



OFFSHORE MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

HOW CAN THEY BENEFIT
THE CARIBBEAN?

HUMAN RIGHTS

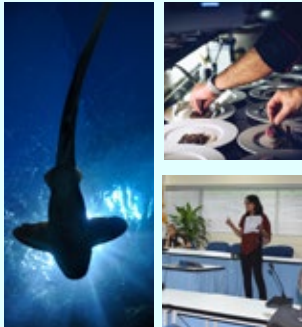
HOW THE CARIBBEAN IS
TREATING WITH DISABILITY,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC
POLICY

CARIBBEAN CENSUS

PLANNING FOR THE
CARIBBEAN'S 2020 ROUND
OF CENSUSES



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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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October Events

1

International Day of Older Persons
1 October 2017

2

International Day of Non-Violence
2 October 2017

2-6

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
2 - 6 October 2017

10

World Mental Health Day
10 October 2017

24

United Nations Day
24 October 2017



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sep 29

Through a combination of site visits and meetings the #ECLACCaribbean team is able to gather data about the effects of a disaster on a country's economy.



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sep 26

Financial Technology may offer solutions to some of the problems surrounding correspondent banking relationships. Click to find out more in a brand new video from #ECLAC.



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Sept 22

ECLAC Caribbean has dispatched a team of disaster assessment experts to the Bahamas to conduct a weeklong assessment exercise. Click to find out more.



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SNEAK PREVIEW

Look out for more in
upcoming issues!

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS OF AGEING IN THE CARIBBEAN


By 2035, it is estimated that in the Caribbean the number of persons over the age of 65 will be double that of 2015. As a result, it is inevitable that the cost of providing pensions for this growing number of older persons will increase in the years to come.

In this context, The Hummingbird is pleased to bring you a sneak preview of an upcoming ECLAC study, which takes a close look at the fiscal implications of population ageing.

Entitled 'The Fiscal Impact of Population Ageing in the Caribbean', the study will present projections of public expenditure on education, health and pensions as a percentage of GDP, up until 2050.

Countries for which projections will be provided include Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados,





Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, which are countries for which the United Nations produces population projections.

ECLAC notes that older persons also place substantially greater demands on health care systems compared to working age or younger persons. Moreover, as population age structures will change in the coming years, the cost of publicly provided education and health care, will also change considerably. For example, previous studies have shown that per capita health costs for persons aged 65 and over are between three and five times the cost for adolescents and young adults (Miller, Mason and Holz, 2011).

An ageing population also means that the number of children in the Caribbean will continue to fall over time, which clearly has implications for education

funding. Based purely on the number of children in the population, education funding might be expected to fall, although this could be seen as an opportunity to improve the quality of education through increased funding per pupil. It is reasonable to assume that significant increases in social expenditure will also be required in Caribbean countries as the population ages.

The purpose of ECLAC's study, therefore, is to project how these increases, expressed as a percentage of GDP, will change over time in selected Caribbean countries, and to estimate the corresponding increased fiscal burdens that countries are likely to face as a result of demographic changes, economic growth and any major relevant policy changes.

This study will be published later this year. ■

A satellite image of a large hurricane system over the Caribbean Sea. The hurricane has a well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure. The surrounding ocean is visible in shades of blue and grey.

TWO MAJOR HURRICANES DEVASTATE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

This year's hurricane season has been brutal especially for the Caribbean islands of Anguilla, the Bahamas, Barbuda the British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Puerto Rico, and Sint Maarten, all of which were severely battered by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with two more months to go.

Next month, the Hummingbird will feature the efforts carried out by ECLAC Caribbean, which will be deploying teams of experts across the subregion to help assess the damage and losses suffered to date. In the meantime, the present article recounts the salient facts of this year's unprecedented hurricane season thus far.

Weather watchers are somewhat relieved that we are finally past the peak of hurricane season in the Atlantic Ocean, and this is particularly welcome news for folks who live along coastlines, but by no means are we out of the woods yet. Hurricane seasons - especially years this active - can crank out some ugly storms in

October and even November. In some ways, the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season has only been slightly above average so far. We've seen 13 named storms, eight hurricanes, and five major hurricanes. The average season sees 12 named storms and six hurricanes, three of which may category three or stronger status. This is in line with most major forecasts that called for an above-average hurricane season this year.

