

June 2000

...in this issue...

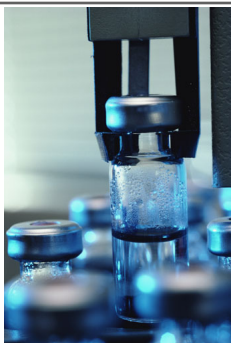


A look at the Caribbean orientation toward the contemporary international political reality, as the region pursues its sustainable development objectives.

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Caribbean information specialists move to create a Caribbean digital library on the Internet.

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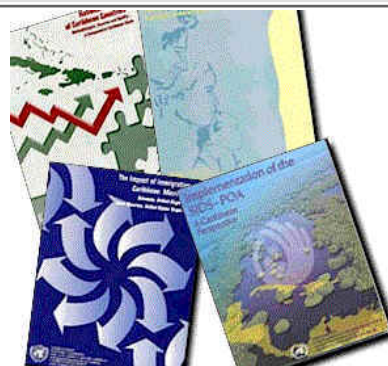


Why regional governments must try to foster a science and technology culture, among Caribbean people.

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Orientalions for the Future: the CDCC, Globalisation and Sustainable Development

Our feature article provides a look at the Caribbean orientation toward the contemporary international political and economic reality, as the region pursues its sustainable development objectives in that environment. This element is explored in the context of the wider Third World approach to that same environment.

The sustainable development paradigm centred on the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS/POA), is incorporated into the analysis, with the suggestion that both major themes treated in the paper might need to be revisited, if maximum benefits are to be derived from them.

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Orientations for the Future: the CDCC, Globalisation and Sustainable Development... cont'd

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Introduction

The establishment of the CDCC took place during what was undoubtedly the highest point of Third World activism on the international scene to date, reflecting, inter alia, the modern wave of decolonisation and the consequent incorporation of new areas of interest and concern into the international agenda. Within the United Nations, particularly in the General Assembly and the UNCTAD, the decade of the seventies provided the historical context for the strident articulation by developing countries, the G-77, of the profound changes they desired to bring about in the international economic system which was characterised by them as being unjust and inequitable, favouring the interests of the developed countries to the detriment of the economies of the Third World.

This was the era of the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), of the call for a New International Economic Order (NIEO), of numerous great caucuses of developing countries in Geneva and New York, as well as in Third World capitals. These caucuses were the venues for the development and refinement of Third World demands on the international system, including the development and refinement of the underpinning philosophy, as well as of the overall strategies that would be adopted, in what was recognised by all, as a period of First World-Third World confrontation.

In the CDCC, the intense radicalisation of the demands articulated by the Third World on the wider international scene, is amply reflected in its Constituent Declaration which is replete with references, expressions and general orientations that were clearly borrowed from that wider environment. For example, the Constituent Declaration makes reference to the need for the Committee to carry out joint activities that will, inter alia, "increase its bargaining power as regards third countries or groupings of countries". Reference is also made to the need for Caribbean countries to "maintain solidarity with the adoption of measures for obtaining equitable and remunerative prices, including solidarity with the measures taken by producer associations of developing countries in that regard". Again, reference is made to "the inalienable right to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activities, including nationalization, and that the countries of the Caribbean are united as one in mutual support and solidarity against any form of economic action, pressure or coercion that might be used against any one of them for having exercised its legitimate rights". Finally, for the purpose of this short paper, the document refers to "...the activities of transnational corporations, in those countries that accept their operations..."

When the Eighteenth Session of the CDCC convened in early 2000, there was a ready consensus reaffirmation by the Ministers, of the continuing relevance of the Committee. Particular attention was drawn to the fact that it remained the only forum transcending all historical allegiances and roots, for deriving consensus on issues specific to the insular Caribbean, prior to their deliberation at wider regional, hemispheric or global fora. The Committee was also recognized to constitute the only "window" for participation in the activities of the United Nations by non-independent territories of the region.

