



CARIBBEAN ARTISANS

LINKAGES BETWEEN THE
ART AND CRAFT SECTOR
AND TOURISM

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
THROUGH MIGRATION

TAX HAVENS

THEIR IMPACT ON
CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES



ECLAC

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ECLAC Caribbean Family

Farewell to Leda

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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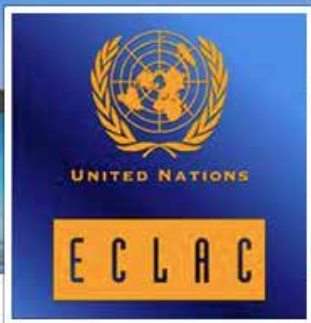
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August Events

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12 Augst 2017

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Eighteenth session
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19 August 2017

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International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave
Trade and its Abolition
23 August 2017

29-30

UN-Women, Executive Board, Second regular session
New York
29 - 30 August 2017



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jul 31

On 26 July 2017 ECLAC held an expert group meeting on strengthening synergies between the tourism and art and craft sectors: <http://vrb.al/arts-crafts>



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jul 20

Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Alicia Bárcena, met with representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) regarding the #2030Agenda. More: <http://bit.ly/2ufY4K6>



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jul 13

Would you like to join the United Nations? You may be able to apply to the UN Young Professionals Programme (YPP). More information here: <http://vrb.al/eclac-ypp>



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THE IMPACT OF TAX HAVENS

ON CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES

Offshore financial centres (OFCs) are deemed to have become a crucial driver of economic stability for some Caribbean islands, based on their contribution to GDP, employment creation, economic growth and diversification, as well as their contribution to the enhancement of the domestic banking sector.

Commonly known in the Caribbean as International

Financial Centres, the presence of OFCs has caused countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis, to be labelled as “tax havens”. What is the potential economic impact on these economies of the impending sanctions and blacklisting proposed, and to what extent do Caribbean islands within the overall OFC landscape, benefit from employment and the creation of ancillary

businesses?

These and other questions are the focus of an upcoming study being undertaken by ECLAC Caribbean, which will review the areas of strength of OFCs, and develop a broad policy framework and strategy for implementation.

It is estimated that Caribbean economies with OFCs have benefited substantially from the

establishment of these centres. Data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) indicate that OFCs in the Caribbean region commonly account for double digit GDP contributions and total assets in excess of 100% of GDP in many instances.

As such, these centres play a crucial role in safeguarding the economic stability of and fostering economic growth in these islands. When the economic contribution made by OFCs is analysed against the

recent trends in international rule making in this area, it should come as little surprise that Caribbean countries are in constant threat of being ostracized by rule-making bodies.

In more recent times, countries that are labelled as "tax havens" have faced the threat of sanctions from developed countries, while others have been grey-listed. Notwithstanding attempts to improve their financial reputations, countries report that they are still being impacted by

the negative publicity associated with the 'tax haven' label, which has resulted in business loss and other reputational risks. ECLAC's study will determine the economic contribution of the OFCs, with an analysis of available data from participating countries, and analyse the effect and extent of compliance of these countries with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) regulations. ■





FEATURE ARTICLE

The art and craft sector and tourism



Chances are that nearly all international tourists to the Caribbean will purchase a locally made souvenir as a memento of their trip. Because of this, there is a huge potential for the subregion's vibrant art and craft sector to significantly contribute to national economies in the Caribbean.

However, many artisans have little interest in properly developing the business aspect of their trade, and this has stifled the development of the art and craft sector.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



LINKAGE BETWEEN

ART & CRAFT

SECTOR AND

TOURISM

MAY ENHANCE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES OF CARIBBEAN ARTISANS

In its ongoing effort to promote sustainable development, ECLAC Caribbean is finalizing a study on 'The Art and Craft Sector and its Potential for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Caribbean', in order to assess the status of production and distribution of art and craft in the Caribbean and to explore untapped opportunities for stronger ties between this sector and the tourism sector.

Representatives from the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Arts, and an artisan from Saint Lucia, recently gathered at ECLAC Caribbean to discuss the preliminary findings of the study.

Following this meeting, the Hummingbird sat down for a one-on-one with Economic Affairs Officer, Willard Phillips, who is overseeing the study, to get his take on the issues.

Q: What was the inspiration for this study?

ECLAC's perspective is that this creative economy - art and craft – has the ability to contribute to the diversification of the tourism experience, especially in the small tourism dependent economies of the Caribbean.

Q: What has this research uncovered with regard to the creative economy in the Caribbean?