But the speed with which this season spat out extremely strong storms is far from typical. Eight consecutive named storms strengthened into hurricanes within a 45-day period between mid-August and late-September, and six of those eight storms made landfall as hurricanes. Even worse, three of those storms - Harvey, Irma, and Maria - hit land as a category four or five.

We still have two full months left to the hurricane season, and it looks like conditions will be favourable for storms to develop through at least the first half of October.

The western Caribbean is about where you would expect storms to start forming around this time of the year. The origin points for tropical cyclones depend on the season. Storms commonly get their start out near Africa during the peak of the season, when the heat of the summer helps tropical waves form on the African continent and push out over the water. These are the seeds that sprout storms like Irma and Maria, ones we can sometimes watch for weeks before they ever threaten land.

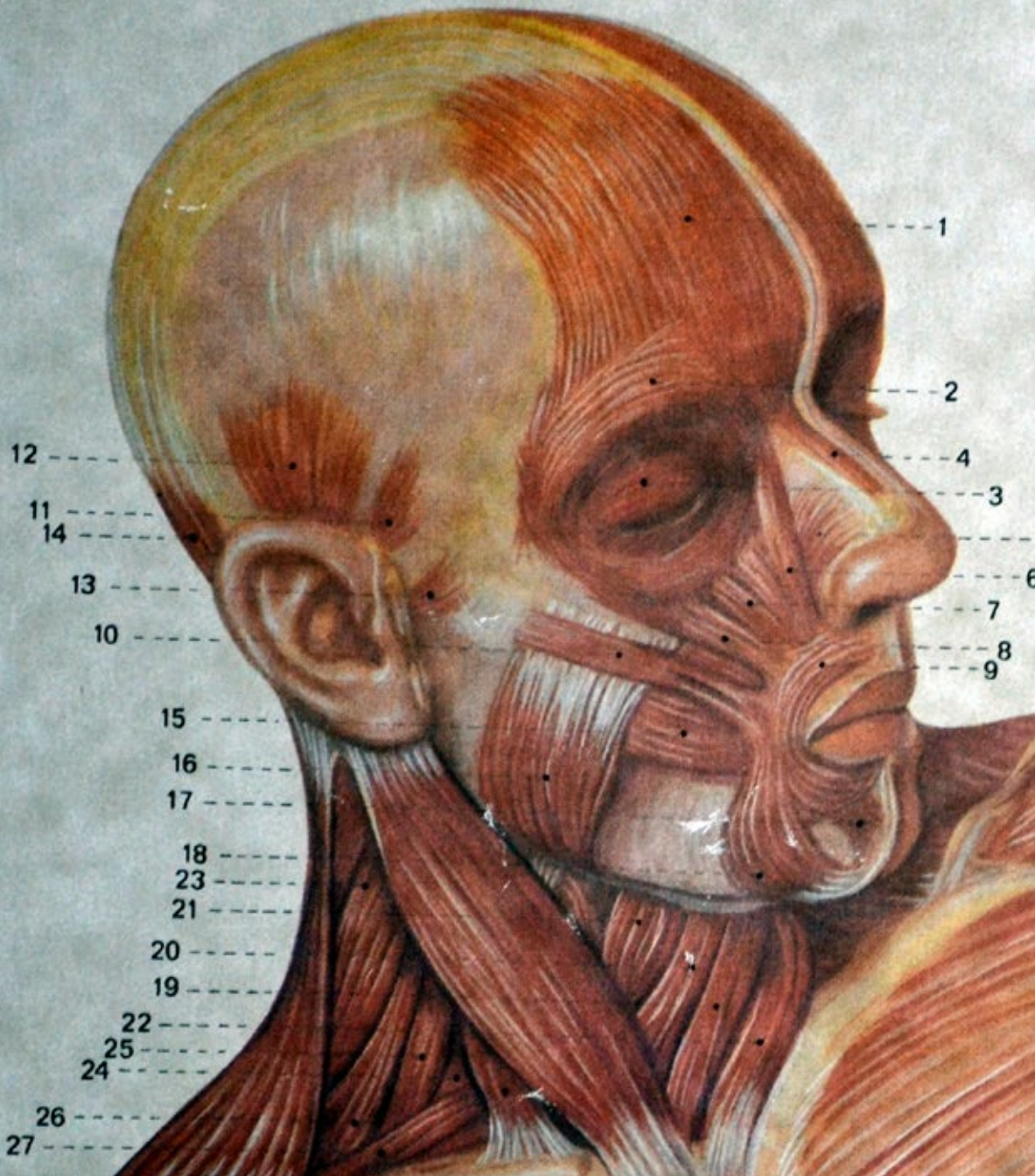
Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful and catastrophic Cape Verde-type hurricane, the strongest observed in the Atlantic since Wilma in 2005 in terms of maximum sustained winds. It was the first Category 5 hurricane to strike the Leeward Islands on record, followed by Hurricane Maria only two weeks later. It was also the most intense Atlantic hurricane to strike the United States since Katrina in 2005, and the first major hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005. The ninth named storm, fourth hurricane, and second major hurricane of the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, Irma caused widespread and catastrophic damage throughout its long lifetime, particularly in parts of the northeastern Caribbean and the Florida Keys.

