



COP 21

ECLAC SIDE EVENT AT
COP21 TO ADVOCATE
CARIBBEAN DEBT RELIEF

Climate Change

A CARIBBEAN
PERSPECTIVE

Orange Day

UNITE TO END
VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN



CONTENTS



- 4** **Ageing**
Introduction to article on Ageing
- 7** **Ageing in the Caribbean**
Main Article on Ageing in the Caribbean
- 9** **Fast Facts**
ECLAC hosts Expert Group Meeting: Microdata
- 10** **Photo-Shop**
ECLAC Participates in Orange Day Campaign
- 12** **Feature Article**
ECLAC the Environment
- 20** **State of Affairs**
Recent activity by Caribbean governments
- 23** **Around the Caribbean**
Zika virus reaches the Caribbean Community
Improving Water Access in St Lucia
- 26** **ECLAC Caribbean Family**
ECLAC Caribbean Staff Christmas Lunch

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ECLAC CARIBBEAN



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About

Events

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18

International Symposium on Education Policies
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.
18 January 2016

25

Canada in the Post-2015 World
Ontario, Canada.
25 January 2016

26-28

Fifty-third Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the
Regional Conference on Women in Latin America
and the Caribbean
26-28 January 2016

27

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of
the Victims of the Holocaust



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Dec 14

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Magazine of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)

**WATER RESOURCE
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CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Nov 30

Persons aged 60+ in the Caribbean subregion will increase
from 1.1 million to 2 million. More on ageing in the Caribbean
here: <http://vrb.al/ageing-advisory>



United Nations
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COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARIAT

ECLAC in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat
will host a side event at the COP21

Exploring Solutions to the Caribbean Debt Challenge:
Debt reduction through financing for climate adaptation swaps

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**SIDE
EVENT**

Tuesday 8th
December, 2015
1:30pm - 3:00pm

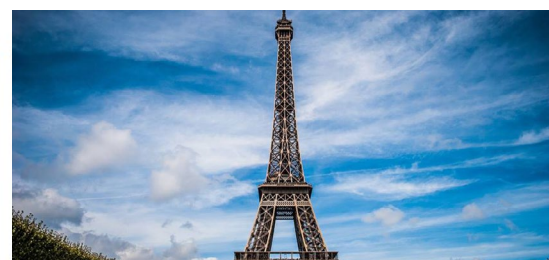
Location:
Wider Caribbean Pavillion



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Nov 27

Find out more about COP21 and the impacts of climate change
in the Caribbean: <http://vrb.al/carib-sdg>



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AGEING IN THE CARIBBEAN

Population ageing has long been recognised as a demographic trend which will shape Caribbean societies in the 21st century. Until now, the Caribbean population has aged relatively slowly and for many countries ageing has been seen as something on the horizon but not an immediate concern. This is no longer the case given the imminence of the challenges associated with population ageing that the entire sub-region will face in the coming years. These challenges were part of the issues addressed at the 3rd Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder Abuse and the Rights of Older Persons, that was recently co-organized by ECLAC Caribbean. This article takes a brief look at the issues discussed during this major event.

Photo 'Blessing the Parade'
courtesy Doug / CC BY.



Ageing



in the Caribbean

The Caribbean will experience the most rapid period of population ageing between now and 2035. Although the population will continue to age beyond this period, the pace of demographic change will gradually slow. Essentially, the Caribbean population will look very different in the next two decades from what it is today.

This demographic transition has implications for many facets of life and the 3rd Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder Abuse and the Rights of Older Persons was convened in Dominica on 30 November – 1 December, organized by ECLAC Caribbean in collaboration with the Dominica Council on Ageing; the Ministry of Social Services, Family and Gender Affairs of Dominica, and the Association for the Promotion and Integration of Older Persons of Martinique (AMDOR). Attention was drawn to a range of issues that will attend the ageing of Caribbean peoples: health and disability, economic and social welfare, isolation and loneliness.

ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, led the ECLAC team at the meeting, along with Population Affairs Officer Francis Jones, who spoke on issues affecting the elderly population in the Caribbean. The event was attended by government officials and persons responsible for crafting policy for the elderly, as well as non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives, all of whom are set to benefit from the recommendations for action that emerged during the discussions. The basis for these discussions was ECLAC Caribbean's latest report, entitled 'Ageing in the Caribbean and the human rights of older persons'. The report puts the spotlight on the issue of ageing and its implications for Caribbean populations, including the human rights of older persons, and considers the implications for public policy in this regard.



Ageing Caribbean

Over the next 20 years, the Caribbean will see a rapid and dramatic ageing of its population. During this period, the number of older persons will double: persons aged 60 and over will increase from 1.1 million (13 per cent of the population) in 2015 to two million (22 per cent) in 2035. Those aged 70 and over will increase from half a million (6 per cent) to one million (11 per cent).

The ageing of the population will change the demographic structure of many Caribbean countries, resulting in a progressive increase in the old age dependency ratio (the number of persons aged 65 and over per hundred people aged 15 to 64 years). This implies a greater burden on the future working populations to support the aged. Since older persons are at a higher risk of chronic non-communicable disease, the demand for healthcare is also expected to rise with an ageing population. Meanwhile, at present, Caribbean pension systems, health and social care services, are currently unable to

meet the needs of the present generation of older persons. With a rapid increase in the number of older persons on the horizon, there is an urgent need for governments to strengthen social protection against a wide range of risks associated with ageing, including loss of income, ill health, disability, loss of independence and isolation.

A critical aspect of the society's response to population ageing must be the promotion of healthy living from an early age.

As societies plan to care for an ageing population, there will also be opportunities to redefine the role of older people in society. Communities must embrace the contribution that older people can make to economic, social and family life by expanding the opportunities available for older persons to participate in all sectors of the society,

without discrimination. Adequate safeguards should also be provided to prevent the financial abuse of older persons and to address it when it occurs.

A critical aspect of the society's response to population ageing must be the promotion of healthy living from an early age. In addition to ensuring a better quality of life for the elderly, healthy ageing has the potential to significantly reduce future health expenditure while improving the productivity of the workforce. ECLAC Caribbean is currently advocating the creation of an inter-agency group including regional organizations, academia and the United Nations system to advance a subregional strategy on health ageing. This inter-agency group would together implement a series of initiatives to raise awareness on population ageing among policy makers and to provide support for programmes to address the economic, health and social welfare challenges that will attend the ageing of the Caribbean population. ■



FAST FACTS

Expert Group Meeting: Microdata

What:

ECLAC Caribbean convened an expert group meeting (EGM) that discussed options for expanding access to census microdata, with a view to making it more readily available to researchers. In particular, the EGM considered techniques for anonymizing microdata and options for the dissemination of anonymized data sets, including the technical, legal and administrative arrangements which are necessary to protect the confidentiality of individual census records.

Who:

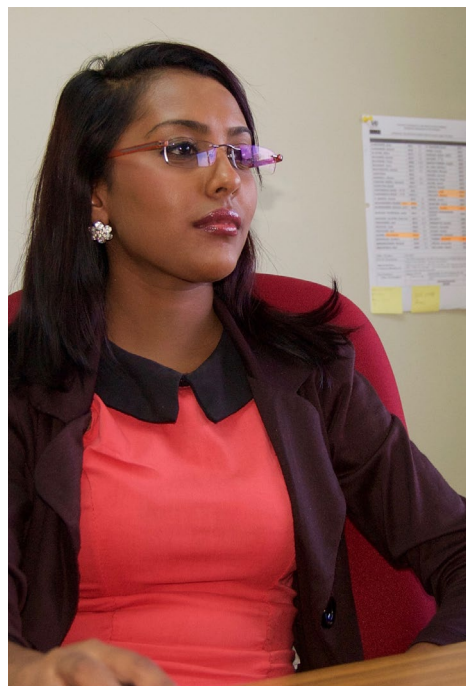
Participants included representatives of national statistical offices (NSOs), representatives of data archives and some United Nations agencies.

