



Turn the world UN blue

GLOBAL LANDMARKS
LIT UP FOR OUR
UN CAMPAIGN

Anniversary of the UN

THE UNITED NATIONS
CELEBRATES ITS 70TH
ANNIVERSARY

eCommerce

ECLAC PARTICIPATES IN
REGIONAL E-COMMERCE
WORKSHOP

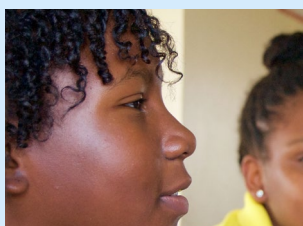
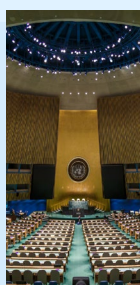


Strong UN. Better World.



ECLAC

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ECLAC CARIBBEAN



UNITED NATIONS

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Upcoming Events

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United Nations International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
2 November 2015

2-4

Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
Lima, Peru.
2-4 November 2015

14

World Diabetes Day
14 November 2015.

17-19

Eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
Quito, Ecuador.
17-19 November 2015

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Universal Children's Day
20 November 2015

27

UNESCO, Executive Board, 198th session
Paris, France.
27 November 2015



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Oct 15

ECLAC Caribbean recently co-organized with the Office for Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) a multi-sectoral disaster assessment training session.



Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Oct 01

TV SPOT: What is the significance of the adoption of the SDGs for the Caribbean? #TV



Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sept 29

According to Alicia Bárcena, "There will be no progress on implementation of the SDGs if gender equality is ignored."



The new #2030agenda must orient countries' efforts in order to build societies based on equality and environmental sustainability.

Alicia Bárcena

Like · Comment · Share

Turn the world UN

Global landmarks lit up for campaign

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations (UN), a global “Turn the World UN Blue” campaign was conceptualized to unite global citizens and promote the message of peace, development and human rights.

This was brought to life on Saturday 24th October, the official UN Day, with iconic monuments, buildings, bridges, and other structures in the 193 member countries across the globe being lit in Blue.

Landmarks such as the Empire State Building and UN Headquarters in the United States, Tokyo’s SkyTree Tower in Japan, the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, Athen’s Temple of Zeus in Greece, Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, and many others “turned UN blue” to mark this significant anniversary of the UN.

Images and videos of the lighted structures were set to be part of an innovative social media outreach and have been seen by millions of people around the world. Citizens across the globe were also asked to take action by sharing their “choose blue” images using the hashtag #UN70. ■



Blue





ECLAC Caribbean Associate Information Management Officer Robert Crane Williams at the Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre.



ECLAC participates in regional E-Commerce workshop

Associate Information Management Officer, Robert Williams, recently represented ECLAC Caribbean at a workshop to discuss E-commerce Legislation Harmonization in the Caribbean, at the Trinidad Hilton and Conference Centre from 29 September to 02 October. The gathering was a joint effort of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), and the Government of Finland.

Mr. Williams, whose presentation was titled “Harmonization of national technology policies in the Caribbean” shared his experience with the Hummingbird:

Q What was the main goal of this workshop?

A: The main purpose was to discuss e-commerce legislation in the Caribbean, and look at how this sector can be improved to benefit countries.

Q What was your contribution?

A: I wanted to share ECLAC’s perspective on harmonization of national technology policies in the Caribbean, taking a specific look at information and communications technology (ICT).

Q Are there ICT policies implemented in the subregion?

A: Caribbean countries have had limited success in past efforts at harmonizing policy in the area of information and communications technology (ICT). Some instances where countries were not able to achieve alignment include the switchover from analogue broadcasting to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), and the implementation of the CARIPASS system. In the first case, as a result of the lack of harmonization, four different standards for the technology are adopted within the region, despite the potential benefits of countries agreeing to a single, unified standard. In the case of CARIPASS, technology was in place that could have implemented a unified CARICOM system for immigration, but the region’s political momentum behind the initiative faded over time, and the project did not come to fruition.

Q Do you see any improvement in this area in the near future?

A: It should be noted that the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority stands in contrast to these initiatives, as a longstanding institution that has enabled a harmonized policy on telecommunications regulation among five countries in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Specific to the area of legislative harmonization, two projects in the Caribbean that have

developed model laws are the Electronic Government for Regional Integration Project (EGRIP) and Harmonization of ICT policies and legislation across the Caribbean (HIPCAR) initiatives.

