



AGEING IN THE CARIBBEAN

RECOGNIZING THE RIGHTS
OF OLDER PERSONS

DIGITAL AGENDA

ECLAC'S ACHIEVEMENTS
HIGHLIGHTED AT
BARBADOS MEETING

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ECLAC DEVELOPS
PROGRAMME FOR
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



ECLAC

CONTENTS



4

Article

The Situation of Caribbean Economies

6

Feature Article

Recognizing the Rights of Older Persons

10

Article

Caribbean countries seek to improve energy efficiency of government vehicles

14

Article

Exploring the relevance of the Caribbean's RCM/TAC

22

State of Affairs

Recent activity by Caribbean governments

26

Around the Caribbean

- Antigua-Barbuda's 60th Carnival gets a warm reception in Trinidad and Tobago
- Bahamian students monitor diseases in local mangroves

28

ECLAC Caribbean Family

Farewell to Bobby

Issued on a monthly basis, The Hummingbird offers strategic insights into the latest projects, publications, technical assistance missions and research carried out by ECLAC Caribbean. In addition to these, sneak previews are provided of the most salient upcoming events, alongside enriching follow-ups to previously covered issues. With a view to featuring a variety of facets of Caribbean life and lifestyle, The Hummingbird also zooms in on cultural activities and landmark occurrences through an eye-opening regional round-up.

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Events

Photos

More



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July Events

11

World Population Day
11 July 2017

3-21

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women, Sixty-seventh session
Geneva
3 - 21 July 2017

3-28

Human Rights Committee, 120th session
Geneva
3 - 28 July 2017

18

Nelson Mandela International Day
18 July 2017

30

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
30 July 2017



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jun 27

June 27-30 was the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons; more here: <http://www.cepal.org/en/news>



Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean
Asunción, 27-30 June 2017

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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jun 22

This year's "Platform for Change" summit highlighted the importance of identity as an enabler of economic opportunity. Watch the video.: <https://www.facebook.com/eclaccaribbean/>



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jun 9

How important is the Ocean for Trinidad and Tobago? Find out in this video.



UN: fostering sustainable coastal and marine tourism in the Caribbean

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THE SITUATION OF CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES

Despite lower economic growth, there has been a marginal improvement in employment, as the overall unemployment rate in the Caribbean declined from 15.3% in 2015 to 14.8% in 2016, with the exception of The Bahamas, Jamaica, and T&T, where the unemployment rate has increased.

This is just one of the many findings of ECLAC's newly released Preliminary Overview of the Economies of the Caribbean 2016-2017, which presents the latest economic trends for the period.

The report outlines that the Caribbean as a whole recorded economic growth

of only 0.8% in 2016, which is expected to rebound to 2.4% in 2017. Within the subregion, there has been strong growth in the main tourism markets, with 2016 tourist arrivals at 4.2% being higher than the global average of 3.9%.

The high debt burden of the subregion declined in 2016, as the total debt service payments relative to government revenue fell by 0.7 percentage points. This notwithstanding, debt service payments continue to absorb a significant portion of government revenue in the region, limiting the resources available for undertaking necessary infrastructural and social spending.

In response to these challenges, governments have continued to focus on fiscal consolidation programmes designed to lock-in tax, while also carrying out expenditure and administrative reforms that are deemed necessary to achieve fiscal stability and to reduce the adverse effect of high debt on growth.

The report concludes that it is essential for the Caribbean to reduce its debt burden in order to free up resources necessary for the modernization of trade-related production. It is also imperative that regional economies engage in an accelerated national and regional programme of economic diversification. ■

CASE STUDY:

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Unemployment in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) is presently at its highest since 2013, due mainly to the economic slowdown in the country over the last few years.

T&T's economy is estimated to have shrunk in 2016, in the wake of continued natural gas supply shortages, maintenance shutdowns and weak energy prices. In other words, the country's energy sector has deteriorated, causing negative impacts on the non-energy sector. In fact, T&T's economy is projected to have shrunk by 4.5%, following contractions of 0.6% and 0.5% in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

According to ECLAC's report, this 4.5% contraction in 2016 represents the third consecutive year of negative growth. The economic downturn was due therefore principally to contraction in the energy sector; it shrunk by a projected 9.6%. Despite a moderate increase in oil prices over the first half of 2016, Trinidad and Tobago's energy sector was constrained by reduced supply.

The non-energy sector is projected to shrink by 1.8%, the first fall in over five years. The impaired performance of the energy sector has spilt over into the non-energy sector, while reduced government spending has limited the demand for non-energy services. The manufacturing sector is projected to contract by 5.7%, the agriculture sector by 6% and the service sector by 1.2%.

The effect of the economic slowdown has been manifest in the economy's labour force statistics. The unemployment rate rose from 3.5% in the fourth quarter of 2015 to 3.8% in the first quarter of 2016 and then to 4.4% in the second quarter. Labour market statistics varied by industry; unemployment in the oil and gas sector, which had increased to 8.3% by the fourth quarter of 2015, fell to 3.1% in the second quarter of 2016, largely because of workers leaving the sector.

ECLAC's report projects a current account deficit for T&T, which widened as a result of reduced goods exports, while foreign direct investment saw a modest recovery.

In response to these challenges, the government made several adjustments to compensate for lost energy revenues, including several new tax initiatives. These initiatives include a property tax, a new income tax bracket and a 7% tax on online shopping. In addition, the diesel fuel subsidy has been abolished.