We have discovered that the art and craft sector is not well represented in international networks. At the country level, there have been a few initiatives aimed at mapping artisans and collecting data to measure performance, but there is room for further development. For example, the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts in Trinidad and Tobago launched an artists registry in 2011. Following a study in Dominica, recommendations were made for improvement in the quality and variety of crafts produced, for fostering of stronger relationships in targeted markets, and for development of projects. Meanwhile, the government of Grenada has also been reporting on developments in the local arts and craft subsectors, with specific focus on crafts such as decorative home furnishings.

Q: What was the focus of discussion at the meeting?

Concerns were raised about the lack of linkages between the tourism and art and craft sectors, the unavailability of infrastructure in Member States to support artisans, and the low level of financing for artisans from public and private sector financial institutions.



Q: What other challenges do artisans in the Caribbean face?

The largely absent role of wholesale distributors, as well as the limited sale of product to other tourism value chain players, such as hotels and restaurants, outlines the need for strengthened linkages between artisans and tourists.

Q: How can these challenges be addressed?

Participants suggested the creation of avenues which allow artisans to have direct interaction with tourists, easier financing packages for the more business oriented artisans, as well as the development of the infrastructure for artisans who are less business oriented and more focussed on creativity.

Q: What would you say is the way forward now?

It is expected that the findings of the study can provide insights regarding the potential for future investment and policy planning for the development of the sector. The presence of tourists provides a significant market boost to the art and craft business in the Caribbean. However, this may only be possible with the diversification of the scope of art and craft

produced, along with a deepening of the role of both art and craft, and artisans as a part of the overall Caribbean tourism experience. This approach will create avenues for greater engagement of tourism sector stakeholders with artisans in the presentation of the destination brand.

Q: How does ECLAC propose to support the sector for the future?

Our research will assess the prospects for the art and craft sector to contribute to the enhanced sustainability of the tourism sector in the Caribbean. It is apparent that there are currently only limited prospects, given that only a small share of art and craft output is sold directly to visitors to the region. There is, however, immense potential for this sector to bolster the Caribbean tourism experience and to enhance the prevailing level of synergy between the two sectors. Towards this end, ECLAC will support improved national and regional policies which enable the regional art and craft sector to be promoted as an integral part of the tourism experience, especially given that the sector can also contribute significantly to improving livelihoods, and fostering the development of creative talent in the region. ■

US releases multi-year strategy for engagement with the Caribbean



Two members of the United States' House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Eliot Engel and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, recently announced the release of a new US government strategy on future engagement with the Caribbean.

The strategy was mandated by the US-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act (Public Law 114-291), authored by Engel and Ros-Lehtinen and signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 16, 2016.

"We spend a great deal of time focusing on challenges and opportunities in faraway places. But, it's important that we never lose sight of our partners closer to home. In December, when Congress unanimously passed and President Obama signed into law the US-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act, my colleagues and I made it clear that we will prioritize US-Caribbean relations for many years to come," Engel said.

"The release of this strategy is an important

first step. I look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that it is fully implemented with the support and input of the vibrant Caribbean-American diaspora community."

"The US-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act, which reaffirms our commitment to our allies in the Caribbean, became law last December thanks to the leadership of Eliot Engel. The Department of State has now complied with the law by developing a strategy, which is a positive step forward, but it is our duty to enforce those recommendations to ensure we strengthen cooperation with our hemisphere in the areas of trade, security, economic development, and energy," Ros-Lehtinen said.

Highlights of the strategy include:

1 Creation of a US–Caribbean Dialogue, which will be an annual State Department consultative meeting with Caribbean leaders.

2 Announcement of a trade and investment conference with the Caribbean focused on increasing bilateral trade and improving the region’s investment climate and regulatory environment

3 Commitment to expand Internet access in the Caribbean by increasing engagement with policy and regulatory authorities, as well as US information-technology leaders, to promote broadband development and deployment

4 Conclusion of more open skies agreements with Caribbean nations by the end of 2020 to facilitate travel and commerce

5 Announcement of a trade and investment conference with the Caribbean focused on increasing bilateral trade and improving the region’s investment climate and regulatory environment

6 Provision of targeted technical support to countries with the capacity and interest in pursuing energy sector and utility reforms to spur private investment and US energy technology exports

7 Support for public-private partnerships that facilitate higher education and workforce development strategies in the US and the Caribbean

8 Leveraging of US and international public finance resources to help energy project developers mitigate technical and political risks which would reduce the region’s reliance on imported fuels

9 Creation of a common operational framework to tackle shared threats, including combating maritime drug trafficking and promoting law enforcement information sharing

10 Commitment to work with Caribbean countries to combat non-communicable diseases and to develop their emergency response capacity and infrastructure resilience to natural and man-made disasters



WOMEN'S empowerment through migration

Understanding migration in empowering women can inform policy makers in the Caribbean on best strategies to develop and implement gender-sensitive and rights-based migration policies. Greater responsiveness to the needs and challenges faced by women helps to ensure that no one is left behind in the effort to achieve inclusive, fairer, and sustainable societies.