Against this background, it was nevertheless recognized that the development landscape of the region had undergone a significant transformation during the two and a half decades that had elapsed since the establishment of the Committee. Therefore, in order for the CDCC to be able to effectively support its members to meet the challenges of the present time and into the new millennium, some of the basic concepts, ideas and approaches enshrined in its Constituent Declaration were identified for amendment, since, in the view of the Ministers, they no longer found resonance in an international environment that was characterised by the intensified globalisation of economic activity and an international economy that bore "liberalisation" as its hallmark. It was in this context, though with other considerations relevant, that the Ministers agreed on the need to undertake a comprehensive review of the Constituent Declaration of the CDCC, with particular reference to the specific objectives, goals, structures, mechanisms and processes of the organ, including its relationship with other regional and subregional inter-governmental entities.



Director of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters, Dr. Len Ishmael, addresses delegates from CDCC member states at the Formal Opening of the 18th Session of the CDCC

Significantly, merely a fortnight after the Eighteenth Session of the CDCC, and still against the backdrop of the ever intensifying globalisation of economic relations, at the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China, the first ever "South Summit", there was nothing less than a comprehensive reaffirmation of the ideas and orientations first articulated by the countries concerned, in a spirit of solidarity reminiscent of the radical years of the 1960s and, particularly, the 1970s. This Summit convened in Havana, Cuba, over the period, 12-14, April, 2000.

In the Declaration issued by the South Summit, the leaders of the participating countries declared themselves to be fully convinced of the imperative need to act in close unity for the primary purpose of working for a peaceful and prosperous world. They also expressed a continuing commitment to the spirit of the Group of 77 and China, which, in their view, has helped their countries since the inception of the Group in the early 1960s to pursue a common and constructive course of action for the protection and promotion of their collective interests and genuine international cooperation for development. The leaders identified the principal purpose of their meeting as being the imperative of reflecting on the rapidly changing world economic situation and to discuss the emerging challenges facing the South in the economic spheres and to seek a solution to them. They also emphasised that the process of globalisation and interdependence must not be used to weaken or re-interpret such hallowed principles as the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and the inalienable right of States to choose political, economic, social and cultural systems without interference, in any form, by other States. The establishment of international economic relations based on justice and equity was indicated to be in the nature of an urgent task. Commitment was also expressed with respect to a global system based on the rule of law, democracy in decision-making and full respect for the principles of international law.

Overall, the Declaration, advancing the perspective that globalisation will provide no lasting solutions to Third World problems, emphasises the need for the growing disparities between rich and poor countries to be addressed. In that general context, it conveys a proposal for fundamental reform of the international financial architecture to make it, among other things, more transparent and better attuned to solving the problems of development. There is also a proposal for active international recognition to be given to the special problems and vulnerabilities of small island developing states and the strengthening of international efforts in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS POA). In a mode reminiscent of the decade of the 1970s, there is, in addition, a proposal for UNCTAD, as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, to continue the examination of these issues and to build a consensus for the reformulation of policies and options on globalisation from a development perspective.

The range of perspectives conveyed in the Declaration of the South Summit constitutes an important element of the international operational environment of the CDCC. Indeed, many issues articulated in the document reflect perennial concerns of developing countries, including those that comprise the CDCC membership.

Yet, on the basis of the foregoing, it is difficult to avoid the perception that the orientations articulated by the CDCC and those of the G-77 and China are not exactly in sync. The CDCC has premised its decision to review its Constituent Document on its perception that the basic orientations of the 1970s, as enshrined therein, no longer found resonance in the contemporary globalized and liberalized international environment. The G-77 and China, on the other hand, whose membership includes the bulk of the CDCC's own membership, rejects outright, the demands being made on developing countries in the context of globalization and liberalization, reaffirming, instead, the sentiments articulated over two decades ago, as can be seen from the elements of the South Declaration summarised above.

Also relevant in this context, is the position adopted by the countries of the Caribbean in such fora as the negotiations for the establishment of an FTA. In these fora, the countries appear to be articulating a position, according to which, they endorse the basic tenets of liberalisation in the context of increasing globalisation. Moreover, on the basis of their publicly declared positions, they appear to be seeking to negotiate extended adjustment periods, lower thresholds and other expedients that will enable them to fulfil the identical commitments that are to be made by their developed counterparts. In other words, the countries of the Caribbean appear to be seeking to accommodate themselves to the liberalisation/globalisation paradigm. For example, according to the Prime Minister of Barbados, who has lead responsibility within CARICOM for the chairmanship of the "SIDS Bureau", the mechanism entrusted with political oversight of the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action in the Caribbean:

"We will now have to make our place in a world of declining special preferences, greater reciprocity, equal treatment for national and foreign investment and enterprise, and the end of managed trade. It will constitute a major challenge for the Caribbean Community as a group."