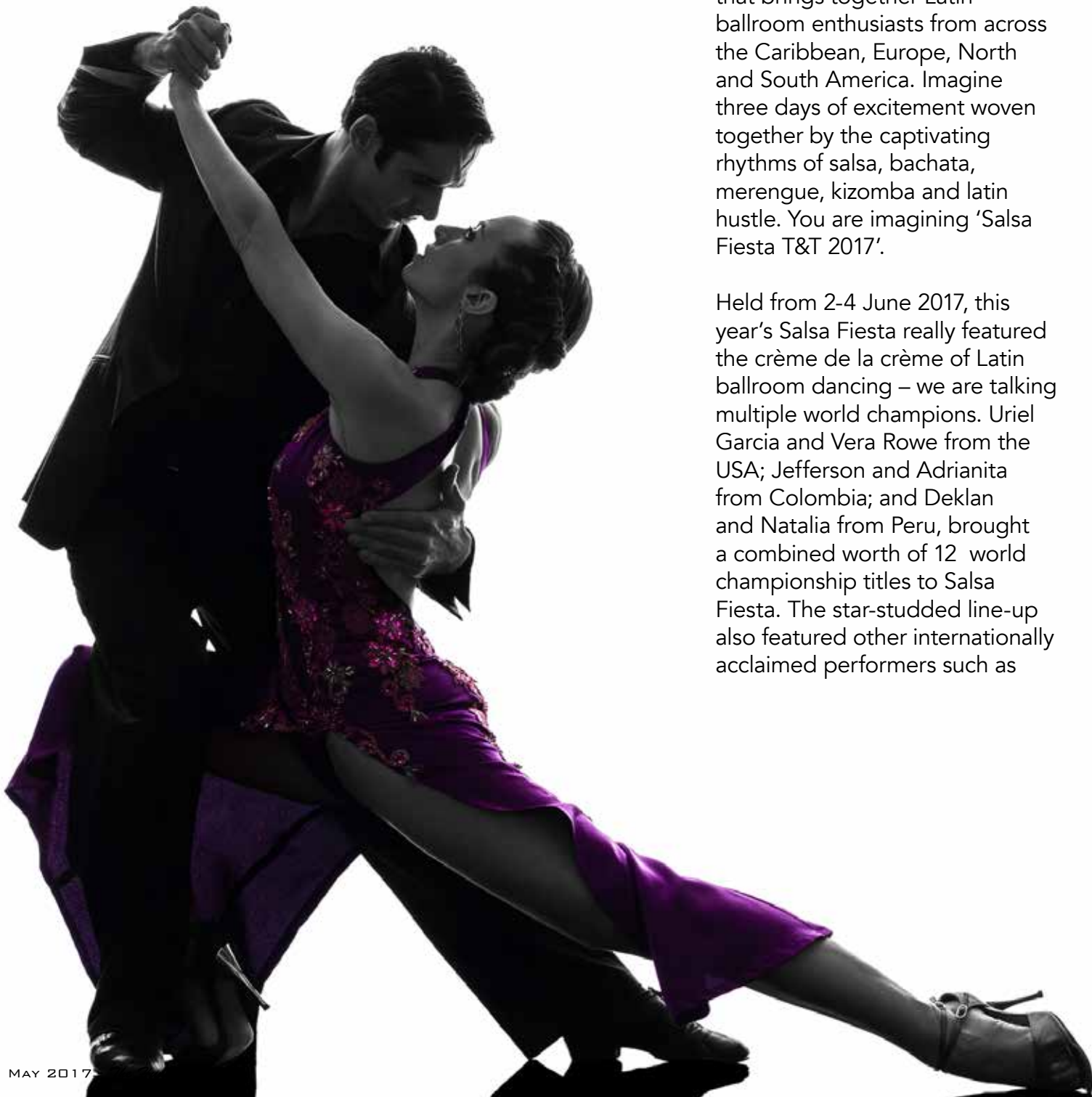
There is, however, also some good news coming from the service sector, with the transport, storage and communication subsector and the finance, insurance and real estate subsector projected to grow by 2.1% and 3.7%, respectively. In 2017, natural gas output from two new fields should increase the supply for downstream production, and the government should raise capital expenditure, leading to estimated growth of 0.5%. ■

Salsa Fiestas

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2017

Imagine an event that features the very best dancers in the world. Imagine a celebration that brings together Latin ballroom enthusiasts from across the Caribbean, Europe, North and South America. Imagine three days of excitement woven together by the captivating rhythms of salsa, bachata, merengue, kizomba and latin hustle. You are imagining 'Salsa Fiesta T&T 2017'.

Held from 2-4 June 2017, this year's Salsa Fiesta really featured the crème de la crème of Latin ballroom dancing – we are talking multiple world champions. Uriel Garcia and Vera Rowe from the USA; Jefferson and Adrianita from Colombia; and Deklan and Natalia from Peru, brought a combined worth of 12 world championship titles to Salsa Fiesta. The star-studded line-up also featured other internationally acclaimed performers such as



kizomba superstars Carolina and Enah from Spain; Leon and Vanessa from France; Nelson and Veronica from the USA; in addition to the very best of the home-grown talent from Trinidad and Tobago.

