

## ECLAC in the Caribbean

### ECLAC Development project ... to assist Caribbean SIDS with public sector account management

CARIBBEAN governments are set to gain greater capacity in the management of public finance in the near future.

During the next three years, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean will help deepen the expertise of policy-makers and finance managers in the application of methods and procedures for better planning and forecasting of public expenditure and revenue.

The impact of the recent global economic crisis was particularly severe on the economies of the Caribbean, especially those that depend heavily on services for their economic growth. It has exacerbated already existing high-levels of debt for several countries of this region.

The persistent fiscal challenge in the region is partly a reflection of the difficulty which small export dependent economies experience in addressing negative external shocks. In addition, the random

occurrence of natural disasters also leads to unplanned spending and contributes to expanding deficits.

Furthermore, the approach to revenue and expenditure planning and forecasting appears to be weak in a number of countries, particularly as they relate to containing contingent liabilities.

Given the number of countries and extent of the problems, the region requires a broad programme of capacity building to strengthen public finance management to control fiscal deficits.

At the last two intergovernmental Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) and Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR) meetings, a number of ministers requested ECLAC's assistance in dealing with the challenge of fiscal imbalances.

It is within this context that the ECLAC Development project -

funded by the United Nations Development Account - is being implemented, in order to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean SIDS to effectively manage their public finances.

The Development Account is a programme aimed at enhancing capacity in developing countries and is implemented by global and regional United Nations entities, including ECLAC.

Six countries were chosen as beneficiaries of the pilot project and it is anticipated that with additional funding more countries can be included. This project began on 1 August 2014 and will end in October 2017.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean is being supported in this activity by the Economic Development Division of the ECLAC Santiago office as well as the ECLAC Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning.

## Sneak preview

### Beijing Platform for Action at Twenty

"PREPARATIONS are underway for the Beijing +20 Caribbean Synthesis review and appraisal report. The report will be issued by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean as part of the year-long global campaign to mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Launched by UN Women in New York earlier this year, the global campaign aims

to spark dialogue and actions on women's rights and gender equality.

ECLAC will play a pivotal role in this regard, including through the convening of a subregional technical meeting that will be held on 14 November 2014 in Port of Spain.

The meeting will review progress of and propose recommendations in compliance with the commitments made in Beijing, as

well as those being proposed within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the 51st session of the ECLAC Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, will host a special session on Beijing +20, at ECLAC headquarters, Santiago, Chile between 18–20 November 2014.

Focus on the ECLAC Family

# Congrats to Pantin family

ON 20 August 2014, our colleague, Machel Pantin and his wife Rachael, welcomed their beautiful son, Lucas, into the world.

Recently returned from paternity leave, Machel reports that both mother and baby are progressing nicely, and that he is basking in the glow of fatherhood (sleepless nights and all!)

We welcome Machel back to work and wish the family all the best for the future.



Machel was gifted with a stroller and car seat from the ECLAC family.

## Caribbean Lingo

### Dominica's History Week

KALINAGO Heritage will be the focus of Dominica History Week. The week is being observed from October 6 -10, 2014.

The main activities are a video presentation on Kalinago Heritage to be held at the Arawak House of Culture on Tuesday 7 October and an exhibition at Old Mill Cultural Centre on 8 October, featuring Kalinago Art, Craft and Cuisine.

The exhibition will run for one week and schools and the general public are invited. Schools around the island are also organizing various classroom-based activities and field trips to mark the week.

The Kalinago are Dominica's indigenous people. Kalinago heritage in terms of language, place names, art and craft, boat

building, fishing, cuisine and knowledge of the natural environment has greatly influenced Dominica's present-day creole culture.

History Week is an annual event coordinated by the Division of Culture and the National Cultural Council to highlight a certain aspect of the island's history and heritage. It is held in October as part of the Independence programme of activities.



The Kalinagos are Dominica's indigenous people.



## The Regional Roundup

# Ebola ... the beginnings of a deadly disease

FORMERLY known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, the Ebola virus disease is a grave, often deadly disease, with a case-fatality rate of up to 90 per cent, although the 2014 outbreak has killed around 55 to 60 per cent of those infected. It is one of the world's deadliest diseases, with no proven cure or vaccines to treat or prevent it.

According to the last update from the World Health Organisation (WHO), in this recent outbreak, Ebola has so far killed 961 persons in West Africa, with approximately 1,779 suspected and reported cases across Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone; and it continues to spread.

This is currently the largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded. Due to the scale of the current outbreak, WHO has de-

clared it a "public health emergency of international concern".

Countries around the world, including Jamaica, have moved their Ebola-response level to high alert.

Ebola is not contagious like common viruses such as colds, flu or measles. This virus is transmitted through direct contact with broken skin, tissue, blood, or other bodily fluid (secretion such as stool, saliva, urine, and semen) of infected persons. Ebola can also be contracted by touching contaminated needles or surfaces (for example, soiled clothing, bed linen).

If a person is suspected to have Ebola, that person should be isolated and immediately taken to a health-care facility. (CARIBBEAN 360)

### What's Up ... upcoming events in the Caribbean

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
23 October	Divali	Trinidad and Tobago
30 October - 2 November	Saint Lucia Food & Rum Festival	Saint Lucia
31 October - 2 November	World Creole Festival	Dominica
October	Taste Santo Domingo	Dominican Republic
6-9 November	Jazz Festival	Dominican Republic