knowledge-intensive corporate functions;
- iii. Developing a safety net for innovators to encourage experimentation and disable the "succeed or perish" mentality as the social cost and implications of failure in Caribbean societies were quite high;
- iv. Developing a trajectory in a knowledge-based, technology driven, global potential enabling sector. ■

RECENT ECLAC PUBLICATIONS

THE STATUS OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS MONITORING AND REPORTING IN SELECTED CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Published 7 October 2009
LC/CAR/L. 217

In spite of various initiatives, Caribbean countries continue to have difficulties in addressing demands for monitoring and measuring progress towards the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other Internationally Agreed upon Development Goals (IADGs). To address this gap, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has received funding for a technical assistance project, Strengthening the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs). The main imperative of the project is to support the strengthening of national institutional capabilities for generating reliable data to meet these monitoring and reporting requirements.

Firstly, this document presents an overview of the statistical infrastructure at the national level, followed by a summary of the results of a survey administered to Caribbean NSOs that gathered information on the status of and mechanisms in place in MDG and IADG monitoring and reporting at the national level. Then, there is a briefing on activities carried out by intergovernmental bodies and development partners in the region. Another section presents a brief summary of data sources for secondary data and introduces concepts for metadata collection and reporting. It further discusses major challenges with poverty measurements and monitoring in the subregion. The paper ends with a summary and recommendations for the way forward.

MONITORING OF ELAC 2010 PROGRESS OF ICT DEVELOPMENT IN CARIBBEAN INFORMATION SOCIETIES

Published 6 October 2009
LC/CAR/L.222

The current short-term plan of action on the Information Society for Latin America and the Caribbean, eLAC 2010 comprises 83 specific goals in six thematic areas. In an effort to improve the coverage on the Caribbean subregion in the process of measuring and monitoring the progress being made towards the development of information societies, the 83 goals have been grouped into 29 areas, under the six eLAC themes. This is in an effort to better reflect the levels of development in the subregion, including the availability of reliable quantitative as well as qualitative measurements.

ICT indicators, particularly on usage and the impact of ICT on human and economic development, are not generally readily available on the Caribbean. A few countries, notably Antigua and Barbuda are beginning to do surveys to provide these measurements. The approach used in the latest Antigua and Barbuda surveys provides a good benchmark for the rest of the subregion. Basic supply side access indicators are available from sources such as ITU.

The Caribbean subregion enjoys pervasive access to mobile telephony, with some countries having over 100% penetration. However, internet broadband penetration levels are in single digits. A range of factors such as price and capacity limitations contribute to this. Developing and maintaining community access points is a common strategy used throughout the subregion to provide citizens (particularly vulnerable groups), with access to broadband and other ICTs. However, robust information on the number of citizens being served and the impact that these centres are making is not readily available.

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE CARIBBEAN 2008-2009

Published 8 October 2009
LC/CAR/L.216

This survey provides an overview of the economic performance of countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for the year 2008 and their outlook for 2009. The report comprises three chapters. The first provides a regional comparative analysis of the main macroeconomic variables, namely GDP growth, inflation, fiscal and external accounts, as well as fiscal, monetary and other policies, particularly those specifically devised to cope with the ongoing global economic crisis. The second chapter deals with two topics relevant for economic development in the region: economic growth and small and medium enterprises development from an analytical and empirical perspective. The last chapter presents country briefs of the seven most developed countries (MDCs) in the Caribbean – Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago – together with a subregional assessment of the eight member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st QUARTER

2010

Fifteenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)
16 March 2010, Grenada

Caribbean MSI+5/BPOA+15 Review Meeting
3-4 March 2010, Grenada

Twenty-third session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) **19 March 2010, Grenada**



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

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