Enticed by the growing allure of Salsa Fiesta – now at its ninth edition –, people flocked to T&T from all corners of the world; the prospect of watching, learning from and dancing with the best dancers in the world proving truly irresistible. Two breathtaking live shows at Port of Spain’s Queen’s Hall theatre, three electrifying parties and 60 mesmerizing workshops (yes, you read it correctly: 60 workshops) swept away participants in a whirlwind of excitement.

On the evenings of 2 and 3 June, the Latin ballroom

dance sensations dazzled the spectators of a sold out Queen’s Hall, who gazed in awe as the stage was set alight by jaw-dropping moves, lightning fast footwork and heart-stopping choreographies. Right after the shows, excitement continued as the after parties rolled into the early hours of the mornings, offering many enthusiasts the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rip-up the dance floor partnering with world champion performers.

Daytime activities were certainly no less intense, as adrenaline compensated for lack of sleep. Right off the heels of the after parties, workshop classes started the following mornings nice and early. Having marvelled upon their performances the previous evening, participants got a shot at learning from

the pros. Six workshops were held every hour, on the hour, from 9 am to 3 pm. There was something for everyone, from complete novices to long-time salseros. A year’s worth of moves to master, condensed into two fun-packed days.

As the final curtain closed – and people eventually got to bed –, thoughts (mostly dreams) already revelled at the prospect of being part of the 10-year anniversary of Salsa Fiesta, next year: an event which promises to be out-of-this-world. ■

Photo: Deklan and Natalia, salsa world champions from Peru, with Alexander Voccia - ECLAC Caribbean, Strategic Planning and Outreach Coordinator - and his wife, Juriem Lavalle





FEATURE ARTICLE

Recognizing the rights of older persons



In June 2017, ECLAC Caribbean convened a meeting in Port of Spain for member States to carry out a subregional review of the implementation of the San José Charter on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as an appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Both of these are international agreements which address population ageing and the human rights of older persons.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



Recognizing the Rights of older persons

The Caribbean preparatory meeting preceded the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Asuncion, Paraguay from 27-30 June 2017, and which will be featured in the next issue of *The Hummingbird*.

Following the meeting, the *Hummingbird* had a one-on-one chat with Population Affairs Officer, Francis Jones, to get his take on the outcome.

Q: What was the purpose of the meeting?

A: The meeting served as a forum for Member States to report on the most important measures which have been taken to strengthen protection for the rights of older persons, including new or improved laws, policies and programs.

Q: What were the main trends identified?

A: Among other areas, representatives took note of the fact that over the next two decades, there will be a rapid increase in the number of older persons in the Caribbean and that age continues to be a basis for multiple forms of discrimination and abuse, which certainly restricts the full exercise and enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

Q: How are member States preparing to deal with this? What are some of the immediate concerns?

A: It was underscored that there is a need for policymakers to pay greater attention to the issues of ageing and the rights of older persons.

One major concern was the fact that it has been about 15 years since the Madrid Plan was outlined, yet there still are many countries that do not have a proper framework to effectively address the situation of older persons at the national level. In fact, some countries have not completed drafts of national ageing policies.

Q: What were the immediate recommendations coming out of the meeting?

A: There were several recommendations made for different areas, as they relate to the elderly. In a nutshell, some of these were the adoption of up-to-date national policies on ageing and associated legal frameworks, developed and monitored through an inclusive process which involves older persons and their representative organisations. Special attention should be given to discriminatory practices against older persons in the labour market in relation to their access to, ownership, and control of land, property, possessions and natural resources. Also, there is a need to implement programmes for the prevention, care and treatment or management of non-communicable diseases



“

...since older persons make up an increasingly large proportion of the population, societies need to fundamentally reconsider the role of older persons.

Francis Jones - Population Affairs Officer, ECLAC Caribbean

”

Photo: Jennifer Rouse, Director, Division of Ageing, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Trinidad and Tobago

(NCDs), including Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Q: What should be included in these new policies, when they are framed?


A: National agreements should take into consideration the specific needs and challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), middle-income countries, or highly indebted and vulnerable Caribbean countries. They should also highlight the ageing of the population across the subregion and recognize that particular attention must be paid to the growing numbers of older persons, given their varied and different circumstances, while at the same time identifying commonalities and good practices in addressing the situation of this age group.

Q: How will this subregional meeting contribute to the regional meeting that will be held in Paraguay?

A: ECLAC has prepared a 'Caribbean synthesis report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and

the San Jose Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean'. This document outlined that there is a need for renewed commitment to improving the well-being of older persons. It highlighted the lack of information on safeguards for free and informed consent for medical treatment, decision-making, legal capacity, access to justice, to education, ICT and culture. The report also called for more information regarding the situation of specific groups of older persons, including older women, older migrants, LGBTI older persons, those belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and those living on the streets or are deprived.

In conclusion, Jones noted that since older persons make up an increasingly large proportion of the population, societies need to fundamentally reconsider the role of older persons. For older persons themselves, full and equal participation in society is essential to their physical, mental and social wellbeing. Societies should no longer disregard the contribution that older people can make to economic, social, cultural and family life.



Caribbean countries seek to improve energy efficiency of government vehicles

Several countries in the Caribbean are considering alternatives towards improving energy efficiency (EE) in their fleets of government vehicles. This would assist in advancing sustainable development and in addressing the high cost of dependency on fossil fuels, on which most Small Island Developing States (SIDS) rely to meet their energy needs. These possibilities were captured in ECLAC Caribbean's latest publication, entitled 'Promoting energy efficiency in government transportation systems: A transition roadmap and criteria for a readiness analysis'.