When:

Monday, 23rd November 2015.

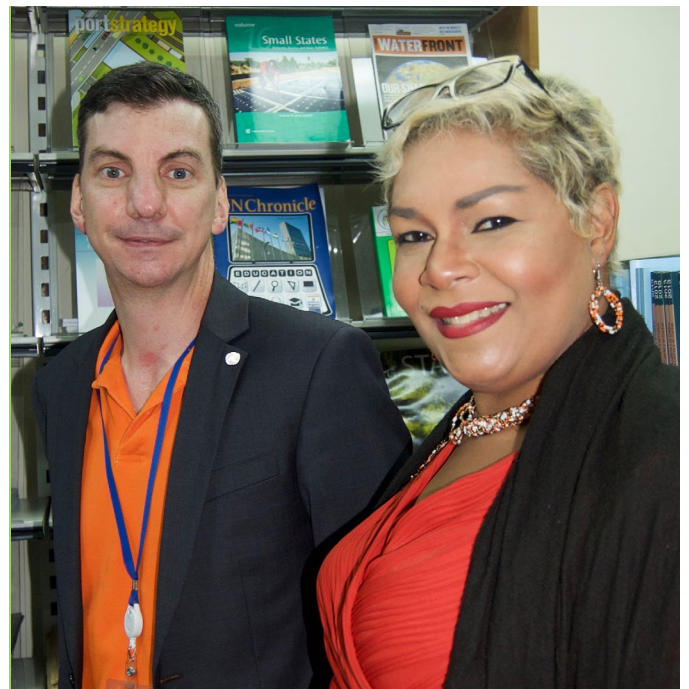
Where:

The meeting was primarily hosted at ECLAC Caribbean headquarters, in Port of Spain, and was attended by several participants via Webex conference services.



**Orange
Campaign**

The UNiTE to End Violence
campaign procl
a



Orange Day Campaign

End Violence against Women Campaigns every 25th of the month is Orange Day!

ECLAC *and the* ENVIRONMENT





FEATURE ARTICLE

*T*he climate change phenomenon is perhaps the most defining issue of our time. Scientists have alerted the international community to the closing window of time, less than 10 years within which to halt the global rise in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if we are to avoid catastrophic consequences that may seriously impact sustainable human development, livelihoods, ecosystems, infrastructure, health and the productive sectors.

The Paris Climate Conference – officially known as the 21st Conference of the Parties (or “COP”) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – was seen by many around the world as the last chance “to get it right”. In the aftermath of this pivotal event, which took place from November 30 to December 11 2015, the present article explores what climate change means for our sub-region, and the efforts ECLAC Caribbean has pursued in an effort to go-green and to reduce GHGs.

Climate Change: a Caribbean Perspective

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean sub-region are threatened by the potential impacts of climate change due to their biophysical and socio-economic characteristics, which make them especially vulnerable to these impacts. The vulnerability of these countries is intrinsically linked to their island and coastal characteristics, their geographic location in the hurricane belt, and the high population density and economic infrastructure in coastal zones.

In the case of the Caribbean, these threats are exacerbated by the unique and particular challenges facing the sub-region. The sub-region's dependence on a narrow range of economic activities that are intimately linked to the environment, notably agriculture and tourism, makes it highly susceptible to external shocks (ECLAC, 2010a). Adapting for Climate change is therefore of direct relevance to economic development planning in these countries.

From an economic perspective, sustainable growth in the Caribbean is hampered by persistently

large external current account deficits. Public debt climbed rapidly from an average of 65 per cent of GDP in 1998 to a peak of nearly 99 per cent of GDP in 2002, before falling to a still elevated 70.6 per cent of GDP in 2009, creating havoc in the sub-region's small economies.