Let's consider the issue of migration. What do you think is the main reason that people choose to migrate? Employment opportunities are likely the first reason that comes to mind, followed by family reunification and maybe educational prospects. No big surprises there.

Now take into consideration that, based on the latest data available, as of 2013, nearly half of the total number of international migrants originating from the Caribbean were women. Why are so many women opting to leave the subregion and what is the impact of this trend on them, on the communities they leave behind and the societies they move to join?

Photo of woman in market
by x1klima CC BY

These and other areas are critically examined in the joint ECLAC-IOM study on ‘Women’s Empowerment and Migration in the Caribbean’. The Hummingbird is pleased to offer its readers a sneak preview of this study, which will be available later this year.

Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals emphasizes the importance of recognizing the interconnections between gender inequality and the economic, political and social aspects of sustainable development.

Women worldwide are on the move as much as men. In 2015, almost half (48%) of 244 million international migrants were women. The implications of female migration, whether independent of or with their families, are diverse and complex where the individuals, households and communities are concerned.

Some of the factors contributing to the high levels of female migration

include changes in the demographic structure of developed countries that have increased demands for cheaper services of caregivers and health workers, increasing inequalities in wealth, and poor job opportunities in their home countries.

This report underscores that the United States (US) is the main destination for Caribbean nationals globally, hosting more than 60% of the six million Caribbean migrants worldwide. In relation to migrant women, among some four million Caribbean migrants residing in the US, 55% were female as of 2013. More than 90% of all the Caribbean immigrants in the US came from five countries, namely Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Caribbean also has one of the highest emigration rates of skilled and tertiary-educated individuals in the world. According to World Bank data for 2010/2011, the emigration rates of the

tertiary educated population in the subregion stood at 93% for Guyana, 75% for Haiti, 68% for Trinidad and Tobago, 66% for Barbados, and 48% for Jamaica.

Gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches are therefore crucial when addressing migration movements, policies and agreements in the broader context of advancing gender equality and women’s autonomy in the Caribbean.

Migration has always played a major role in shaping the history of the Caribbean, and while it provides significant opportunities for financial and economic empowerment for female emigrants, there are still many challenges that they have to face at every stage of the migration process.

Against this backdrop, the forthcoming ECLAC-IOM joint report will seek to offer a comprehensive analysis of migration in the subregion through a gender perspective. ■

Caribbean Export brings **RAIN** to the Dominican Republic and Haiti

New employment opportunities may be on the horizon for the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) has started their expansion of the Angel investment footprint within the Dominican Republic and Haiti following the hosting of the first Bi-National Angel Investment workshop.

The Angel Investment model facilitates partnerships between affluent individuals who provide capital for business start-ups, usually in exchange for convertible debt or ownership equity. A small but increasing

number of angel investors invest online through equity crowd funding or organize themselves into angel groups or angel networks to share research and pool their investment capital, as well as to provide advice to their portfolio companies.

Opened by the head of the delegation to the European Union in the Dominican Republic (DR), Ambassador Alberto José Navarro and the Deputy Minister for the Development of SMEs in the DR Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ignacio Mendez, this workshop was held in collaboration with several partners, including the Centre for Innovation for Business Development and Entrepreneurship (CIDE) at the Iberoamerican University

(UNIBE), the DR Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Commerce in Haiti, the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and two Angel investor groups in the DR, namely ENLACES and NEXXUS. Key participants from Haiti also included Root Capital, an agricultural impact investor, and Yunis Social Business, a social impact investor.

“Promoting innovative ways of funding Single Market Economies (SMEs), including supporting the development of the angel investment climate within the DR and Haiti is a key activity for the Agency. The DR has some fairly advanced angel groups and their inclusion in the Regional Angel Investor Network (RAIN)



“RAIN - REGIONAL ANGEL INVESTMENT NETWORK”

supported by Caribbean Export and the World Bank will certainly strengthen the region as a whole. Furthermore, this initiative provides an opportunity for both DR and Haitian firms to benefit from exposure to the entire regional angel network via the joint action of the Agency's regional and bi-national programmes" stated Mr. Escipion Oliveira, Deputy Executive Director of Caribbean Export. More than 70 Angel investors, entrepreneurs and business development associations attended the workshop, which focused on increasing awareness of alternative sources of capital for early stage business development, in particular, Angel investing.

Participants from Haiti and the Dominican Republic received expert insights from Nelson Gray, a business Angel with over 20 years of experience investing in some 42 companies across the world. "I'm pleased to have been able to impart some of my knowledge and experience to the audience here in Santo Domingo. I've seen a great deal of potential in the Caribbean for Angel investing – whilst it's not suitable for everyone, it is a proven alternative for firms with high growth ambition to gain both finance and effective business advice" commented Gray.