[Keynote Address at the Opening Session of the Third Annual Media Conference, Georgetown, Guyana, 5 May, 2000. This Conference was co-sponsored by the Caribbean News Agency (CANa), the Guyana Media, the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) and UNESCO.]

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Orientalions for the Future: the CDCC, Globalisation and Sustainable Development ... cont'd

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Disenchantment Up North

Another interesting dimension in this discussion, is the clear disenchantment that has been manifested in a number of the developed country capitals with respect to the liberalisation/globalisation paradigm. This is in contrast to the debate on the NIEO of the 1970s which gave clear evidence of a polarisation between developing and developing countries. Even more significant, is the fact that the concerns articulated by the protesters in these countries, namely, fear of the loss of jobs and of increasing socio-economic inequalities within and among countries; as well as increasing competition from imports in a liberalized international market place, among others, exactly coincide with those articulated by the G-77 and China.

This disenchantment has manifested itself in the effective disruption of the negotiations convened under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation in Seattle, USA, in December, 1999 and of meetings convened by the IMF and the World Bank in Washington, USA, in early 2000. A similar phenomenon is apparent in some Western European capitals which were also the scene of vigorous demonstrations by anti-free trade protesters on May Day, 2000.

In June, 2000, these protests by the same group of anti-free traders, environmentalists and other activists that disrupted the meetings of the WTO, IMF and the World Bank continued in an effort by the "OAS Shutdown Coalition" to disrupt the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) which opened in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on 4 June, 2000. The OAS is closely involved in the process aimed at the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by 2005. In the event, the protests in Windsor were mirrored by another across the US river border in Detroit. It remains to be seen whether these protests have any effect in deviating metropolitan leaders from the relentless pursuit of policies predicated on a globalised and liberalised international environment. Whatever their impact, or lack thereof, these protests have served to signal the existence, even in developed countries, of viewpoints that are strongly opposed to the ideas and policies advocated by the range of multilateral trade and financial organisations in this new and still evolving international political and economic system.

Fundamentally, however, what these protests have served to demonstrate, is that the debate on the globalisation issue constitutes an interaction between losers and beneficiaries in the process, that is to say, between those who benefit from global integration and those whose interests are hurt by that process, irrespective of their location whether in developing or developed countries. It is nevertheless recognised that the major losers will be in the developing countries.

What is evident from the foregoing is that, while there exists a common interpretation of the evolving structure, as well as of the dynamics, of the contemporary international liberalized, globalised environment, there is nothing resembling consensus on the approach that is to be adopted, as between the countries of the Caribbean, on the one hand, and the wider group of developing countries of the G-77 and China, on the other, as they pursue their fundamental goal, namely, the sustainable development of their countries, incorporating the sustainable human development of their respective populations, within that same environment. Accommodation and adjustment, confrontation and manipulation and even pragmatism, appear to represent the major alternative options that have been adopted and, to varying degrees, pursued, in this regard.



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Sustainable Development: *Plus ça change...?*

Against the backdrop of the foregoing, the goal being pursued by the developing countries, that of sustainable development, is also an area in respect of which a fundamental question might be asked.

When the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was adopted in 1994, it was recognized to have elaborated principles and to have set out strategies for development that will protect the fragile environments of small island States. Not surprisingly, since the agreements enshrined in that Programme of Action sought to build on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, "the blueprint for global sustainable development that was approved at the Earth Summit", the document had a focus that was comprehensively environmental. The substantive Chapters of the Programme of Action are devoted to such issues as Climate Change and Sea Level Rise; Natural and Environmental Disasters; Management of Waste; Coastal and Marine Resources; and so on. Nevertheless, from the perspective of Caribbean SIDS, among others, a major shortcoming of the Plan of Action was the absence of the holistic policy-making approach that is required in the sustainable development context. For, even as these SIDS pursued their sustainable development, fully aware of the prescriptions of the SIDS POA, they nevertheless saw their efforts largely frustrated by the need to allocate significant amounts of attention and resources to such pressing socio-economic issues as increasing levels of poverty and unemployment, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the diminution of trade preferences hitherto enjoyed in critical markets, among others.