In 2002, when regional public debt was at its highest, seven Caribbean countries were ranked among the top 10 most indebted emerging market economies in the world. Caribbean economies were dealt a hard blow by the recent global economic crisis, particularly the spill-over from the market disruptions in the United States of America, the subregion's most important trading and investment partner. By far the most direct impacts were declines in tourism receipts, and trade in goods to a lesser degree. Many Caribbean countries are heavily dependent on foreign direct investment (FDI), particularly from the United States of America. Furthermore, financial flows received through remittances from the large number of Caribbean migrants living abroad, declined drastically.

These characteristics and current development trends suggest that the sub-region will be confronting the impact of climate change at a serious disadvantage; thereby emphasizing the urgent need to adopt an integrated approach to addressing these challenges.





Moving towards an environmentally friendly ECLAC Caribbean office

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon resolved that the United Nations should lead the fight against climate change, including through the development of a climate-neutral approach for its premises and operations.

A 2013 ECLAC study captured the carbon footprint data of the ECLAC office in Port of Spain. The methodology for the study was similar to that employed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its annual carbon footprint analysis of the United Nations system. The study also took into consideration emission factors from the Greenhouse Gas Protocol accounting tool.

The results revealed that in 2009 the operational activities of the Port of Spain office produced a total of 1,325 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) emissions, which equates to roughly 29 tonnes of CO₂eq per staff member. The carbon footprint was disaggregated by activity components such as purchased electricity, water, travel and goods and services. These components identified the activities responsible for the highest emissions and hence, had the greatest scope for implementing GHG emission reduction measures within the office.

Since 2009, ECLAC Caribbean has implemented a number of measures that have resulted in reduced electricity consumption, paper usage and recyclable waste going to landfill.

These include the following:

- (a) Turning off air condition units each night, as well as during weekends and United Nations holidays.
- (b) Switching off lights (except those for emergency exits, staircases and corridors) each night, as well as during weekends and United Nations holidays.
- (c) Installation of printers with the capability to print double-sided.
- (d) Default print settings on computers set at double-sided.
- (e) Correspondence with Government focal points is now emailed or faxed.
- (f) Availability of ECLAC reports online and their circulation via e-mail has been increased.
- (g) Windows covered with anti-shatter film.
- (h) Recycling services for plastic, glass, paper and cardboard established.

In addition to making ECLAC Caribbean a more 'environmentally friendly office', these measures also helped to cut back on costs, showing that implementing a reduced resource consumption strategy can also result in lower financial costs.

In moving forward, ECLAC Caribbean will remain committed to further intensifying its efforts to "go-green" and to being an "environmentally friendly" workplace. In this regard, areas that will likely be considered include the implementation of GHG reduction measures in the areas of electricity use, air travel and the consumption of goods and services to position ECLAC Caribbean on a path to a climate neutral strategy. ■



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21-CMP11

Historic agreement at COP21

At the opening of the United Nations climate change conference, or COP21, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon shared with more than 150 world leaders, this statement: “apolitical moment like this may not come again”, while urging that the time for action is now. The Paris Climate Conference was held from November 30 to December 11 2015, officially known as the 21st Conference of the Parties (or “COP21”) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations body which is responsible for climate and based in Bonn, Germany. The Conference also served as the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

On 12 December, world leaders reached an historic agreement in the fight against climate change. Signed by 195 countries, the Paris Agreement aims to ensure that global temperature rise levels will be kept well below

We have entered a *new era* of global cooperation on one of the most complex issues ever to confront humanity

2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial, with a view to ideally peak at 1.5 degrees. In addition to these mitigation commitments, the Agreement also aims to enhance the ability of countries to adapt to the existing impacts of climate change.

“We have entered a new era of global cooperation on one of the most complex issues ever to confront humanity – the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon underscored – For the first time,

every country in the world has pledged to curb emissions, strengthen resilience and join in common cause to take common climate action. This is a resounding success for multilateralism.”

Especially important for the Caribbean is the recognition in the Agreement of the special circumstances of Small Island Developing States, which face unique challenges in respect of both mitigation and adaptation efforts, and which are therefore deserving of special support.