Fossil energy is used primarily for power generation and domestic transportation. In light of the global challenges that arise from climate change, countries world-wide have initiated

strategies and projects for deploying renewable energy technologies, and for enhancing EE.

However, before this can become a reality in the Caribbean, there are some challenges to the process which should be taken into consideration.

In this context, the ECLAC study offers a guide to assist policymakers in identifying the necessary data, as well as the technical, governance, infrastructure and financial conditions required to support the transition to an energy efficient government fleet.

The main product of the report is a roadmap for vehicle transition, which includes criteria for multi-dimensional assessments of national circumstances, and outlines the targets and goals to be considered as part

of national efforts. These may include strengthened monitoring and reporting systems which would improve the quality and availability of data for decision-making, and enforced controls and maintenance guidelines.

In particular, ECLAC's report states that the EE transition process for Caribbean countries starts with implementing countries carrying out in-depth internal analyses in order to determine their stage of advancement towards transition.

Then, once the particular goals and challenges have been identified, governments should undergo a gradual transition process. The improvement of fleet administration practices is part of this and is expected to yield benefits even before fleet transition, as it would help to identify negative behaviors, under or overuse



Festival fashion vibes added to Jamaica 55

Jamaicans will soon get into full swing for their country's Independence Festival on 7 August. The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC), is planning a special event entitled 'Jamaica 55', for which Jamaicans at home and abroad are being asked to 'Wear Di Vibes ... It's Jamaica 55', which is the festival fashion theme for 2017.

"This year's festival fashion theme surrounds the vibrancy, resilience, strength and creativity of the Jamaican people through the colours black, emerald, gold and red," explained Stephen Davidson, director of marketing and public relations at the JCDC. He noted that Jamaicans love to show their creativity through fashion, and 'dress up' every Independence season with pride.

"So this year, we hope to see persons at home and across the diaspora in their vibes colours, celebrating in real Jamaica 55 style to bring the spirit of the festival season alive," he said.

Davidson further stated that each of the selected colours brought with it its own Jamaican vibes and meaning.

"Black is resilient, strong and proud, while emerald represents our nurturing nature, natural beauty and the grounded nature of Jamaican people. Gold speaks to our successes and the fact that we are winners and champions of the world, while red speaks of our creativity, our 'nuff and plenty' nature and our liveliness as a people," Davidson said.

In anticipation of the event, apparel companies on the island are also being encouraged to stock up on material to support the fashion theme and to meet the demand of the public.

Fashion designers, store owners and dressmakers are also engaged in supporting and promoting this year's fashion theme. ■

of vehicles, inadequate/ inefficient use of vehicles, wasteful routing and other issues that hinder efficiency.

Therefore it is suggested that policy makers should not wait until the perfect set of conditions are in place, but should instead start with actions that could yield fast benefits, such as re-routing, fleet downsizing, and making adequate use of vehicles, among others.

In addition to opportunities and challenges to increase EE in government fleet vehicles, ECLAC's study identifies international best practices in relation to fleet electrification, suggests the most suitable and comprehensive approach for a fleet transition, and recommends the most immediate actions to deploy in this regard. ■

EXPLORING THE RELEVANCE OF THE CARIBBEAN'S RCM/TAC

ECLAC Caribbean recently carried out a review of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism and Technical Advisory Committee (RCM/TAC) for the Implementation of the SIDS Development Agenda in the Caribbean, and its relevance in the subregional and international context.

The RCM is a regional coordinating mechanism created in response to requests from governments, and the TAC is the technical body charged with the practical aspects of coordination and reporting its recommendations to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

The review was carried out by a small working group

comprising UN country representatives from Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, a technical adviser from the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), ECLAC Caribbean's Economic Affairs Officer, Willard Phillips, Research Assistant, Elizabeth Thorne, and former ECLAC Programme Officer, Radcliffe Dookie.

The group discussed the challenges in monitoring the SIDS development agenda in the Caribbean, and took note of the current status of the technical agenda for the SAMOA (SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action) Pathway , and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Following the review, The Hummingbird sat down for a one-on-one with Phillips and Thorne to get some insight on

the event.

Q: What is the main challenge in managing the RCM/TAC?

Phillips: Since 2010, ECLAC has been responsible for convening RCM/TAC annual meetings, which were usually well supported and yielded valuable discussions and results. However, the challenge for ECLAC is that while the RCM is perceived as being its responsibility, the organization does not have the authority to speak on behalf of the countries. Therefore there are some elements that need adjusting, one of which is the critical gap in connectivity to governments and to CARICOM.



Q: How could this situation be improved?

Thorne: The meeting suggested the use of the SAMOA Pathway to operationalize the RCM, whose function should be extended beyond the convening of annual meetings.

Q: What would be the best options for advancing the work of the RCM?

Phillips: Before any decisions can be made, we must consider if the RCM will continue to be the framework for implementing the SIDS agenda, and secondly the extent to which the SAMOA Pathway was clearly manifested in the SDGs development agenda. The meeting outlined that the

Caribbean should aggressively pursue specific support through the SDG frameworks.

Q: How is the RCM to be deployed in the future?