At the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly which convened in September 1999, to review and appraise the implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action, this shortcoming was addressed. "Poverty" was identified as a major problem affecting the capacity of many small island developing States to achieve sustainable development. Poverty was also recognised to be exacerbated by unemployment. In the area of commerce, the General Assembly recognised the urgency of addressing such issues as trade, investment, commodities and capital markets from the perspective of SIDS, recognising also, that the pace of globalization and trade liberalization had affected the economies of small island developing States by presenting new problems and opportunities for them and increasing the need for focussed implementation of the Programme of Action. The basic observation on the Special Session -- and this was perhaps its major outcome -- is the incorporation, in operational terms, of the socio-economic issues into the process of implementation of the Programme of Action. The General Assembly had finally recognised, in explicit terms, the need to integrate economic, environmental and social components of action to achieve sustainable development.

It is at this point that the question alluded to above will be raised. As has been noted, a major deficiency in the SIDS Programme of Action, as perceived by some, has been remedied, through the incorporation of socio-economic aspects into a process that was almost exclusively environmental in focus. Can it therefore now be said, that the SIDS of the Caribbean and of the other geographical regions now have a comprehensive "blueprint" for sustainable development? What is the effective contribution of the amplified scope of implementation informed by the SIDS POA as originally drafted and as supplemented by other international decisions, such as those adopted at the Special Session of the General Assembly? What is the scope for the effective coordination of activities in the economic, environmental and social spheres at the international level in the context of the SIDS POA? Or, has the international community, albeit with the support of SIDS, succeeded in merely restating the sustainable development problematique of the small island developing States? What are the precise contours of the "blueprint" that is required in this context? And what will be done to ensure the availability of the required financial and other resources that present major constraints to the quest for sustainable development within SIDS?

Given the contingent nature of the sustainable development process in this region, among others, it may be surmised that the several dimensions of this inquiry, reaching back to the approach to be adopted by developing countries in the international arena, might well become clearer, even before the full and comprehensive review of the above-mentioned decisions adopted by the Special Session of the General Assembly, when it convenes for that purpose in 2004.

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The Caribbean Digital Library on the Web