As regards support for the achievement of these ambitious targets, efforts already put in place by developing countries to ensure a climate-proof future will be complemented by financial assistance from developed countries. In particular, governments concurred on working towards a roadmap that will ensure the provision of USD 100 billion in climate financing by 2020.

Paris also showcased climate actions already underway. Under the “Lima to Paris Action Agenda” (LPAA) and UN-hosted NAZCA portal, many businesses, cities, states and regions, as well as civil society groups were able to highlight the efforts they were taking to respond to climate change. To date, climate actions and pledges cover over 7,000 cities, including the most vulnerable to climate change, from over 100 countries with a combined population of one and a quarter billion people and around 32% of global GDP, and from over 5,000 companies from some 90 countries that together represent the majority of global market capitalisation and over US\$38 trillion in revenue. ■



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon makes remarks at the closing ceremony of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris on 12 December.



SIDE EVENT
AT COP21

CAUCHY BELGRAND REGNAULT FRESNEL DE PRONY VICAT EBELMEN COU



ECLAC side event at COP21 to advocate Caribbean debt relief

During the COP21 in Paris, ECLAC hosted a side event in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat. The event, held on 8 December, considered the possibilities for integrating the twin imperatives of pursuing climate resilience and debt reduction with a proposal for debt for climate adaptation swaps.

The Hummingbird sat down with ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, who chaired the event, to get her perspective.

Q What were the immediate outcomes of the ECLAC side event?

A Our principal objective at this stage is to get the word out on the existence of the proposal; on ECLAC's rationale for initiating it; its vital importance to the economic future of our subregion, and to secure the buy-in of the member states of the Caribbean, as well as the receptivity of the partners who will be central to ensuring the success of the proposal in its implementation. In this respect, I think the side event was a resounding success. There was participation from a wide cross section of representatives at the COP, including Caribbean states and Associate Members, and the presence of regional and international organizations including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, CARICOM, and the Caribbean Climate Change Centre, all supportive of the proposal, and equally importantly, of a proposal whose time had come. Representatives of Caribbean states with more climate change than economic orientation also had an opportunity to better understand what was being proposed, and how it would work in the first instance. The idea remains a work in progress; we are developing the model even now. We are proceeding wisely and slow, to ensure that we get it right ultimately, and that we secure the full support of the international donor community alongside the countries of the Caribbean in this most worthy and urgent endeavour.

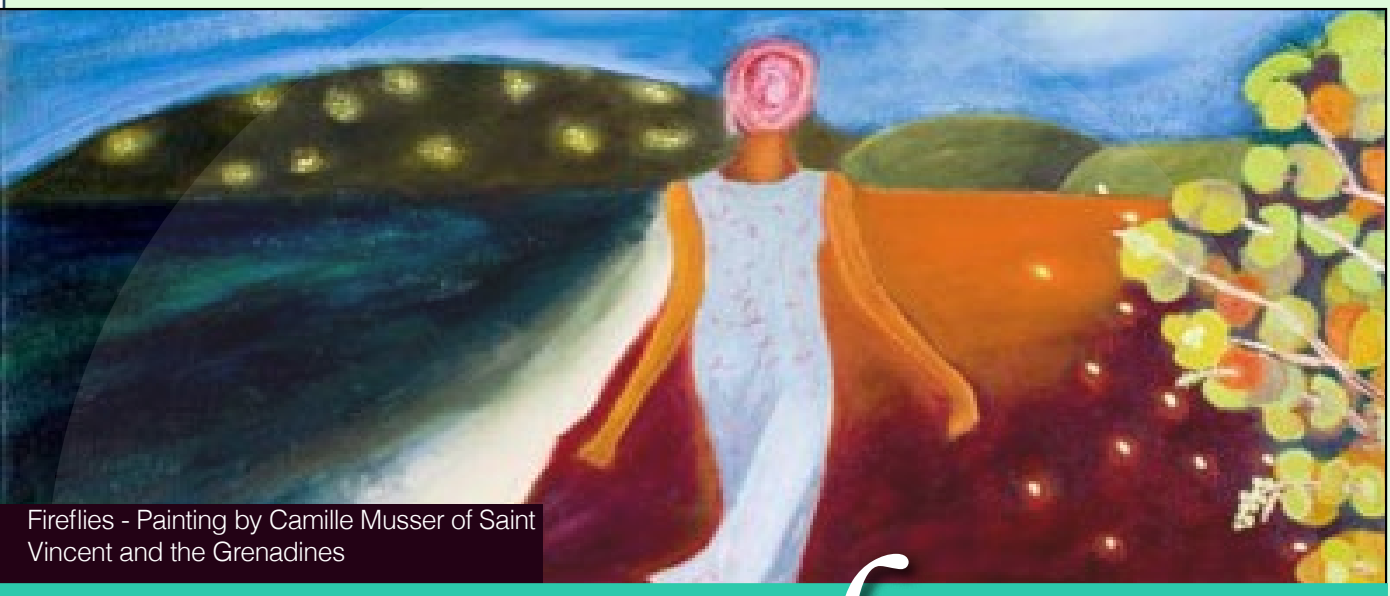
Q How important would you say the COP21 meeting was for SIDS?