The storm caused tremendous damage in Anguilla, Barbuda, Saint Barthélemy, Sint Maarten, and the Virgin Islands as a Category 5 hurricane. As of 27 September, the hurricane has caused at least 124 deaths (one in Anguilla, one in Barbados, three in Barbuda, four in the British Virgin Islands, 10 in Cuba, 11 in the French West Indies, one in Haiti, three in Puerto Rico, four on the Dutch side of Sint Maarten, 80 in the contiguous United States, four in the US Virgin Islands, and two others in unknown locations).

Hurricane Maria was the 10th most intense Atlantic hurricane on record, the worst natural disaster in the recorded history of Dominica, and the strongest to make landfall in Puerto Rico since 1928. The 13th named storm, seventh hurricane, fourth

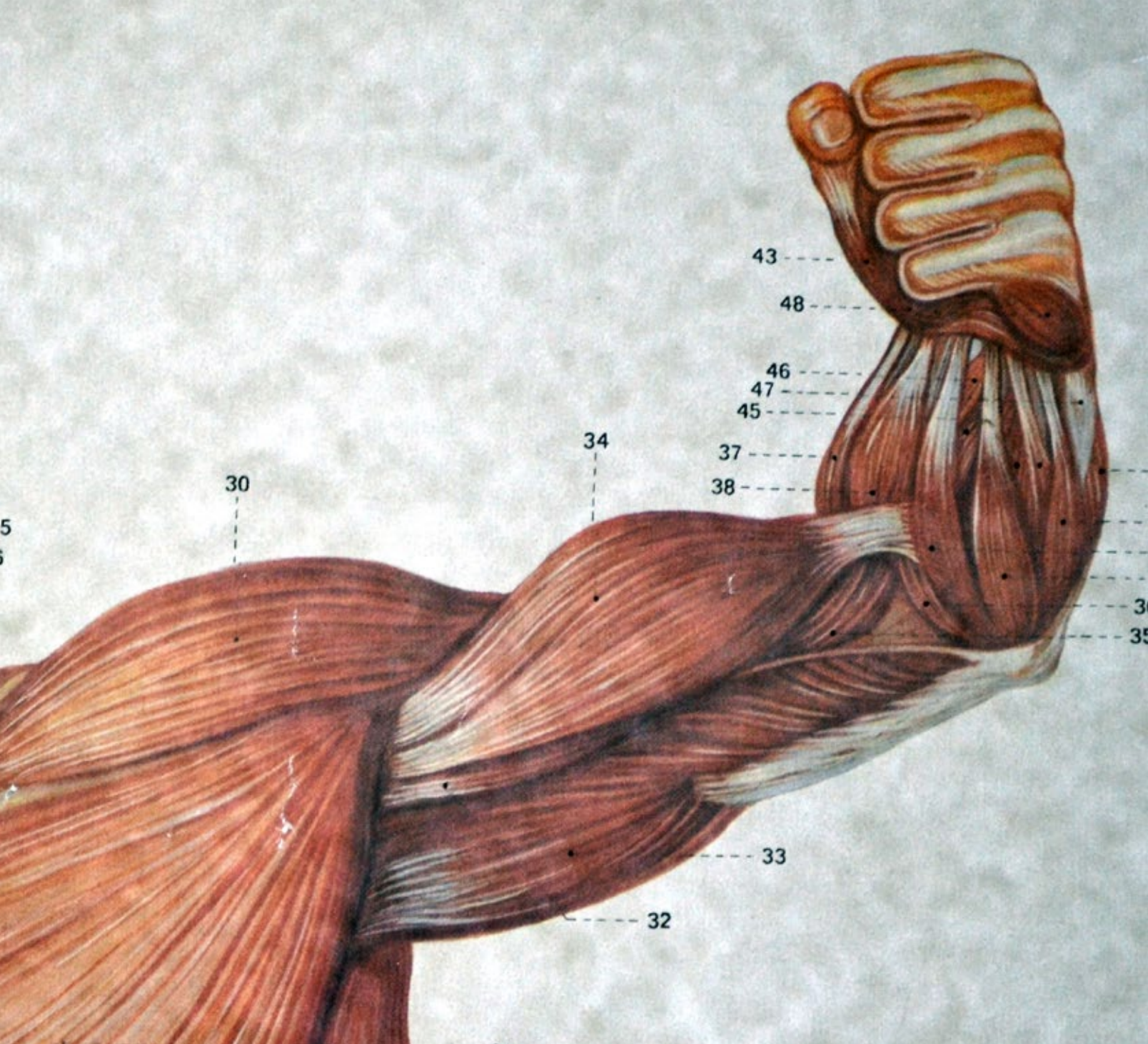
major hurricane, and the second Category 5 hurricane of the unusually active 2017 Atlantic hurricane season, Maria caused catastrophic damage during its journey across the Northeastern Caribbean as the second more intense landfall and the costliest hurricane ever to hit the region. It was the third major hurricane in a row to threaten the Leeward Islands with a direct strike or major impacts within two weeks.