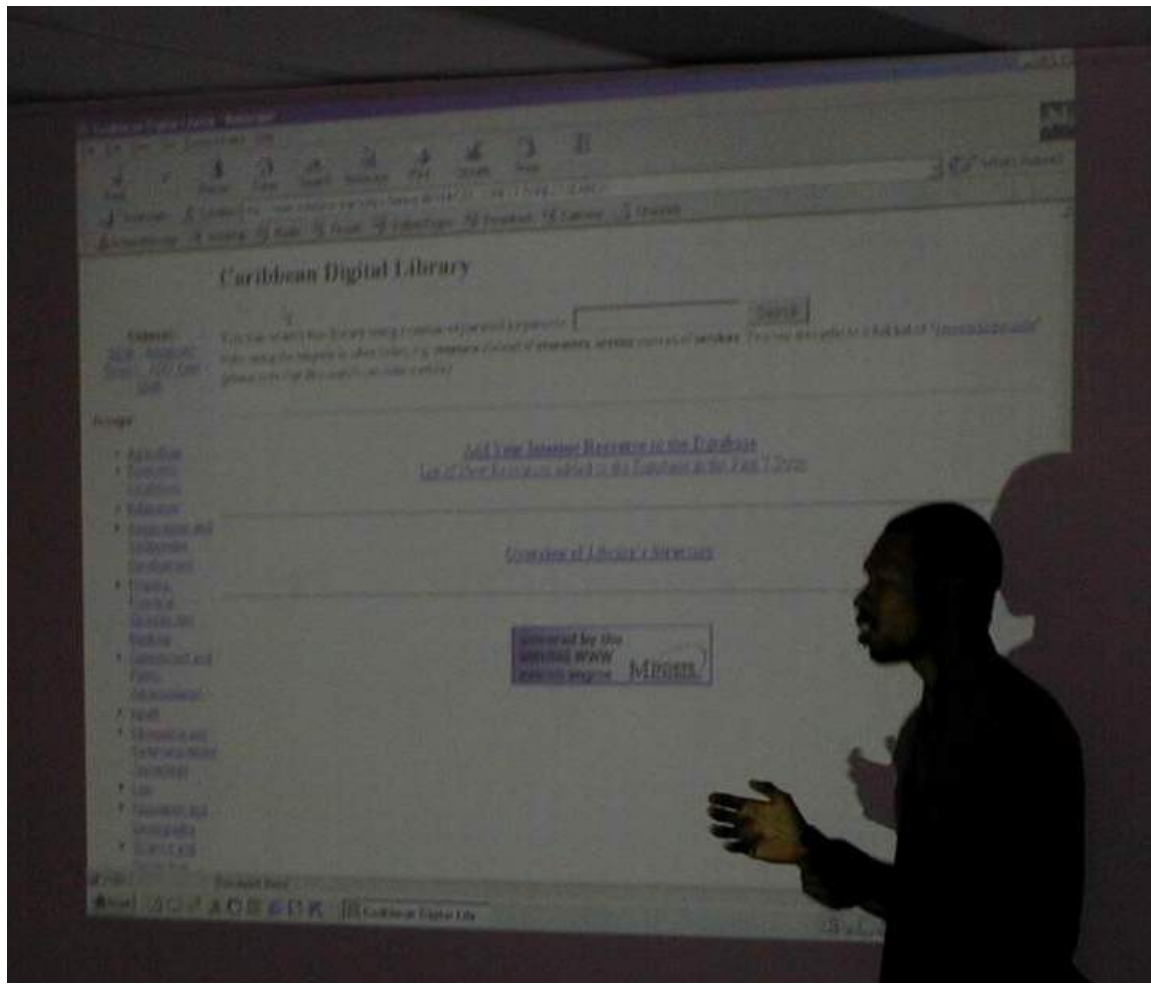
...a new initiative by Caribbean information specialists

Caribbean librarians and information specialists are looking to the Internet, as well as to each other, for ways to increase access to information available on subjects of key importance to the development of the region. Time, and the region's response, will tell whether they have found their answer.

At a Meeting of Experts recently convened by ECLAC to discuss modalities for cooperating to better exploit the full potential of the Internet for the benefit of Caribbean people, the topic of discussion was the establishment of a Caribbean Digital Library on the Web. The meeting was held in the ECLAC Conference Room on May 22. Some twenty persons from sixteen Caribbean organizations were in attendance.



Participants were selected from a variety of backgrounds and experiences: national information systems coordinators, information specialists from regional institutions, non-governmental organizations and research institutions. Several subject specializations were also represented among the organizations participating: agriculture, banking and finance, health, government, rural development, social and economic development, and education. There was tremendous enthusiasm for the idea of the Digital Library and participants committed themselves to contributing specific documents to the Library and to taking charge of various aspects of its development.



To formalize the mechanism for cooperation, participants agreed to work under the banner of a Caribbean Digital Library Consortium to carry the project forward. Along with hosts, ECLAC, representatives from the following organizations were the founding members of the Consortium: the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD), the Caricom Secretariat (CARICOM), the Dominica National Documentation Centre, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the National Library and Information System Authority (Trinidad and Tobago) (NALIS) the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), the Ministry of Planning and Development (Trinidad and Tobago), and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC).

The decision to establish the Caribbean Digital Library (CDL) was based on the continuing shortage of data encountered by persons who surfed the World Wide Web for information about important development issues in the Caribbean. It is never difficult to find information of relevance to the region's tourism industry. For example, the table below shows the number of hits, for selected Caribbean countries, that resulted from a web search conducted in May 2000, using the MSN search engine. However, most of the sites encountered were devoted to visitor information. There was a dearth of substantive data in other areas.