Thorne: One of the points raised during the review meeting was that the SDGs have changed the landscape of things with more reporting demands. This has made the RCM more relevant. However, the region still has to define the operational modalities of the RCM and how it would craft a regional response to advances in sustainable development. It is also essential for the RCM to effectively engage the donor community to provide the needed finances to carry out its work programme.

The meeting concluded with the agreement that ECLAC was not in a position to speak on behalf of its member States, and a more appropriate entity to manage the RCM would be the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), as this is the decision making machinery for the Caribbean within the ECLAC system. Also, there is a need to establish and develop the monitoring aspect of the RCM so that the SIDS agenda in the region can be monitored more effectively.

A draft position paper on the RCM is presently being prepared by ECLAC, to be presented to the CDCC for final sign off in 2018. ■



ECLAC'S DIGITAL AGENDA ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHTED AT BARBADOS MEETING

Caribbean stakeholders from the fields of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and national Social Security recently received a detailed summary of ECLAC's work in these areas, during a Meeting of the Commission on Organization and Administrative Systems (CAOSA), held on 7-8 June 2017 in Barbados.

Coordinator of ECLAC's Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, Peter Nicholls, who presented on 'Digital agendas in the region: How to face the challenges in social security', told the gathering that ECLAC has been very active

in the area of digital economy.

Over the last five years, ECLAC Caribbean has given much attention to ICT and ICT for Development, including broadband access and appropriation, regional connectivity, digital inclusion, and advanced access and usage of statistics for business and governments.

"Our present work in this area can be described as the third generation of digital agendas, and includes the regional dimension of the SDGs, digital economy, digital innovation, industrial Internet, open data, big data, and digital regional

market," Nicholls stated. Mr Nicholls also provided information on the status of CARICOM Single ICT Space and how regulatory sandboxes were being utilised in the UK by Public Private Partnerships to trial social welfare payment services through mobile money.

The CAOSA meeting was integrated with the three-day Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) 28th Heads of Social Security Meeting from 7-9 June 2017, which urged regional countries to ensure that their social security systems are strong enough to withstand the economic shocks from the global economic crisis. ■

BAR BA DOS CROP OVER FESTIVAL

The Crop Over summer festival, which takes place from May to August, is Barbados' most popular and colorful festival. Its origins can be traced back to the 1780's, a time when Barbados was the world's largest producer of sugar.

At the end of the sugar season, there was always a huge celebration to mark the culmination of another successful sugar cane harvest - the Crop Over celebration.

As the sugar industry in Barbados declined, so too did the Crop Over festival and in the 1940's the festival was abandoned. It was revived in 1974 and other elements of Barbadian culture were infused to create the extravaganza that exists today - an event that attracts thousands of people from across the globe.

The festival begins with the opening gala and ceremonial delivery of the last canes and the crowning of the king and queen of the festival -- the most productive male and female cane cutters of the season.

Bridgetown Market consists of many stalls selling food and beverages as well as local arts and crafts, and visitors can enjoy calypso and soca music and live entertainment while browsing through the stalls.

'Cohoblopot' is a huge carnival-like show traditionally held on the last Friday night with members of the Kadooment bands displaying their elaborate and stunning costumes. There is also a huge entertainment package with the

most popular calypsonians and bands performing to packed audiences.

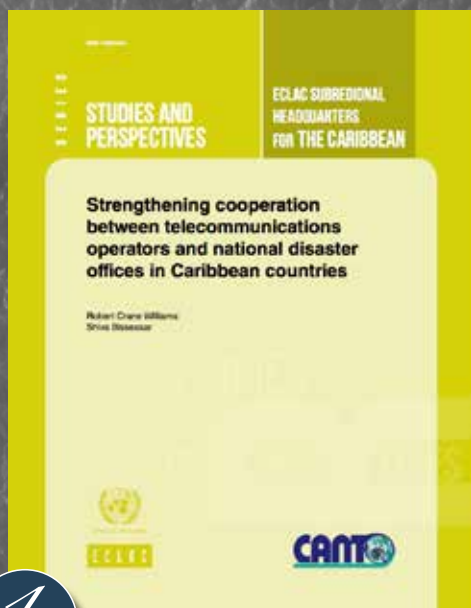
Children are not left out as they can participate in the Kiddies Kadooment, donning beautiful costumes and joining their friends in a band to parade before the judges of the competition.

Folk concerts and art and photographic exhibitions are integral parts of the festival, highlighting Barbadian history and culture as well as the artistic talents of Bajans.

Calypso is one of the main features of the Crop Over festival. The calypsonians are organised into "tents", which are sponsored by Barbados businesses. Calypsonians compete for several prizes and titles, including Party Monarch, Sweet Soca Monarch, Road March Monarch and Pic-O-De-Crop Monarch.

The finale of the festival is the Grand Kadooment on the final Monday morning! This carnival parade features large bands with members dressed in elaborate costumes to depict various themes.

This year, Crop Over activity will be enhanced by the fact that CARIFESTA will be held in Barbados from 17-27 August. (Read more about this in the August 2017 issue of *The Hummingbird*). ■



1.