Q How have these projects been implemented and have they been effective?

A: EGRIP was an e-government project among six OECS countries that included some legislative harmonization components, such as a model cybercrime law, and a framework to support e-filing of tax forms. The model cybercrime law has met with significant criticism, and there were significant post-implementation challenges in two countries that passed laws based upon it. HIPCAR was an initiative driven by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to develop a set of model laws in the area of ICT across 15 CARICOM countries. However, since the project ended in 2013, an expected CARICOM legal review of these model laws has not occurred, and there has been very slow uptake of these model laws by legislatures in Caribbean countries. This is broadly reflective of the challenges that efforts to further regional harmonization of ICT policy have experienced in gaining recognition as a priority by Caribbean governments.

Q What does the future of e-commerce policy look like for the Caribbean?

A: An important lesson learned from the workshop is that multistakeholder processes can inform policy and influence action, but they certainly cannot substitute commitment at the ministerial or high political level. We are now more aware of how important it is to build on existing frameworks, since projects come to an end but institutions last. If e-commerce legislation is to work for the region, then change will have to come from within organizations. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE
Strong UN. Better World.



On this, the United Nations 70th anniversary, the organization is taking the opportunity to reflect – to look back on the UN’s history and take stock of its enduring achievements. The Hummingbird also spotlights where the UN – and the international community as a whole – has arrived across the three pillars of its work: peace and security, development, and human rights.

This month the Hummingbird is taking a look at the purpose of the UN and how it was established in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), which became a Member State in 1962, the same year that the country achieved its independent status from Britain.





Strong UN. Better World.

To put the purpose of the UN in perspective, let us first look at how it came into being. The United Nations rose from the ashes of World War II. Representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco from April to June 1945 to draft the UN Charter. Their hope was to create an organization through which countries would share the common goal of working together to prevent war, and promote peace and development to make the world a better, safer place for future generations.

The name “United Nations” was coined in 1941 (during the Second World War) by the President of the United States at that time, Franklin D Roosevelt. The Charter outlines the principal tenets of the UN: 1) to maintain world peace and security; 2) to protect and promote human rights for all; and 3) to encourage member states to cooperate as they seek to solve international problems.

The UN also supports the efforts of individual countries to address national development challenges with a view to enhancing the quality of life of their populations.

The United Nations has over the years increased in membership to its current 193 (the last country to join was South Sudan in 2011). All countries –

whether large or small, rich or poor, with differing political views and social systems -- have a voice and a single, unweighted vote at the UN. This, from the perspective of universal dialogue in the pursuit of common goals is perceived as a significant strength.

The UN is not a “world government”. It provides the means to help individual governments resolve conflict and develop policies on matters of common interest.

There are six official languages used at the UN: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.



The promotion and protection of human rights constitutes a major part of the UN's agenda. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948 (just three years after the UN was formed), to ensure that there would be a common standard of respect for all human beings. All of the work undertaken by the UN is meant ultimately to support the human rights of all people. All efforts towards the promotion of development, and peace and security are guided by a universal commitment to help each person enjoy protection and self-actualization.

The UN consists of six main organs:

* **The General Assembly**, where all 193 countries have an equal vote. Here, the representatives of Member States adopt positions of principle or make recommendations for action on many issues, including disarmament, financing for sustainable development, human rights, budget decisions, and on strategies to improve common social concerns including the protection of children, youth, capacity building and institutional strengthening.

* **The Security Council**, which is comprised of 15 countries, five that are Permanent Members; China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States and 10 seats assigned regionally on which other Member States may serve for two years at a time. The Security Council deals with matters relating to peace and security; the cessation of conflict, collective security and peacekeeping.

* **The Economic and Social Council**, which is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social

and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It has 54 members elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.

* **The Trusteeship Council**, which was established to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States, and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence. By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence.

* **The International Court of Justice**, which is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, with its seat at the Peace Palace in the Hague (Netherlands). It is the only one of the six principal organs of the UN not located in New York (USA).

* **The Secretariat**, which comprises the Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs.



TOP LEFT: THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING ITS SEVENTH SESSION ON 14 OCTOBER 1952 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS PERMANENT HOME IN NEW YORK.