A The global conference provided an excellent opportunity for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to press for fundamental breakthroughs in the agreed global response to climate change. For Caribbean SIDS in particular,

COP21 represented the culmination of an important process of advocacy over the past year that began with the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway on SIDS, which called on the global community to increase its support through partnerships with SIDS to build their resilience to the economic and environmental shocks they face, including the impact of climate change. The Paris meeting provided a critical opportunity to turn the spotlight on the integrated development issues that define the economic, social and environmental vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS.

Q How crucial is the debt issue in the Caribbean at this point in time?

A The Caribbean subregion is currently shouldering a serious debt burden. A recent ECLAC assessment has indicated that for some states considerable efforts at adjustment have been insufficient to reduce the stubborn debt burden. There is no respite for these countries which, despite their vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events, are categorized as middle income, and considered capable of fending for themselves. However from our perspective the debt to GDP ratios in the subregion which are significantly over the 70% level deemed sustainable by international financial institutions tell an entirely different story. If the countries of the Caribbean continue shoulder this debt burden, their capacity to achieve sustained growth and development unquestionably will be compromised. This proposal being advanced by ECLAC at once focuses on efforts to alleviate the burden and open fiscal space for growth initiatives and addresses attention to the development of green industries - which will contribute significantly to the transformation of Caribbean economies, while responding directly to the need for Caribbean SIDS to build their resilience and strengthen measures for adaptation to climate change. ■



Fireflies - Painting by Camille Musser of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

STATE of AFFAIRS

Saint Kitts and Nevis



ST KITTS AND VENEZUELA DISCUSS PETRO-CARIBE

Dec 21st - Minister of Public Infrastructure, Posts, Urban Development and Transport, Ian Liburd, was in discussions with Venezuela on servicing his country's outstanding debt under the Petro-Caribe arrangement. Saint Kitts and Nevis' debt to Venezuela through the Petro Caribe arrangement stands at \$US83 million of which US\$45 million is due. There have been concerns that the current arrangement between the two states could be in jeopardy following elections earlier this month, as the Democratic Unity opposition in Venezuela took control of the country's National Assembly with a two-thirds majority.



GOVERNMENT WORKING TO INCREASE VISA-FREE ACCESS

Dec 22nd - Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mark Brantley, announced during the budget debate that his ministry has embarked upon a programme aimed at increasing the value of the country's passport. Brantley made mention of Brazil, which earlier this year granted Saint Kitts and Nevis visa free travel. He also confirmed that the ministry is currently in advanced discussion with the countries: Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Russia and some

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD

Dec 11th - On 9 December, elections were held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. There were 43 candidates from four political parties vying for 15 seats in the Parliament. The incumbent Unity Labour Party (ULP) and the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) nominated candidates for all 15 constituencies. The ULP, led by Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves, retained its slim majority of eight seats to the opposition's seven. The Prime Minister made history as he started a fourth term in office.