Strengthening cooperation between telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in Caribbean countries



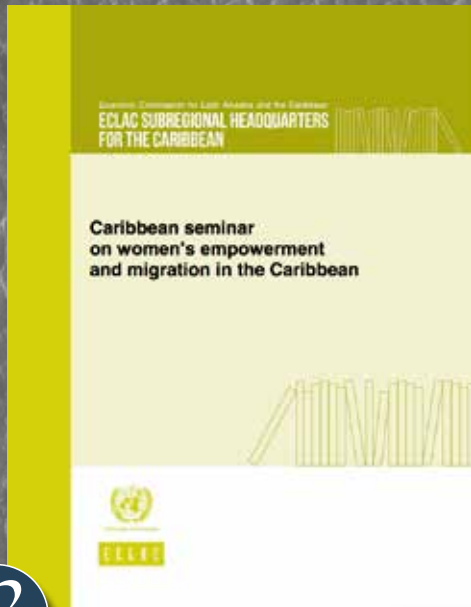
3.

Preliminary overview of the economies of the Caribbean 2016-2017

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Caribbean seminar
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DIANE'S CORNER

The Director's views and thoughts on
the occasion of:



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

26/6



International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

"Caribbean islands are especially vulnerable to illegal trafficking; with open coastlines, transshipment is rampant. And the illegal drug trade fuels illicit trafficking in small arms; nourishes money laundering; promotes deadly terrorism and transnational crime."

#DirectorsTake

<http://vrb.al/directors-take>





ECLAC DEVELOPS ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

The importance of creating a database of indicators that measure the performance of energy efficiency (EE) policies was underscored at a meeting held in Jamaica, and attended by ECLAC Caribbean's Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Dr. Omar Bello, and Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Leda Peralta.

The occasion was the launch of the BIEE (Energy Efficiency Indicators Database for Latin America and the Caribbean) Programme in

the Caribbean, which was held in conjunction with a capacity building workshop on energy efficiency indicators, held from 25-26 May 2017, in Kingston, Jamaica.

Due to a lack of information and indicators on EE programmes in the region, ECLAC has developed the Regional Programme BIEE. This programme aims at producing a series of specific and methodologically consistent indicators that allow for the measurement and analysis of the evolution of national EE programmes.

As part of this effort, ECLAC Caribbean has undertaken the task of training and coordinating actions in the subregion to develop a common tool that facilitates this task.

The BIEE programme follows the successful implementation of the ODYSSEE Programme, developed by the European Commission and managed by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME).

The programme started in 2011 with a contribution from the German



Cooperation Agency (GIZ) within the framework of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation. Initially, it aimed at supporting Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries and associated nations. However, due to its success 19 Latin American countries are now participating.

The BIEE launch in the Caribbean was designed to invite English-speaking Caribbean countries to join the initiative and improve their energy efficiency information. Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint

Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participated in the launch and presented the state energy efficiency measures and policies in their respective countries.

Out of the five countries that attended the launch, the first to sign on for the programme is Guyana, with the others expected to become engaged in the near future. ■

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Grenada

CDB GRANT TO IMPROVE TERTIARY EDUCATION

- Jun 1 -

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) approved a USD500,000 grant to the government of Grenada to undertake a comprehensive reassessment of the T.A. Marryshow Community College (TAMCC). The review will address the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of the infrastructure, governance systems and operational procedures of TAMCC. TAMCC is the largest public provider of tertiary education, representing 73 percent of those Grenadians enrolled locally in tertiary education.

CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

- July 6 -

The Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) took place in Grenada, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Grenada Dr. Rt. Hon Keith Mitchell. The Conference welcomed its two newest Members; the President of Haiti H.E. Jovenel Moise who was sworn into office on 7 February, and the Prime Minister of The Bahamas Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis who took his oath of office on 11 May.



Guyana

FOREIGN MINISTERS TO ATTEND MEETING IN COTE D'IVOIRE

- Jun 30 -

The Foreign Minister and Vice-President of Guyana, Mr. Carl Greenidge, and his counterpart from neighbouring Suriname, Mr. Yldiz Pollack-Beighle, travel to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to attend the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) 45th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting, which begins on July 10 under the theme "Session of Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity". The two Caribbean Community (CARICOM) foreign ministers will join over 50 other foreign ministers from predominantly Islamic countries.

GUYANA SHIPPING TO MEXICO

- Jul 1 -

Guyana recently began shipping US\$17.7 million (GYD\$3.8 billion) worth of rice paddy to Mexico through the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB). This initial shipment which totaled 17,000 tonnes, is the first batch of paddy from a contract that will see 60,000 tonnes shipped over the next two months. The move signals a significant boost to exports of paddy to non-traditional markets. Agriculture Minister Noel Holder commented that the Mexico agreement is a step in the right direction, as the government actively pursues new markets for Guyana's rice and paddy.



Trinidad and Tobago

CABINET RESCHUFFLE - June 29 -

Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley has reassigned the country's former Minister of Public Utilities Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds to the position of Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs. Also, former Minister of Energy and Energy Industries Nicole Olivierre was appointed Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry she once headed. Finally the Prime Minister advised the President to revoke the appointment of Senator Ayanna Lewis, and appoint Allyson West as Senator and Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

CDB ROLLS OUT TRAINING PROGRAMME

- June 29 -

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has introduced training initiatives to help governments of its 19 borrowing member countries (BMCs). The Public Policy Analysis and Management (PPAM) and Project Cycle Management (PCM) training programmes are supporting reforms to strengthen countries' efficiency and help them achieve their development goals. Thus far more than 450 persons from The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands have signed on to participate in the Programme.