BOTTOM LEFT: HEADQUARTERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN SANTIAGO, CHILE.

TOP RIGHT: 'NON-VIOLENCE' IS A BRONZE SCULPTURE BY SWEDISH ARTIST CARL FREDRIK REUTERSWÄRD OF AN OVERSIZED COLT PYTHON .357 MAGNUM REVOLVER WITH A KNOTTED BARREL.

BOTTOM RIGHT: THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR) BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 10 DECEMBER 1948.





Stronger UN. Better World

The UN became active in T&T in 1961 on the eve of the country's independence, when the United Nations Technical Assistance Board was established. Several UN offices also started operations in the country during the early years of independent T&T. These included ECLA, ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, and UNIC.

ECLAC Caribbean is the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and part of a network of offices of the Regional Commission of the UN that serve LAC. Headquartered in Santiago, Chile, it also has Subregional Headquarters for Mexico and the Central American States in Mexico City, and national offices in Bogota, Buenos Aires, Brasilia, Montevideo and Washington, DC.

The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) was established in 1948 with a membership of 25 countries. In 1966, the subregional office in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, was established to assist in the economic and social development of the Caribbean.

At the 16th session of ECLA, held in Port of Spain in 1975, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) was established as a permanent subsidiary body of ECLA. The aim of this body was primarily to promote cooperation for economic and social development among Caribbean member countries. In 1984, ECLA was changed to ECLAC (the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) to underline the fact that its scope was expanded to include the countries of the Caribbean subregion.

Our mandate has since been expanded to foster Caribbean economic integration; to promote implementation of internationally agreed development goals, and to support sustainable development. Other areas of our mandate include strengthening regional capacity to collect and analyze data, knowledge management, and disaster management and risk reduction. We undertake research and analysis, conduct workshops and training programmes, convene technical and ministerial meetings and provide technical assistance and advisory services to governments within the region.

There are currently 12 resident UN agencies in Trinidad and Tobago: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the UN Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS), The UN Children's Emergency



The Allée des Nations - UN Geneva, with the flags of the member countries.

Fund (UNICEF), The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) and the UN Information Centre (UNIC), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Office of Migration(IOM).

The non-resident agencies include UNESCO, UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNHCR, ITU and UPU. Mr. Richard Blewitt is the current UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in T&T. Appointed in April 2013, he also has responsibility for Aruba, Curacao, Sint Maarten and Suriname.

The UNDP has been present in Trinidad and Tobago for over 45 years. Since 1961, UNDP has been a development partner to the government and has assisted with several national initiatives. Its role has evolved from technical cooperation to that of partner and provider of policy and knowledge advisory services to the government.

UNDP works in five areas: governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and the environment and HIV&AIDS: democratic governance. ■

UN agencies in the Caribbean



From left to right: 1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2. International Labour Organisation (ILO) 3. International Maritime Organization (IMO) 4. International Office Of Migration (IOM) 5. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) 6. Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) 7. Universal Postal Union (UPU) 8. United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) 9. United Nations Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS) 10. United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) 11. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) 12. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 13. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) 14. United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) 15. United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) 16. United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) 17. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 18. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 19. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) 20. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 21. UN Women

ECLAC Caribbean officer discusses SDGs

ECLAC Caribbean has recently been expanding its reach to the wider community of Trinidad and Tobago, where the subregional office is headquartered. An example of this outreach is the recent appearance of Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator of ECLAC Social Development and Statistics Unit, on television to share information on the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. Abdulkadri was a guest on TV4's live "Morning Prime" programme on Wednesday 30th September 2015, and provided an introduction to the SDGs, which will essentially replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the global development objectives which the international community will pursue together.

He noted that the new SDGs are more comprehensive than

the MDGs and integrate more closely the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. He also underscored that, with 17 goals and 169 indicators, the SDGs have broader focus and reflect the outcome of a consultative process aimed at addressing the limitations of the MDGs.

One limitation, Mr. Abdulkadri noted, was the relative inapplicability of some of the MDGs to some Member States including those of the Caribbean. He cited the examples of MDG 2 which focused on achieving universal primary education and MDG 6 which centred on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

In the case of MDG 2, he pointed out that the Caribbean had already achieved high levels of primary school enrolment that exceeded the stipulated goal for universal primary education. MDG 2 was thus effectively irrelevant to the subregion.