The workshop was organized within the framework of the 10th European Development Fund, Haiti-Dominican Republic Bi-national Programme. Several entrepreneurs from Haiti and the DR pitched their businesses to the attendees in the hope of securing Angel investment.

By hosting the event, Caribbean Export sought to increase awareness of business angel investing in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and widen the Regional Angel Investment Network (RAIN) to include angel investor groups from the DR and assist in the development of Angel groups within Haiti. ■



Roadmap outlined for Aruba SDG implementation



In ECLAC's ongoing effort to support Member States' implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Statistics and Social Development Unit, Mr Abdullahi Abdulkadri, recently went on mission to Aruba.

The Hummingbird is pleased to offer its readers the fast facts that succinctly summarize the mission.

Date and location of event: 20-23 June 2017. Oranjestad, Aruba.

Name of event: MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) Mission.

Event Coordinator: Dr. Gerald (Gino) Kock, Chair of Aruba SDG Indicator Working Group.

Objective of the Mission: To conduct an assessment of the readiness of Aruba to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the mainstreaming of the Goals in national development plans and strategies, with particular focus on actions to be taken at the outset to

ensure national ownership of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ECLAC participation: Abdulkadri complemented the United Nations Development Groups' MAPS mission with the specific task of conducting an assessment of Aruba's data ecosystem in order to identify the country's data needs and its capacities for SDG monitoring. The outcome of this assessment will inform recommendations for an SDG roadmap for Aruba.

Other participants: The SDG Commission of Aruba, the Central Bureau of Statistics of Aruba (CBS), the Central Bank of Aruba (CBA), government officials from key departments and offices, representatives of academia, NGOs and the private sector of Aruba.

ECLAC follow-up: The discussion with different stakeholders during the mission provided the basis for making recommendations on accelerators for effective SDG implementation in Aruba. These recommendations will form part of the SDG roadmap for Aruba that will soon be finalized. ■

Aruba Set to Hold Caribbean's Largest Vow Renewal Ceremony

Aruba has invited lovebirds from all over the world this summer for what will be the Caribbean's largest vow renewal ceremony!

More than 100 couples from across the globe are expected to say "I do" again as the sun sets on Eagle Beach on 8 August 2017.

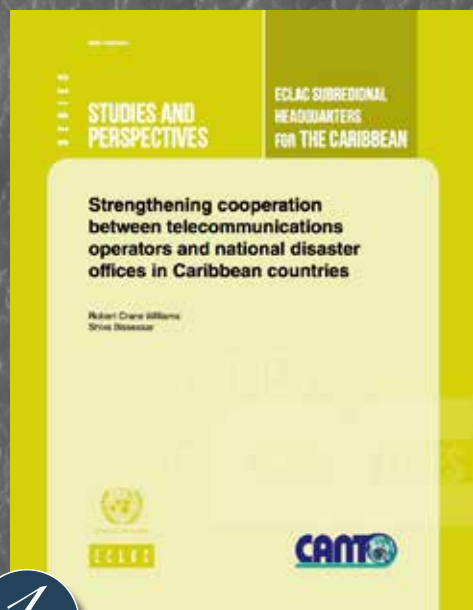
The event's ambiance and décor will be inspired by real destination weddings in Aruba, and couples are encouraged to don white attire with pops of Caribbean colour.

And while the event will be the largest in the Caribbean, it won't be the first Aruba is involved in. On Valentine's Day 2013, hundreds of couples renewed their vows in an Aruba-sponsored event in Times Square, New York. Then, on Valentine's Day last year, the Aruba Tourism Authority partnered with the Empire State Building to give one couple a honeymoon in the island following their vow renewal ceremony.

"From the Empire State Building to Times Square, Aruba has brought its world-famous love and happiness to some of the most iconic US locations in recent years," stated Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

"This year, Aruba is pleased to share romance and warmth at Eagle Beach, one of the most beloved spots on our one happy island." ■





1.

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



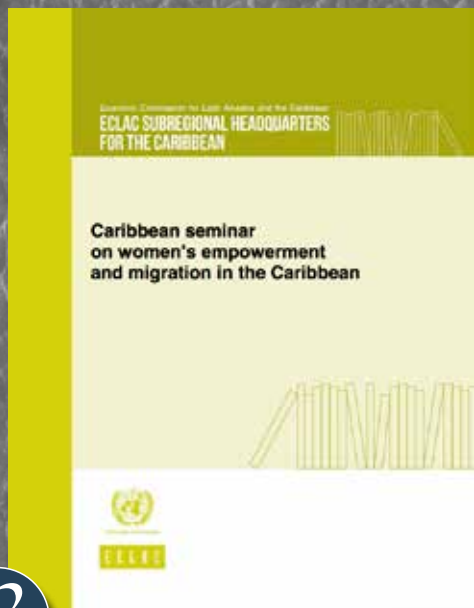
3.