Web Site Hits on Selected Caribbean Islands / Countries Using MSN Search Engine (May 2000)

Over 200	199-150	149-140	99-50	Under 50
Jamaica Cuba Belize Bahamas Trinidad	Barbados Haiti Antigua Dominican Republic	Aruba Grenada Dominica St. Lucia Guyana B.V.I. St. Vincent	Anguilla Nevis Suriname St. Kitts Montserrat	St. Maarten

The decision to establish the Library was also premised on the assumption that Caribbean librarians and information specialists, working together with a common purpose, could achieve a level of success which would far outstrip the sum of their individual efforts.

The approach taken was not a new one. Since the mid nineteen eighties, librarians in the region, generally those in government documentation centres and regional organizations, had developed the habit of working together through a network known as the Caribbean Information System for Social and Economic Planning, (Carisplan). Carisplan, an earlier initiative undertaken by ECLAC, had formalized a system of cooperation to enable librarians and information specialists in the region to share bibliographic information with each other and (through the periodic publication of Carisplan Abstracts) with clients in the Caribbean and in other parts of the world. The objective of the Carisplan project was to achieve full bibliographic coverage of both published and unpublished literature of relevance to the social and economic development of the region. The system was targeted at senior policy makers and planners in both the public and private sectors. The idea was to cooperatively catalogue this information.

The point of departure for these efforts was the need for research information to be circulated more widely than it generally had been, and to avoid the duplication of this research. ECLAC, through its Caribbean Documentation Centre, had been at the forefront of these efforts to develop and encourage skills in this area. As such, it provided the co-ordinating function, training, and actively sought sources of funding to execute a number of projects, among them the ECLAC Ambionet electronic bulletin board, an early regional experiment in computer based information exchange.

It would be useful to place these developments in context. At that time, (the late 1980s) the strategy was articulated in a landmark document entitled "Caribbean information systems to the year 2000", prepared with support from IDRC, a generous donor to the Caribbean information community in those days. The strategy then, was to encourage and facilitate the systematic development of information systems in the key priority sectors of Caribbean development. Information systems for energy, trade, patents, science and technology, social and economic development and a system that dealt specifically with the priorities of the OECS sub-region were all developed as part of that plan. It was a measured, tidy approach, which received wholehearted support from librarians and information specialists in the region. No one could have anticipated that less than a decade later, the world wide web would so radically transform the manner in which people sought information as to make these systems almost obsolete.

Even then, there were some obvious limitations. Most of these systems were mere bridges to information in that they disseminated abstracts or brief synopses of documents and not the documents themselves. Bibliographic listings which suggested where information could be found, but did not provide the documents themselves. Inevitably there was a lot of second guessing. Was the effort worthwhile? Did the volume of use and the number of users justify the time, effort and resources?

Funding eventually dried up and with it, much of the enthusiasm for continuing to develop the various information networks. Those systems which had possessed the foresight to make provisions for a revenue base, were able to survive. Some survived, but none could be said to have really thrived. Meanwhile, the need which gave rise to the Carisplan network and to all these other networks remained valid -- and largely, unfulfilled.

The Caribbean Digital Library Consortium was conceived as a successor arrangement which would continue the cooperation begun under Carisplan. However, the intention is to utilize the technology of the World Wide Web as a new vehicle of information exchange. As in the case of Carisplan, ECLAC would continue to play a co-ordinating role.

With regard to content, the Library would also build on an earlier ECLAC experiment which culminated in the development of a Caribbean Virtual Library and Economic Information. However, it would be broad and comprehensive, and include such subject areas as: agriculture, arts and culture, economic conditions, education, the environment, finance and banking, government and public administration, health, information and communication technology, the law, population and demography, science and technology, social issues, sustainable development, tourism, trade and other areas which would be added from time to time. The emphasis would be on current information although an accommodation would be made for earlier material of particular significance.

Material to be included must be of a substantive nature and not ephemeral or self promotional. Initially, the content would be limited to providing, in full text, those documents produced by governments, regional organisations, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, for which unrestricted circulation is a desired objective.

The Consortium agreed to adopt the definition of a digital library which guided the activities of the Digital Library Federation of the United States:

"organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a community or set of communities."