How simple decisions impact our climate

Simple decisions that we make in our everyday lives have more of an impact on the global issue of climate change than we realize.

This was highlighted by ECLAC Caribbean's Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Leda Peralta, during a recent radio interview on Power 102 FM in Trinidad and Tobago, on the programme, 'Facing the Issues', hosted by journalist Tony Fraser.

Peralta underscored that citizens have the power to improve their life choices and actively engage their governments, which can impact the slowdown of our weakening ozone layer. "Our disconnection with nature and its ecosystems and cycles have de-sensitized us, we need to go back to nature and appreciate that we need a healthy Earth to survive and carry out our everyday activities," she stated. "Our wasteful consumption of water and electricity, but also our activism in recycling and avoiding plastics, using public transportation, and buying local products can immensely impact our climate."

She explained that climate change is usually seen as an abstract or foreign concept so many people do not understand how it impacts our lives but also how we contribute to it. "Climate change means a change in the usual weather found in a place. This could be a change in how much rain a place usually gets in a year. Or it could be a change in a place's usual temperature for a month or season. Climate change is also a change in the earth's climate.

In the Caribbean we are seeing effects such as loss of shoreline, invasive species, coral bleaching and extreme weather events. Climate takes hundreds or even millions of years to change, which means that our everyday actions have long term effects in our planet and its inhabitants."

One of the areas she spoke about was the recent Paris accord on climate change, which is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dealing with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. In this agreement, each signatory country must determine, plan and regularly report on its own contribution towards mitigating global warming.

Peralta stated that there is no mechanism to force a country to set a specific target by a specific date, but each target should go beyond previously set targets. "The agreement allows countries to establish their own targets based on their capabilities, this commitment by governments, businesses and citizens is crucial to our planet."

Peralta ended by outlining some of the ways in which ECLAC Caribbean promotes climate change in daily lives, through educational seminars at schools in Trinidad, encouraging staff to recycle their plastic and glass bottles and paper, using energy efficient bulbs at our Port of Spain office, and strongly supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy policies in the Caribbean, to name a few. ■



ASPECTS OF JAMAICA'S ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FOR ECLAC ANALYSIS

The mere mention of Jamaican music brings to mind Reggae's most transcendent and iconic figure, the late great Bob Marley, whose music continues to inspire generations of the past, present and future. And no doubt it also inspired Nigel Star a successful artiste, song writer and former musical director of singer Sean Paul.

Against this backdrop, ECLAC Caribbean is undertaking a study which will examine the main drivers of a successful music venture which focuses on Star and the Reggae Sumfest music festival. A film venture which focuses on a UWI Community Film Project and the 'Songs of Redemption' documentary film, which won the top award at the 2014 Krakow Film Festival in Poland, will also be the subject of the ECLAC study.

For each of the two ventures, the study will examine the main areas of the value chain, including attracting talent, production, recording, publishing and distribution, identifying the setbacks the ventures had to overcome.

The study will also analyse the extent to which the ventures have been able to contribute to government revenue, employment and linkages with other sectors of the economy.

The study is motivated by the need to undertake more focussed analysis at a micro level to gauge the drivers of success of business entities in the Caribbean creative sector, including strategies to tackle obstacles in their path to success.

In the Caribbean, young and upcoming artistes, as well as established producers and marketers often have to find innovative ways to secure the

necessary financing, equipment, talent and other resources to monetise their craft.

For example, in Jamaica – where the filming industry is over 100 years old -, the sector remains largely untapped and underdeveloped. The film value chain in Jamaica consists of a range of players from script writers to producers, editors, sound engineers to promoters and distributors, among others.

The limited development of the film industry has stemmed in part from a focus on attracting on-location foreign films rather than adequately incentivising local productions. The producers' association there (JAFTA) is working assiduously to breathe new life into the industry, using local themes vistas and talent.

Despite these challenges that music and film firms and ventures have faced in Jamaica, a number of them have developed successful businesses that are commercially viable and contribute to employment, government revenues and income for local suppliers of inputs into their operations.

In this context, the analysis and lessons learned in the upcoming study should enable the two ventures to enhance their exports, as well as provide more pointed insights into how firms in the creative sector overcome challenges and position themselves to harness and maximise value towards developing a unique product or service brand through innovation, managing suppliers and strengthening the marketing and distribution of their products and services. The study is expected to be published later in 2017. ■

A Must-Visit Food Festival in Nevis

Nevis will celebrate its annual Mango and Food Festival from 6-9 July 2017.

This year, celebrity chefs, Judy Joo and Seamus Mullen, will be headlining the festival, bringing their unique culinary talents to the island.

Cookbook author and restaurateur, chef Joo, UK's Iron Chef, and host of the British cooking channel's 'Korean Foods Made Simple', is making her second appearance at the festival.

She will be joined this year by chef Mullen, an award-winning New York chef and restaurateur, who brings an inventive approach to Spanish cuisine. He appears regularly on the American Food Network shows, 'Chopped' and 'Beat Bobby Flay'.

The Nevis Mango and Food Festival features four days of dining experiences, cooking demonstrations, and cook-along classes by these international chefs as well as local Nevisian chefs and cooks.

The events will take place at restaurants, beach bars and resorts around the island, culminating with Nevisian chefs and mixologists cooking at Oualie Beach on the final day.