Report of the Leaders Activating Research Networks workshop - Caribbean

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Caribbean seminar
on women's empowerment and
migration in the Caribbean

2.

DIANE'S CORNER

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



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

1 2/7



World Population Day

"For young men in the Caribbean, opportunities for personal growth often increase during the formative years of adolescence. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for teenage girls in the region, who often find themselves under served by development initiatives. Let us use this excellent opportunity to bring to shine the light on the need to give our adolescent girls the attention they deserve."

#DirectorsTake

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



STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Barbados

FAIR WORK LAWS BEING FINALISED

- Jul 7 -

New legislation which prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, colour, sex, ethnic origin as well as disability, is being finalized by the Barbados government. Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development, Senator Dr. the Hon. Esther Byer Suckoo, said that the Anti-Discrimination in the Workplace Act speaks to the right of people to be treated equally. With responsibility for employment, Dr. Byer- Suckoo, also shared that the Employment Rights Act, offers protection of workers against unfair dismissal because an employee is or was a disabled person.

GERMANY SEEKS SUPPORT

- Jun 20 -

Germany is seeking Barbados' support for its candidacy for the United Nations Security Council 2019 – 2020. During a courtesy call last week, Germany's special envoy, Peter Linder, put the case in support of the candidacy to minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Senator Darcy Boyce. Linder said that Germany was placing great emphasis on issues of international peace and security, as well as climate change, and he stressed Germany's commitment to the Paris Climate Change Agreement.



Bermuda

GENERAL ELECTION

- Jul 18 -

On 18 July 2017, General elections were held in Bermuda to determine the 36 members to the House of Assembly. The result was a victory for the opposition Progressive Labour Party (PLP), which won 24 of the 36 seats. Incumbent Premier, Michael Dunkley, subsequently resigned as leader of the One Bermuda Alliance (OBA). The PLP had therefore won over seven constituencies from the OBA, including some regarded as safe seats for the former ruling party.

NEW PREMIER

- Jul 19 -

Eleven Ministers and five Senators were sworn into office by Governor John Rankin following the PLP's General election victory. Among them were the Premier, who also took on the portfolio of Finance after having served as Shadow Finance Minister since 2012, and Jamahl Simmons, who was named Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. At 38-years-old, Premier David Burt is the youngest in the island's history.



Jamaica

CDB FUNDING FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

- Jul 25 -

The board of directors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved grant funding to the government of Jamaica to strengthen the disaster risk management capacity of the Portmore Municipal Corporation (PMC). The €332,000 grant will be allocated from resources provided under the African Caribbean Pacific–European Union (ACP–EU) CDB Natural Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) in the CARIFORUM Countries Programme (ACP-EU-CDB NDRM Programme).

FIRST WOMAN PRIME MINISTER RETIRES

- Jul 29 -

Jamaica's first woman Prime Minister, Portia Simpson-Miller, made her final speech in parliament. It marked, at the age of 72, her retirement from representational politics. Simpson Miller was showered with tributes by colleagues on both sides of the house in a joint sitting of parliament on June 27, where she was described as a champion of the poor. Simpson-Miller had also formerly retired from her position as the leader of the opposition party. The former Finance Minister, Peter Phillips, replaced Simpson-Miller as party leader, and was sworn in as Opposition leader on April 3, 2017.



FROM THE AMERICAS

1. At Paraguay meeting countries commit to promote and respect the rights of older persons

READ MORE



2. Argentina benefits from ECLAC's disaster expertise

READ MORE





AT PARAGUAY MEETING COUNTRIES COMMIT TO PROMOTE AND RESPECT THE **RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS**

Caribbean Member States reinforced their commitment to strengthening protection for the human rights of older persons, including in the areas of health and social care; social protection; employment; education; culture; and protection from elder abuse.

These commitments were discussed and reaffirmed during a recent meeting convened jointly by ECLAC and the Government of Paraguay. The Director of CELADE, ECLAC's population division, also

emphasised ECLAC's commitment to support member States as they address the rapid ageing of their populations. Representing ECLAC Caribbean at the Fourth ECLAC Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Asunción, Paraguay from 27-30 June 2017, Population Affairs Officer, Francis Jones, underscored the need to protect the full spectrum of human rights of older persons. Jones stated that to date, attention had focused primarily on

rights related to health, care and social security but that more attention should also be paid to other rights, for example those related to decision-making, legal capacity, access to justice, work and culture. In addition, more attention needs to be paid to older persons experiencing multiple forms of discrimination.

Fully recognising older persons as part of the 2030 Agenda, and in the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, will also ensure a broader



approach to the protection and promotion of these rights.