The meeting discussed a number of other substantive issues: the arrangement of documents in the Library; an appropriate management structure for its ongoing maintenance; how the Library would be financed; what would be the copyright implications; the policy regarding sale of documents; training needs of participants; and other related matters.

The Caribbean Digital Library, still a project in its infancy, can be accessed on the world wide web at: www.caribeandigital.library.org A report of the meeting which launched the initiative can also be found on the site. Hard copies of the report are also available on request from the Caribbean Documentation Centre at ECLAC.

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Science & Technology and Innovation Indicators in the Caribbean

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Introduction

The formulation of a Science and Technology (S&T) policy and the development of S&T plans and programmes for the promotion of sustainable development and innovation require up-to-date, reliable and comprehensive data on a country's scientific and technological potential as well as its resource base. Unfortunately, for the region, no reliable sources of information relating to the use or the contribution of S&T to development efforts have been available, with which to inform decisions, develop programmes or advise policy.

In 1983, the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology, under the aegis of UNECLAC and UNESCO, undertook a survey of S&T in the Caribbean. However, the information proved to be very static and did not provide the basis for comparison or policy making. Efforts at incorporating information from the Caribbean States into the publication of the Regional Programme for Science and Technology Indicators in Latin America (RICYT) highlighted the paucity of information and data from these States, and it was decided that the development of a programme to incorporate these States into the RICYT Programme was of utmost importance.

In 1997 and 1998, two RICYT-funded resource persons conducted seminars throughout the Caribbean, on the role of indicators in policy making and the problems associated in the development of an indicators programme. Participants were introduced to the various manuals available on indicators, and to the nomenclature, approaches and interpretation of indicators as used in Australia, Canada, Europe, and the United States. While these documents provided background information, it was recognised that they would be of very limited use as the focus of the developed nations was on research and development, which was outside of the scope of small Caribbean States. It was agreed that efforts should be made to develop a programme that would be more meaningful to small states, while at the same time provide some basis for compatibility with other states for analysis. In November 1999, a meeting was held in Trinidad and Tobago to identify the indicators of S&T that would be of importance to very small states, in the context of their participation in the regional programme managed by RICYT.



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Why S&T Indicators of Innovation...?

Over the past two years there has been a growing need in Caribbean countries for an information system and database on S&T statistics. Policy makers, particularly those concerned about planning, implementation and management of technology issues, felt the need for comprehensive information.

Such information should not only be in respect of the use of input resources -- which comprise mainly the financial and human resources deployed and infrastructure available for S&T -- but also in respect of the output of such activities, measured in terms of increased productivity and economic growth, as well as the use of new technologies and their impact on society. Such information is considered useful for undertaking cost-benefit analyses and other economic studies, as well as for efficient programming, planning and budgeting. It would be relevant also when comparing the national efforts of countries in the region, with those of other developing and developed countries.

S&T indicators fulfil several functions inter alia:

1. Signaling or monitoring - giving insight and calling attention to developments and trends in the S&T system and its environment;
2. Accountability, evaluation and allocation – setting and justifying S&T budgets and giving insight into the performance of the S&T system against the goals established by policy makers and planners;
3. Legitimization – support for existing policies; and
4. Awareness – providing information to set aside prejudices and incorrect perceptions of the S&T system.

In the public sector, statistics on S&T inputs and outputs, and the consequent S&T budget should support the following activities:

1. formulation of S&T policy, in support of economic and social objectives including analysis of the national system of innovation;
2. provision of advice to ministers and other senior officials;
3. support for and justification of S&T programme expenditures; and
4. information on scientific activities for elected officials, journalists and other stakeholders.

S&T indicators "help society to understand S&T development and the integration of S&T variables with other measures of economic and social development. The resulting information becomes a public good and a necessary input for the development of society."

The mandate of S&T ministers, ministries and institutions everywhere is to harness S&T to support social and economic development of the nation. In practice this means that the over-riding question to be addressed by quantitative studies of S&T activities is "What is the state of S&T in the nation?" In practice, this means looking at changes in the levels of human and financial resources devoted to S&T (as inputs) and in the change in the level of national development (as the desired output.) Human resources, therefore, for S&T are the common denominator among all nations. In the Caribbean context, the allocation of human resources is more indicative of the distribution of S&T assets than actual expenditure.