OAS MISSION CONGRATULATES SAINT VINCENT - GRENADINES

Dec 11th - The electoral observation mission of the Organization of American States (EOM/OAS) to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has highlighted the civic spirit of the population shown in peaceful and successful elections. The EOM/OAS recommended efforts to promote women's participation, the implementation of a continuous update of the voter's list, and the implementation of campaign finance regulations.

CARICOM



CARIBBEAN LEADERS MEET WITH US PRESIDENT

Dec 3rd - US President Barack Obama met with Caribbean leaders in Paris to discuss climate change negotiations during COP21. The leaders of Saint Lucia, Barbados, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands, among others, attended the meeting which was intended to elevate the role of these countries in the Paris negotiations. CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister Freundel Stuart of Barbados, and Lead Head of Government on Climate Change, Saint Lucia Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony, also represented the region in a meeting between United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and the leaders of Small Island Developing States.



CARICOM AND ITALY COLABORATE TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Dec 10th - Ministers of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Francesco La Camera, Director General of Italy's Ministry of Environment, signed a €6 million project to assist CARICOM Member States. The project aims to help Member States to adapt to climate change, by reducing their vulnerability to sea level rise and climate variability; identifying and implementing the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs); reporting and assessing Member States' INDCs and the development and dissemination of renewable energy sources and technology.

HOW NEVIS IS PLANNING TO BECOME THE GREENEST ISLAND ON EARTH

Nevis' long-dormant geothermal energy plans have new life. A consortium called Nevis Renewable Energy International recently signed a power purchase agreement with the Nevis Electricity Company to develop geothermal energy on the island.

The deal provides for 25 years of a domestic base-load renewable energy supply, according to the Nevis Island Administration (NIA). Given the capacity for energy production that is estimated to exist in Nevis, it is likely that the island could one day actually export energy to nearby islands including Saint Kitts and Antigua.

Indeed, the NIA has suggested that the island could eventually export between 40 and 50 megawatts of energy to

neighbouring islands. "The Nevis Geothermal Project will create increased economic growth, reduced power costs, increase employment and create new economic opportunities for local businesses," a representative stated. "This is an important step to enhancing the leadership of Nevis in the transformational impacts of the new, post-fossil fuel world economy."

The project is expected to begin operation as early as late 2017. When completed, it could represent a 180-degree-shift from 100 percent power generation from diesel generators to 100 percent green energy on the island. What this means is that, as of 2018, Nevis is set to become the greenest island on planet earth. The representative added: "Geothermal would bring down the cost of electricity

on the island. It would be able to, within our cost of electricity, attract investors and promote businesses on Nevis. It's a win - win situation for us."

"This project not only has the potential to provide sustainable renewable power to the entire country, but also may lead to the first inter-island electrical interconnection in the Caribbean," the United States State Department said in a statement. The State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources has been providing technical assistance to the Nevis Island Administration and the Nevis Electricity Company on the deal. The US has been pushing green energy in the Caribbean through its recently-launched Caribbean Energy Security Initiative. ■

British Virgin Islands Upgrading Seismic Network, With Help From Puerto Rico

A team of engineers from the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez recently visited the British Virgin Islands to begin a series of upgrades to the territory's seismic network. The project is being carried out in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding first signed in 2005 between Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus and the Government of the British Virgin Islands.

“Collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez goes as far back as the early 1980s, prior to Hurricane Hugo,” said Sharleen DaBreo, Director of the Department of Disaster Management. “The relationship has been expanded over the years to include the University’s Seismic and Strong Motion Programmes. For the past 10 years, we have benefitted considerably from this partnership and the University has invested significantly in the development of a seismic and strong motion network for the BVI.”