In the case of MDG 6 which addressed vector borne and other communicable diseases, he noted that while these were important, of equal or greater importance were chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and hypertension, which constitute a high health and economic burden in the Caribbean. The monitoring of these diseases was not included for coverage by MDG 6. He also highlighted that the SDGs attempt to be more inclusive and comprehensive. For example, while the MDGs focussed on promoting access to education at the primary level, the SDGs will pursue inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels.

The interview offered fresh perspective on how ECLAC Caribbean and the wider UN System are assisting Member States in transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs, highlighting the benefits that will likely accrue to the subregion through implementation of the SDGs. ■



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

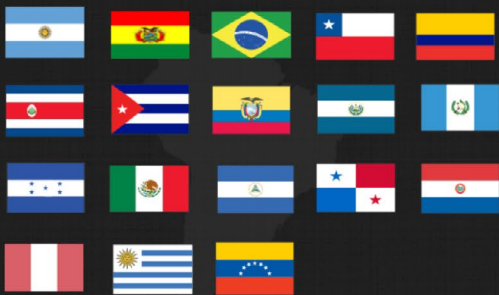


Did you know?

ECLAC includes 45 Member States:

- 18 in Latin America
- 15 in the Caribbean
- 12 from outside the region

ECLAC Member States and associate members



Latin American



Asian, European & North American

Norway was the last member to join in October 2015

Caribbean



Member States



Associate members

Here the French flag represents Martinique and Guadeloupe

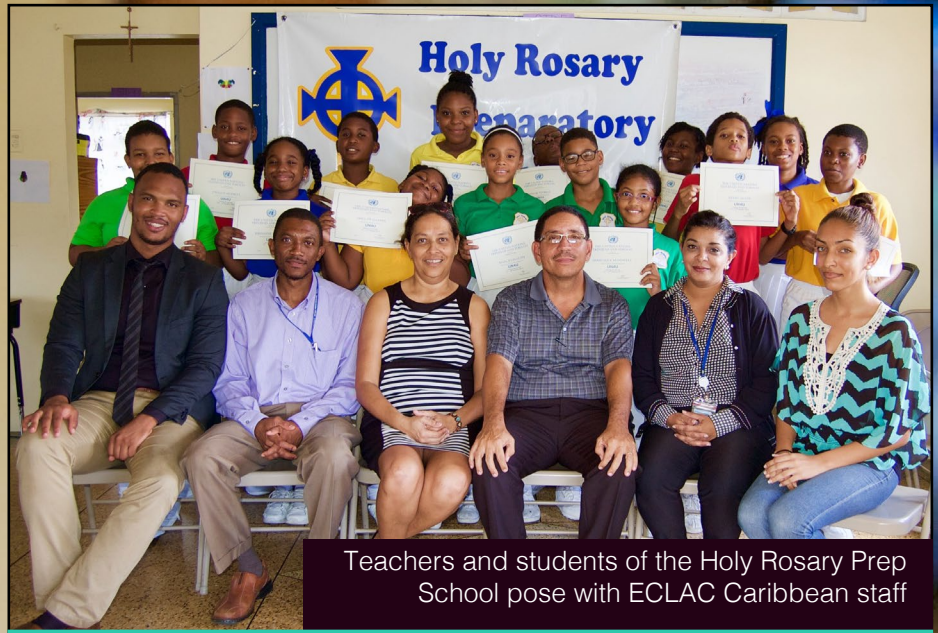
Associate members are non-independent territories in the Caribbean. There are 13 of them.



The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a United Nations regional commission. It was established as ECLA in 1948 to support governments in economic and social development. By 1966 the name was changed to ECLAC with a sub-regional headquarters set up to serve Caribbean nations.



UN UNITED
4U NATIONS
WORKS
FOR YOU



Teachers and students of the Holy Rosary Prep School pose with ECLAC Caribbean staff

UN4U Campaign

October 24 is designated as the United Nations Day and various activities to commemorate the day are celebrated each year all over the world. In Trinidad and Tobago, one of the joint agency activities for the occasion this year is the UN4U campaign.

UN4U is an outreach programme which brings UN officials to speak to students in their schools about the activities in which we are presently engaged or working. When first established by UN Headquarters, the campaign focused on outreach to New York City public schools and was centered around UN Day activities on October 24.