The Conference was held as part of the third cycle of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Key actions were identified for expanding the protection of the human rights of older persons over the next five years, for example the implementation of measures to ensure specific assistance to older persons in disaster and emergency situations.

Participating countries unanimously approved the Asunción Declaration, entitled 'Building Inclusive Societies: Ageing with Dignity and Rights'. It urges governments to build the issue of ageing into their development policies, plans and programmes in a cross-cutting manner, and to implement specific policies for older persons that recognize gender inequalities and promote their autonomy and independence, as well as intergenerational solidarity. The Asunción Declaration also reiterates

the importance of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean as the regional framework for public policymaking that States continue to adopt. ■



ARGENTINA BENEFITS FROM ECLAC'S DISASTER EXPERTISE

ECLAC Caribbean's institutional knowledge regarding disaster assessments was recently road-mapped for the benefit of public officials in Argentina. This was done through an extensive round of trainings and the implementation of ECLAC's Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology.

The mission to Argentina took the form of two training sessions in Buenos Aires, followed by a two-week disaster assessment exercise in different locations across the country. The first training, on 4-5 July, benefitted regional government officials, while the second, on 6-7 July, was for national officials.

The assessment centered on the effects and impacts caused by the 2015-2016 floods in Argentina that affected the provinces of Formosa, Chaco, Corrientes, Santiago del Estero, Entre Ríos, Santa Fe, Buenos Aires, Misiones, Tucumán and Córdoba.

These floods caused serious effects on the social and productive sectors of the country, particularly affecting houses, public infrastructure (ie. water and sewage, roads), and sectors such as agriculture, livestock and tourism. The provision of public services, such as telecommunications, power, water and sanitation, was also affected due to damage to the infrastructure. The evaluation team included officials from the National and Provincial Government of the Republic of Argentina, ECLAC, other agencies within the United Nations system and international consultants.

This exercise was part of a technical cooperation agreement between ECLAC Caribbean and the government of Argentina, which is being implemented over a 12-month period. This project is being spear-headed by the Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Dr. Omar Bello. ■



REDUCED COST FOR CARIFESTA 2017

This year's Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) will cost Barbados millions of dollars less than it did when the country last hosted the event in 1981, according to Minister of Culture, Stephen Lashley.

Every two years, CARICOM and CARIFORUM countries of the Caribbean and Latin America gather to celebrate the spirit of their people through the expressions of art, music, food, folklore, theatre and dance. In 2017, Barbados will be hosting the 13th edition of this exciting festival, with participation from over four thousand artists, under the theme "Asserting Our Culture, Celebrating OurSelves".



Following an update of plans for the 17-27 August 2017 festival outlined recently, Lashley revealed that this year's CARIFESTA is expected to cost \$8 million, compared with the more than \$25 million price tag of the earlier fest. "We have put in place a system and have competent personnel to manage it - an indication that we have really come of age. We want to use CARIFESTA as the platform to drive economic growth via creativity and culture," he added. Like other significant institutions such as cricket, CXC and CARICOM that symbolize a Caribbean commonality, the Festival reinforces unity in the midst of the splendid diversity of the subregion.

CARIFESTA has its underpinnings in the staging of the first Caribbean Festival of Arts in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1952. This event spurred enthusiasm for celebrating the excellence of Caribbean artistry.

The creation of the West Indies Federation was marked by the

staging of a Festival in Trinidad, through the auspices of the Extra Mural Department of the then University College of the West Indies. This celebratory spirit must have infused the artistic community of the Region, for it was at a regional gathering of artists in Guyana in 1970, that the idea of a grand Caribbean festival was conceived.

The enthusiasm of the artists attending a Caribbean Writers and Artists Convention in Georgetown in 1966 and again in 1970 during Guyana's Independence and Republic celebrations, found favour with Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, who spearheaded the conversion of the idea into a resplendent exposition of artistic forms and cultural artifacts that became the first Caribbean Festival of Arts in Guyana in 1972. This first CARIFESTA attracted the participation of 1000 plus artistes from over 30 Caribbean and South American countries, giving expression to their creativity in music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture, folk art, photography

and literature.

The cultural and artistic groundswell generated by the success of CARIFESTA 1972 gave impetus to the call to institutionalize the festival within the emerging structure of the Caribbean Community. In response to such urgings, the Governments, at their 1972 Heads of Government Meeting approved the establishment of a permanent unit within the Secretariat with oversight functions for coordinating subsequent CARIFESTA events.

Today, CARIFESTA offers a unique opportunity to "depict the life of the people of the region, their heroes, morals, myths, traditions, beliefs, creativity and ways of expression". It provides a forum for the people of the region to be exposed to each other's culture, and in the process, cultivates tolerance and appreciation for differences, an integral element of any movement towards integration. ■



Serving “Conservation Cuisine” in St. Lucia

The Caribbean’s lionfish problem is nothing new — the proliferation of lionfish in the Caribbean over the last 10 years is a real and growing threat to the ecology of tropical and subtropical marine areas. Lionfish can cause damage, direct or indirect, to coral reefs, sea grasses and mangroves, due to their high rate of reproduction and growth, its voracious feeding capacity and lack of predators.