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S&T Indicators in the Caribbean

At the series of workshops sponsored by RICYT to identify indicators that may be applicable within the Caribbean and small State context, a number of indicators were identified divided under two broad categories:

Economic and social data relevant to S&T activities -

1. Population
2. Labour force
3. % of population with post-secondary education
4. GDP
5. GDP/capita
6. Exports as % of GDP
7. Imports as % of GDP
8. Foreign Direct Investment
9. kWh/capita
10. Telephone lines per 1000 population
11. Internet hosts per 1000 population
12. Computers per 1000 population

S&T Indicators

1. Public sector personnel performing S&T (including R&D) as a percent of total public sector employemny
2. Public sector S&T expenditure (incl. R&D) as a percent of government bedgetary allocations
3. Persons working in S&T (HRST) as a percent of employed labour force
4. HRST-trained workers as a percent of employed labour force
5. Percent of total labour force without a post-secondary education
6. GERD as a percent of GDP
7. Distribution of HRST by sector

Subsequent to the identification of the above indicators that are deemed applicable to the Caribbean, data collection will begin in five countries, namely Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Guyana and Jamaica. The results from these countries will be published in a document and presented to other countries at a workshop scheduled for November 2000 in Grenada. At this workshop participants will be introduced to the programme and the collection of data. Innovation indicators will also be considered and included into the programme for 2001.

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Abstracts of Selected ECLAC/CDCC Publications: *January to June 2000*

Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 1998-1999 biennium

LC/CAR/G.606 - 37 p

Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2000
CDCC, Session 18, Chaguaramas, 30 March - 1 April 2000.

This paper reports on the ECLAC/CDCC work programme and includes a report on the implementation of CDCC resolutions. Six areas of activity are identified: linkages with the global economy and competitiveness of the Caribbean countries; integration and regional cooperation; development of production and technology; economic development and information for development; human and social development; and environmental sustainability.

Draft proposed programme of work of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

Subprogramme 12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean. Proposed work programme biennium 2002-2003 (by subject area)

LC/CAR/G.602 - 16 p.

Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2000

The work programme is presented under the following headings: economic policies and economic development; regional cooperation and integration into the international economy; statistics and information management for development; sustainable development in the Caribbean; application of science and technology to Caribbean development; and social development in the Caribbean. Planned meetings, documents and publications and operational activities are detailed in the document.

Caribbean in the decade of the 1990s

LC/CAR/G.600- 39 p.

Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2000 : tbls.

Caribbean States display a number of characteristics which put them at a disadvantage in their economic and social development efforts. Among these are: resource limitations, high dependence on trade, small markets, and fragile ecosystems. This summary looks at the Caribbean in the context of the global economy and discusses the achievements of the region in the areas of governance, economic reforms, changes in social structure, environmental management, sustainable development and developments in information and communications technology.

Vulnerability of the small island developing states of the Caribbean

LC/CAR/G.588 - 24 p.

Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2000 : tbls.

The paper begins with a discussion of the sustainable development capacity of small island developing states, then examines the characteristics of these states which make them vulnerable – natural hazards, limited land resources, geographic isolation, limited diversification, weak institutional capacity and special social vulnerabilities. The question of vulnerability is then examined from an international perspective. The globalisation of the economy, and the Caribbean's position vis-à-vis the European Union, the proposed FTA, the WTO and the Lome convention are discussed in this context. A way forward towards overcoming vulnerability is proposed by way of conclusion.

ECLAC/CDCC through the years: twenty five years of Caribbean research.

LC/CAR/G.604 : Port of Spain : ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 2000 - 2 vols.

This document represents a record of the research prepared by or on behalf of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean between 1975 and 1999. One thousand, five hundred and eighty documents (1580) are listed in this bibliography. It is available in two volumes – Volume 1 the main bibliography and volume 2 the indexes. Arranged in "30" broad subject areas, and further sub-divided into narrower headings, each entry has a full bibliographic citation including a list of subject keywords. For most titles, there is also a brief abstract or summary of the content. Country, conference, subject and symbol indexes are included.

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