As of 1 October, Maria has caused at least 68 deaths: 30 in Dominica, 5 in the Dominican Republic, 2 in Guadeloupe, 3 in Haiti, 24 in Puerto Rico, 1 in the US Virgin Islands, and 3 in the US. Initial assessments indicate catastrophic damage to Dominica, which suffered an island-wide communication blackout. The islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique also endured widespread flooding, damaged roofs and uprooted trees. Puerto Rico has suffered catastrophic damage, including destruction of its previously damaged electrical grid. Insured losses from the hurricane are estimated at US \$40—85 billion, mostly in Puerto Rico, making Maria's cost comparable to that of previous Hurricanes Irma and Harvey. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

How offshore
medical universities
can benefit the
Caribbean



A meeting was recently held at ECLAC Caribbean to discuss the findings of an upcoming study entitled, 'A global value chain analysis of offshore medical universities in the Caribbean', which was featured in a 'Sneak Preview' in The Hummingbird last month.

The meeting examined the contributions that offshore medical universities (OMUs) make to their host countries. Experts from Barbados, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, participated in the discussions.

[READ ARTICLE](#)





How Offshore Medical Universities can benefit the Caribbean

Following the meeting, The Hummingbird sat down for a one on one chat with Sheldon McClean, Coordinator of the Economic Development Unit, to get his perspective.

What is the significance of OMUs, as opposed to regular medical universities?

OMUs are distinct from traditional regional medical universities. OMUs target and train students seeking to practice medicine in the North American market, while regional medical universities train students to practice in the Caribbean territories. The factors favouring the Caribbean as a location for OMUs include close proximity to the United States (US), lower tuition costs, language similarities, low requirements for setup, and the excess demand for medical education in the US.

In light of the discussions of the meeting, how do OMUs benefit the Caribbean?

These offshore institutions provide a series of distinct economic benefits for their host countries. These include the expenditures by students and faculty as they spend on accommodation, travel, personal expenses and other goods and services. The OMUs also contribute to the economies of their host countries via the corporate and student taxes paid by the medical universities and their

enrolled students, the income tax paid by the local faculty staff in the medical universities, and the tariffs charged upon imported products.

Would it be a good practice to encourage an increase in OMUs for the Caribbean then, especially in the economies which have limited capacity for earning foreign revenue?

This is a good point. It was discussed during the meeting that the benefits of hosting OMUs could prove especially significant for some of the smaller economies, such as those of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Dutch territories. These countries have undiversified revenue earning potential, lack mineral natural resources and rely mainly on agriculture and tourism to earn revenues.

What are some of the factors that could hinder the development of OMUs?

Unfortunately, in some instances there have been some concerns regarding the quality of education offered by OMUs in the Caribbean, due to issues related to faculty members, books, equipment and facilities. Some OMUs have also witnessed high dropout rates with students performing poorly in some examinations.