More and more stakeholders have taken up the challenge to fight what has become a

scourge of Caribbean marine life. Resorts like Saint Lucia’s Anse Chastanet and Jade Mountain are taking up the fight.

Both resorts have launched a “conservation cuisine” initiative, preparing lionfish as a delicacy. “It is not much of a stretch,” said Karolin Troubetzkoy, executive director of the storied Jade Mountain and its sister resort Anse Chastanet. “Lionfish is a white, flaky, but firm, fish with a flavour between grouper and mahi mahi.”

“We are serving a multi-course dégustation menu with paired New World wines, in which we showcase the quality and taste of this very unique fish,” she said.

Diners are served lionfish as pure sashimi, citrus ceviche wrapped in a crispy tortilla, and either grilled or stewed with the flavors of St. Lucia.

“It is always delicious and a very special dinner experience prepared by our best passionate chefs and sommeliers,” she said. ■

Tasty Treats in the Heat

– 21st Annual Mango Melee

Not even a scorching hot sun could stop people from attending the 21st annual Mango Melee and Tropical Fruit Festival this year at Saint George's Botanical Gardens in Saint Croix, which is part of the US Virgin Islands. With over 4,000 people in attendance, this year was one of the most successful Mango Melees yet.

"We were sponsored by NBC and Fox this year," said Amy Parker DeSorbo, the director of administration and development for the gardens. "There were national commercials, and we have people calling to plan their trips around Mango Melee."

As always, the festival was filled with local food and craft vendors, as well as fun-filled activities such as the dunk tank, mango eating contest and the 'Mango Dis, Mango Dat' cooking competition for festival patrons to partake in. The festival has been one of the most popular summer events on Saint Croix for years.

"I've been working with my cousin for three years, and it's always a good turn out," stated Tisha, a food vendor working at the festival. "I enjoy, it's my island and you gotta enjoy every moment," she added.

"I love Mango Melee. I've been coming since I was a child, but this is my first time in three years now," another patron commented.

Lisa Sperry, a four time 1st place winner in the 'Mango Dis, Mango Dat' competition said she thinks the event gets better every year, and this

year was particularly good because they had local farmers set up in the botanical gardens building with local fruits.

Sperry entered a Morning Mango Mousse with mangos, a cinnamon swirl and cinnamon basil flowers in this year's competition. But she had a word of warning for those interested in making something similar: "The cinnamon swirl is very hard!"

Due to the turn out and extra attention for this year's festival, the organizers stepped up their game and produced some very exciting entertainment.

"We were so blessed this year to have so many local entertainers coming and supporting us," said Karen Brin, the director of entertainment for the event. "We have an eclectic group of musicians from steel pan to soft rock. We had everything you could possibly imagine, with the exception of classical music, we save that for Christmas." All manner of tropical fruit were on display and at the end of the day there was a silent auction of all the fruit. The proceeds of the day's events go to support the botanical garden. Officials were excited for this year's turn out, feeling that the variety of events and entertainment and increased exposure due to coverage on the NBC and FOX networks would attract more people.

Suffice it to say, Mango Melee did not disappoint, and locals and tourists alike will continue to come and enjoy the tastiest event of the summer. ■





Jamaica to Host Denbigh Show

The Ministry of Agriculture and Health of Jamaica has officially opened the Denbigh Show, considered the main commercial agricultural, industrial and food show in the English-speaking Caribbean, as confirmed by the President of Jamaica Agriculture Society (JAS), Norman Grant.

The multisector show will open its doors to the public from 5-17 August 2017 and is expected to attract about 80,000 customers, partners, sponsors and exhibitors.

Delegations from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, and other Caribbean nations have committed to participating.

The President of the Port of Spain Agriculture Society, Murchison Neptune, and the Minister of Health, Agriculture and Human Resources from the Turks and Caicos, Edwin Eastwood, will be among the senior Caribbean policymakers who will attend. ■



Q&A

LEEANNA JOY
SEELOCHAN

Talk about having a lot on your plate. In our practice of introducing new members of the ECLAC Port of Spain family to our readers, The Hummingbird is pleased to present one of the newest additions to the ECLAC Caribbean family, Ms. Leeanna Joy Seelochan.

Q: What are your "outside" interests, apart from your work life?