The DDM is now in talks with the University’s Professor José Martínez-Cruzado, who is leading the team in the territory, regarding the expansion of the MoU. “We want to ensure that the relationship can further develop and that the technical support that has been provided over the past ten years is maintained,” DaBreo said. “We live and work in a seismically active region of the world and it is important that we are able to collaborate with institutions like UPRM to assist in the improvement of monitoring networks that can guide development and can alert us when events occur.” ■

British Virgin Islands (UK)



Puerto Rico (US)



Zika virus reaches the Caribbean Community

In November 2015, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) confirmed five cases of the Zika virus in a territory of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Earlier this year, suspected cases of the mosquito-borne disease were reported in Brazil and the Dominican Republic.

Zika is a viral disease, transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is also the insect vector for dengue and chikungunya. The symptoms are also very similar to those presented by these diseases, including fever, muscle and joint pain, headaches, nausea, and a rash. There is no vaccine or treatment for Zika and symptoms last approximately four to seven days. Complications are rare and no deaths due to Zika have yet been recorded.

This is the first time that Zika has been detected in a CARICOM territory. CARPHA Executive Director, Dr James Hospedales, emphasized that prevention and control are fundamental in order to control transmission of the virus. He suggested that “the best way to protect yourself from this disease is to avoid mosquito bites and to prevent mosquitoes breeding in and around your home environment.”

In this regard, CARPHA has started a campaign to encourage the Caribbean public to inspect their homes and yards weekly, and to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites indoors and outdoors by keeping water drums and barrels tightly covered, and throwing out stagnant water from flower vases, old tyres, and other containers that might act as breeding sites.

In addition, CARPHA also launched a mobile game called **Zap-a-quito** at a vector-borne diseases workshop in December, to assist in educating the public, particularly children, on the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito and its potential breeding sites. ■



Photo of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito responsible for transmitting the Zika virus.



Photo 'Everything flows,
nothing stays still' by Yevgen
Pogoryelov / CC BY.

Improving Water Access in St Lucia

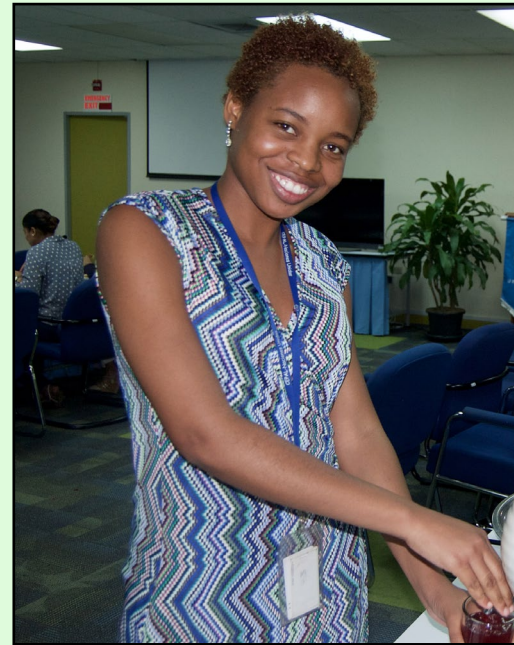
Two new projects supported by the Caribbean Development Bank aim to ease water shortage problems on the island of St Lucia. The John Compton Dam Rehabilitation and the Vieux Fort Water Supply Redevelopment projects will “help end acute water shortages that have threatened the livelihoods of residents and stymied the growth of businesses in the north and south of Saint Lucia,” the Caribbean Development Bank said in a statement.

The projects could help improve access for more than 100,000 people on the island. “We are pleased to support these two projects, which, when completed, will improve water access for the people who need it most and stimulate economic growth

and social development in Saint Lucia,” said Andrew Dupigny, Division Chief, Economic Infrastructure Division, CDB.

The John Compton Dam Rehabilitation Project will improve the reliability of the water supply in northern areas including Castries, Gros Islet and Anse La Raye, supported by US \$14.8 million in funding from the CDB, the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Investment Bank.

The second project, the Vieux Fort Water Supply Redevelopment Project, seeks to upgrade water supply infrastructure and improve practices in the area. It is being supported by a US \$19.675 million loan. ■



*Staff
Christmas
Luncheon*





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