Now approaching its seventh year, UN4U has been broadened and has been adopted in several countries and now spans the entire academic year, from September to June. This year in Trinidad and Tobago, the campaign went out to four schools, North Manzanilla

Government Primary School, Freeport Hindu Primary School, Holy Rosary Preparatory School, and Tablepiece Government Primary School, reaching almost 120 students.

ECLAC Caribbean visited the Holy Rosary Prep School in St. James, Port of Spain, where the Coordinator of the Social Development and Statistics Unit Mr Abdullahi Abdulkadri, engaged the students of Standards four and five in an interactive discussion about the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Some of the children were especially interested in SDG 3 “Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well Bring For All At All Ages”, asking questions about childhood obesity and diabetes.

At the end of the sessions, the students were presented with special tokens and certificates of participation in acknowledgement of the UN’s 70th anniversary and the UN4U campaign. ■

SNEAK PREVIEW



Social Panorama of Latin America

FAST FACTS

What: The Social Panorama is an annual report that is published by ECLAC.

Where: The report is first presented by ECLAC's Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena via video-conference from Santiago, Chile.

When: A printed version of the Social Panorama is issued during the last quarter of each year. The next issue will be published in November 2015.



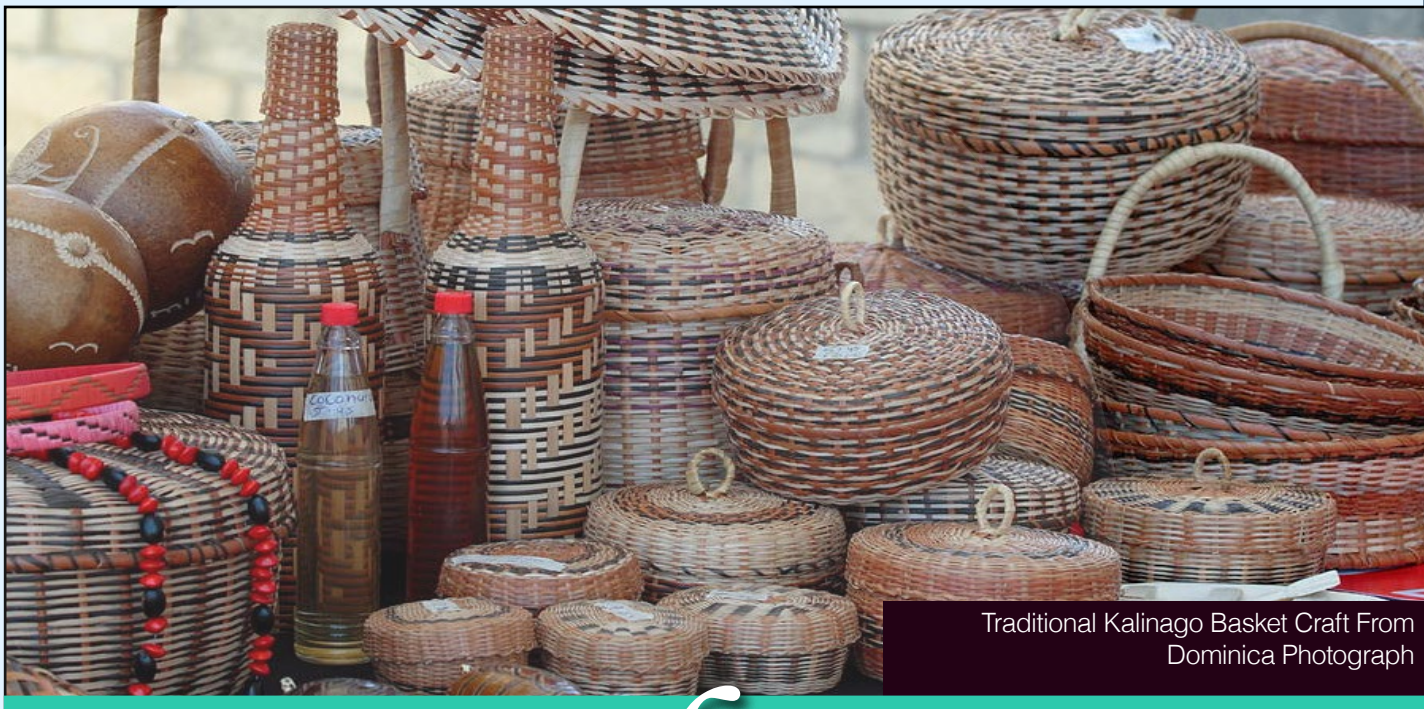
Its publication is a collaboration of two divisions at ECLAC headquarters: the Social Development Division and the Statistics Division.