Guests can enjoy samples of many mango-inspired dishes, made from the 44 different varieties of Nevis mangoes.

"This is an opportunity for foodies and especially mango-lovers to visit Nevis and get a taste of some incredible cooking by master chefs as well as a taste of our beautiful island," explained Greg B. Phillip, CEO of the Nevis Tourism Board.

"Now in its third year, this food extravaganza continues to grow in popularity with visitors and locals alike and this year promises to be something very special." ■

Antigua-Barbuda's 60th Carnival gets a warm reception in Trinidad and Tobago



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, recently held the Antigua Road Show in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) to promote the launch of the 60th anniversary of Antigua's Carnival, which takes place from 28 July – 7 August, 2017.

Regional marketing consultant for the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Charmaine Spencer, said "The aim of the Antigua Road Show was to sensitize the Trinidad public to Antigua and Barbuda as a neighbouring paradise, and also as a Carnival and party destination, to attract T&T avid party-goers, and seasoned mas players."

Following on from previous efforts of the ABTA in the Trinidad market, the Antigua and Barbuda delegation conducted media appearances on leading Trinidad radio stations, as well as local television, inviting all to visit Antigua and Barbuda for the 60th Carnival Anniversary and just for vacation any time of the year.

The team also had meetings with some of Trinidad's most prominent mas bands such as, TRIBE Carnival, Ronnie & Caro, Fantasy, and YUMA.

The road show culminated with a media cocktail launch, which was well attended by representatives of Caribbean Airlines who gave away a prize trip to Antigua and Barbuda. Also in attendance were members of Trinidad's National Carnival Commission, local media celebrities, journalists, several travel agencies, representatives from the local hotel association, as well as legendary calypsonians such as Ronnie McIntosh and Gypsy, and other invited guests.

The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of Antigua mas costumes, where guests were dazzled by the splendour of Antigua's Carnival with a preview of carnival costumes by Antigua Mas Band, Beautiful People.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation received a warm reception from the Trinidad public with persons wanting to get as much information as possible on all the activities taking place for the big 60th anniversary celebrations. ■



Bahamian students monitor diseases in local mangroves

Students enrolled in the Bahamas Awareness of Mangroves (BAM) program launched an environmental monitoring program and a new partnership with North Carolina State University to study diseases in Bahamian mangrove trees.

The BAM program, spearheaded by the 'Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation' and partners at 'FRIENDS of the Environment', combines science education with mangrove restoration. Amy Heemsoth, director of education for the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation said, "This is the second year we have run the BAM program, and the students have grown in their understanding of mangroves, as well as their enthusiasm to conserve them."

Students enrolled in BAM venture into the mangrove forest to learn about the plants and animals that live there. They also collect mangrove seedlings which they raise under test

conditions throughout the school year, before returning to plant them in restoration sites.

This year, the BAM program expanded to include a second year of activities. BAM students returned to the mangrove seedlings they planted the previous year, and measured their growth and the health of the forest. Heemsoth said, 'We are delighted to expand BAM into a two-year program, and to include a scientific partnership with North Carolina State University.'

Recently, large swaths of mangroves in the Marls on Abaco Island have died, and scientists at North Carolina State University suspect a deadly fungus is to blame. They asked BAM students to participate in their research. Students from Forest Heights Academy looked for signs of disease in the trees and worked with scientists at North Carolina State University to identify the types of fungal disease. This marks the start of a new international citizen-

science partnership between BAM and North Carolina State University.

Nicola Roberts, a BAM student at Forest Heights Academy, is proud to take part in this new partnership. She said, "As part of the future generation it is our job to protect the mangroves as they are a crucial part of our Bahamian Ecosystem."

Nicola's biology teacher, Lindsey Borsz, said, "I love that the Living Oceans Foundation welcomed our school into hands-on practical research. I can already see that my students are proud to take ownership of the beautiful environment they live in as well as contributing to environmental research on worldly and current issues."

Demetra Moss, a teacher at Abaco Central High School, added, "I am happy that the program provides students with a real-life opportunity to practice skills learned in the science lessons." ■

Farewell to Bobby

Fondly known as 'Bobby' to colleagues at ECLAC Caribbean, Associate Information Management Officer, Robert Williams, recently said goodbye to staff at the Port of Spain subregional headquarters, as he moved on to another stage in his career.

Though he spent just over three and a half years at this office, Bobby's impact will certainly live on at ECLAC Caribbean, due to his sterling contribution in several areas of our work.

He was toasted by staff during a farewell ceremony and will be remembered for his consummate professionalism, which went above and beyond the scope of his duties. Here are some memories from Bobby's last day with us. ■





Banana Nut Loaf

What you will need:

- 1/3 cup margarine**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 tsp baking powder**
- 1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda**
- 1/2 cup parched peanuts (chopped)**
- 1 3/4 cups sifted flour**
- 1/2 tsp salt**
- 1 cup mashed ripe banana**



What you need to do:

1. Cream the margarine and sugar together. Add the eggs and beat well, then add the peanuts.
2. Sift the flour, salt, bicarbonate of soda and baking powder together.
3. Add these dry ingredients to the creamed mixture alternately with banana, beating well with each addition.
4. Pour into a well-greased 8 to 9 inch loaf pan.
5. Bake in a moderate oven (350°F) for about an hour or until done.

Cool on a rack.



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