A: I have so many things I like to do when I'm away from work. When I'm not catching my breath after weekly High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) workouts, I enjoy listening and dancing to creatively cultural blends of music - zouk, cadence-lypso, soca, jazz, reggaeton,

danssa-doso, parang, and classical instrumentals such as steel-pan, violin, piano and guitar. I love movies - any genre that I can pull apart and analyse, from the opening credits, music selection, script-writing and directing. Cooking and baking relaxes me and keeps my friends and family happy and well-fed – Win-Win! Ballet is also an artform that I hold in high regard, so I avidly follow international performances and its associated music. I plan on pushing past beginner-level in the near future, God willing! Read, Read, Read – a characteristic bred from my Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Literatures in English with Linguistics (UWI), I enjoy reading enlightening and impactful pieces of any genre. And that’s not all - I am a news buff. From my Bloomberg mobile app to CANN twitter alerts, my Post-Graduate Diploma in International Relations (IIR, UWI) and ongoing MSc Global Studies (IIR, UWI) have engrained a daily routine of global awareness.

Q: That sounds like a lot! So what are your dreams for the future?

A: My dream is to develop creative and cultural industries (CCI) for national sustainability, and improve Caribbean competitive advantage. While it may sound like a potential book title, it is more than a theoretical hand-out. Putting theory into practice is essential in developing CCI. In my opinion, CCI involves cultural forms

such as fashion, music, food, art, sports and literature, which have been creatively tailored to facilitate the growing demands of globalization. For instance, the emergence of the ‘Afrosoca’ genre by artistes like Olatunji and Machel Montano, Caribbean-wear tailored for international resort wear by designer, Anya Ayoung-Chee, Caribbean-aesthetic wood-working for an international furniture line, or a Carnival-inspired mobile app. Developing this industry involves customizing the trade model, the communications process, marketing and promotions and policy research and implementation, geared to the specific good or service. I have also found government facilitation and public and private sector partnerships (PPPs) to be the main thread in this industry’s success.

Q: How did you become involved in doing this?

A: Not to be biased, but I think my dad is one of the most talented and skilful wood-working designers in the country. I grew up in a house of beautifully constructed carved mouldings and lacquered furnishings, from the ceiling to the floor and furniture. My family’s food and music also reflected a Caribbean aesthetic. Thus my appreciation for the Caribbean creative and cultural arts grew, as I gained formal education and observed my parents’ entrepreneurship. My appreciation for the West Indian identity was grounded in my BA,

and understanding the dynamic between the hybrid phenomena and global markets came with the International Relations discipline.

Q: Clearly, you are not lacking motivation or inspiration! So, what are you doing to achieve your dream?

A: At the moment, I am assisting creative and cultural start-ups with their written and verbal communications. It entails research and communications counsel, specific to the client. This is where a firm grasp is appreciated in understanding that national policy and regional and global relations mesh with literary and linguistics skills. These coupled with the business experiences I have been blessed to gather over the years, help to strategically assist the client in a contemporary regional setting.

Q: What satisfaction or enjoyment do you derive from this?

A: Maintaining connections with local and regional private sector enlightens the research I assist with at ECLAC Caribbean. In turn, keeping abreast with Latin American and Caribbean concerns affords a wealth of pragmatic knowledge. The UN mandate propels one to uphold a standard that is exemplary, that is crucial in LAC sustainability. Therein, I continue to learn and contribute to Caribbean Development, with God’s grace. ■

Farewell to Leda

Known for her love of dogs and her passion for safeguarding all animals, Associate Environment Affairs Officer, Leda Peralta, recently bid adios to colleagues at ECLAC Caribbean, as she embarked on the next stage in her career, on transfer to the ECLAC Mexico office.

In the short three years that Leda spent in Port of Spain, she certainly left her mark through her sterling contribution to the office's work in the fields of disaster assessment and environment.

Leda was toasted by staff during a farewell ceremony, and invited colleagues to feel free to visit her in her new home – we just might take up that offer!

Here are some memories from Leda's last working day in Port of Spain. ■





Baked Breadfruit

What you will need:

- 1 mature ripe breadfruit**
- 1 cup brown sugar**
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon**
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg**
- 1/2 cup butter**

What you need to do:

1. Melt your butter, taking care not to brown or burn it, mix in nutmeg and cinnamon. Place aside or better yet, place in a small bowl and place in the refrigerator to set up again.
2. Once you have your ripe breadfruit pull on the stem, it should give way with a tug and when the stem comes off, the innards should come with it as well. Sprinkle 1/2 cup of the brown sugar into the hollow breadfruit.
3. Take your hardened butter mixture and with a knife or spatula, place into the breadfruit followed by the rest of the brown sugar.
4. Cover the hole in the top of the breadfruit.
5. Place in a baking pan with 2 cups of water and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.
6. Allow breadfruit to cool for 15 minutes before cutting and serving.

Note: Depending on the consistency of your breadfruit, you may consider including an extra 1/2 cup of butter to use once the breadfruit is finished baking.



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