The report looks at official measurements for the analysis of income poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Areas reported on in previous years have included economic outlook, youth and development, foreign direct investment, population, urban residential segregation, and gender inequality in the labour market.



Traditional Kalinago Basket Craft From Dominica Photograph

STATE *of* AFFAIRS

Guyana



PRESIDENT MAKES STATEMENT AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sept 30th - In a statement to the UN General Assembly's annual high-level debate, President David Granger focused on his country's long-simmering territorial dispute with neighbouring Venezuela. The President called on the world body to stand by its commitment to protect small states from foreign aggression by establishing a collective security system not merely to monitor but also to maintain their security.



LEGAL SOLUTION SOUGHT WITH VENEZUELA

Sept 29th - Guyanese president, David Granger met with the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, and president of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro to seek solution to the 50-year-old territorial dispute. The meeting, which was held on the sidelines during the UN General Assembly, led to an agreement by President Maduro to allow a UN delegation to visit Caracas to conduct investigations.

Haiti



SECRETARY GENERAL WELCOMES ELECTIONS

Oct 24th - In an official statement, UN Secretary General (UNSG) Ban Ki-Moon urged Haitian political parties, candidates and their supporters to conclude their electoral campaigns peacefully and resolve any possible disputes through the established legal procedures. The UNSG also commended Haiti's institutions, particularly the Provisional Electoral Council and the Haitian National Police, for the steps taken "to facilitate a peaceful, inclusive and transparent vote."



ELECTIONS IN HAITI

Oct 25th - On October 25th Haiti held the first round of its presidential and municipal elections and the second round of legislative elections. Ballots will now have to be transported to a centralized location where they are tabulated, as it is against the law for results to be released by anyone other than the Provisional Electoral Council – in which the members are replaced every election cycle. Haitians will therefore have to wait at least 10 days before official election results are announced.

Trinidad and Tobago



COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL NOMINEE WITHDRAWS

Sept 22nd - Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie, the newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Caroni Central in Trinidad, formally withdrew his candidacy as Trinidad and Tobago's nominee for the post of Commonwealth Secretary General. Tewarie explained that as a member of parliament, he must meet his obligations in Trinidad and Tobago in that capacity.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND GUYANA DISCUSS COOPERATION

Sept 23rd - In a first time meeting between the two newly elected leaders; Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Keith Rowley, and Guyanese President, David Granger re-affirmed the bilateral relationship between their respective countries. Discussions were also held to review the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two countries' previous governments and the latest developments regarding the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy.



British Virgin Islands set for food fete

The second annual British Virgin Islands (BVI) Food Fete, a month-long cultural culinary event, returns to the archipelago this November, offering visitors a one-of-a-kind dining experience as they island-hop around the BVI. The event will feature acclaimed chefs from around the world, a variety of competitions and cook-offs, and plenty of opportunities to indulge in local cuisine.

“Our second BVI Food Fete offers a blend of new and signature events that have been curated for epicureans, tastemakers, and novice culinary explorers,” said British Virgin Islands Director of Tourism, Sharon Flax-Mars.

“Through our numerous festivities we aim to introduce our guests to our culinary tourism product in a platform that blends discovery and adventure as we expose them to the variety of experiences that are offered along our turquoise shores and beaches.”

The festivities kick off on November 7 with Taste of Tortola, which will include a Demonstration Kitchen, a Fish & Fungi Competition, a Mixologist Competition, and a Foodie Photo Booth.

Other events throughout the month include Jost Crawl, a bar crawl across Jost Van Dyke; The Barefoot Gourmet Soirée, a culinary experience featuring signature dishes from local and international chefs alike; Taste of Virgin Gorda, featuring a Chef Cook-Off and food and wine prepared by seven restaurants; On the Rocks Bar Crawl, a party safari bus ride around the bars of Virgin Gorda; a Culinary Education Program; Lobster Crawl, a bar crawl on Anegada; and an Anegada Lobster Festival. ■



Photo courtesy, Michael Stern / CC BY.

A MAJOR NEW HOSPITAL IN JAMAICA



A major new hospital has officially opened its doors in Jamaica. The US \$19.3 million Hospital Montego Bay was officially opened by the Spanish-owned Hospiten group in the Rose Hall area of St. James.

The facility is the only private Jamaican hospital with an Intensive Care Unit outside of Kingston. It includes 22 in-patient beds, seven emergency boxes, two operating rooms, a delivery room and eight outpatient rooms, along with a CT scanner, mammography, x-ray and ultrasound machines.

The aim of the hospital is to attract both locals and medical tourists to the country. "Tourism and Hospiten have walked hand in hand for many years. As Jamaica grows as a quality tourist destination, Hospiten will work towards covering the healthcare needs of this beautiful island," said Dr Pedro Luis Cobiella, president of Hospital Montego Bay.

Hospiten has several other hospitals in the region concentrated in the Dominican Republic. ■

Promising cruise season for Dominica despite damage from Tropical Storm Erika



Despite the many setbacks brought on by Tropical Storm Erika for Dominica, the 2015/2016 cruise season is looking up, according to tourism officials. The Royal Princess was the first ship to make its call to the country early in October, followed two weeks later by the Carnival Liberty ship.

A total of nine ships will make inaugural calls to Dominica this season, with 174 calls expected to bring about 200,000 visitors. Carnival cruise lines returns after a five-year break, with 11 calls. Three of those calls will be inaugural ones for the Carnival Sunshine, Carnival Dream and Carnival Liberty.

CEO of Whitchurch Tours, Gerry Aird, has urged Dominica to make the best of Carnival's return. "There has been a tremendous clamour from all sectors for Carnival to come back. Well, they are back – 11 times. They are the biggest so when they call at a particular port, others who may have had some doubt will say 'if Carnival is going there, it must be worthwhile, we will go there as well'. So all the bad habits, we need to put them behind us," he stated.

Minister of Tourism Senator Robert Tonge said that following the passage of Tropical Storm Erika, the ministry has had several consultations

with stakeholders to confirm their readiness to accommodate tourists for the winter season which began a few weeks ago.

"Seventy-seven out of the 88 contacted accommodations are operational and 10 are working towards reopening so we're about 80 per cent. We're hoping that by the time the season is in full swing, we will be up to about 90 per cent," he said.

Tonge added that 30 of the 35 tour and water sport operators are operational and the others are working on resuming operations soon.

"With regard to sites and attractions, road access has been restored to all major sites with the exception of Victoria Falls and Glassy Pool in the southeast. Most of the popular sites in Dominica remain unaffected including Emerald Pool, Chaudiere Pool, Mero Beach, Cabrits National Park, Indian River, Kalinago Barana Aute, Botanic Gardens, Morne Bruce, Dominica Museum, Old Market, Bois Cotlette Estate, Boeri Lake, Middleham Falls, Spanny Falls, Jacko Falls, Sari Sari Falls and Syndicate Falls," the minister report.

Access to the Boiling Lake and Waitukubuli National Trail still remains a challenge. ■





THINGS
TO KNOW
ABOUT...
Driving
defensively

Safety never takes a break. Simple safety measures can prevent injuries or harm in all areas of our lives. The World Health Organization's (WHO) Global status report on road safety 2013 presents information on road safety from 182 countries, accounting for almost 99% of the world's population. The report indicates that worldwide the total number of road traffic deaths remains unacceptably high at 1.24 million per year.

With this in mind, the United Nations Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS) convened a Defensive Driving course for UN staff members in T&T, to facilitate their continued practice of safety measures, especially when behind the wheel

Here are 5 important points to note about Defensive Driving:



1.

Defensive driving is driving to save lives, time and money in spite of the conditions around you and the actions of others.

2.

Developing these skills means making safe and legal driving decisions, practicing common sense, courtesy and cooperation.

3.

In addition to physical conditions, we need to be aware of the emotional or mental conditions that can affect our driving ability.

4.

The condition of your vehicle is something you can control, You decide when, where and how to drive it. Keeping your vehicle in top form will help you maintain control in all types of driving conditions.

5.

Air bags save lives and reduce injuries but they can pose risks. An air bag comes out of the steering wheel or dashboard faster than the blink of an eye and at great force. It is a good idea to move your seat back so that your chest is at least 10 inches away from the steering wheel.

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