What is the way forward for OMUs in the Caribbean?

Coming out of the meeting were several policy recommendations for improving the competitiveness and optimizing the economic contribution of the OMUs to regional economies. These included avenues for further integration of the sector, such as exploring options for increased utilization of regionally trained nurses along the value chain. Another area was the harmonized accreditation of the OMUs in the cluster, and using the industry to improve general health care domestically. ■



ACT I SCENE 2017:

“ALL IS FAIR IN EDUCATION AND THE CREATIVE ECONOMY”



It is a gloomy time in the Caribbean subregion, as the economic downturn affects progression at all levels in quality education attainment. Upon guidance of the UN SDGs, **Education (Ed)** decides to seek alternative methods of aid. **Dr. Creative Economy (D.C.)** meets with **Education (Ed)** for a third counselling session.

Dr. Creative (D.C.): Welcome back Ed. How are you doing today in the Caribbean subregion?

Ed: (glimpses at his MDG statistical report) Well, at the moment, Caribbean countries have shown some progress in increasing levels of pre- and primary-education. However,

higher-level education attainment is proving to be difficult.

D.C.: And how does this make you feel?

Ed: (Sighs) Well, I feel unappreciated and under-utilized in this subregion. At the moment, less than 15 per cent of citizens in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on average access tertiary-level education. Now more than before, I keep hitting a dead-end with issues in funding, specialized skills and training, infrastructure and accessibility. What can I do to elevate levels of quality education attainment?

D.C.: Given economic

constraints, it is preferred to maximize existing resources to fullest potential to provide an education that not only educates Caribbean citizens but ensures that it contributes to each country's unique economy. For instance, the establishment of the SMART Technology Teaching Lab at the Teaching and Learning Complex of The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus to create “blended programmes” fits within the current digital landscape provides for a good example to replicate across the subregion. You mentioned that Creative and Cultural industries are more present at this stage, can we incorporate more of these in your policy implementation?



Ed: (eagerly replies) Actually Doc, to alleviate student financial constraints and improve employability, scholarships could be prioritized in areas that not only improves the scientific and technological knowledge base of the labour force but also in emerging and creative fields that nurture innovativeness. For instance, in 2014, the local Fashion Industry employed over 1465 persons and generated in excess of TT\$266 million in revenue in Trinidad and Tobago.

D.C: But take into consideration that changes in GATE will not give priority to career in fashion design and

other creative disciplines. So what then can you do?

Ed: Well we can look to SDGs for priority in policy to inform GATE reform. For instance, Target 4.4 of the SDGs calls for substantial increase in the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, and entrepreneurship by 2030. It promotes a more practical pedagogy that enhances skills acquisition, suitable for each citizen, regardless of age. The focus on skill acquisition addresses the current phenomenon of education through certification whereby graduates do not necessarily

possess functional skills commensurate with their level of certification. This speaks directly to creative and cultural certification in areas that can directly contribute to domestic economies.

D.C: It seems as though we have a plan in place. And after the summary of the Trinidad and Tobago National Budget 2017, with more funding and initiatives being prioritized in the creative economy, you should have an easier time. Also I recommend following the reports coming out of the HLPF (High Level Political Forum) for further regional insight. ■

How the Caribbean is treating with disability, human rights and public policy



Disability is a reality of life. Many of us will experience some form of disability at some stage during our lives or perhaps will have family members with disabilities. Approximately 15% of the world's population, over one billion persons, experiences some form of disability.

The effect of disability on people's lives varies according to the type and severity of disability, socio-economic status, the communities in which they live - and many other factors. Sadly, many people with disabilities face barriers which prevent their full and equal participation in society. Across the Caribbean, most schools, workplaces, public spaces, buildings, transport systems and cultural services are not designed to be accessible to persons with disabilities. In this context, ECLAC Caribbean recently presented the findings of a study on 'Disability, Human Rights and Public Policy', at

a workshop held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 6-8 September 2017.

Organized by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, the workshop provided an opportunity for improving statistics on disability in the Caribbean. ECLAC's contribution outlined the current situation of persons living with disabilities in the Caribbean, and the importance of identifying measures to strengthen the protection of their rights.

According to Associate Population Affairs Officer, Francis Jones, who represented ECLAC Caribbean at the workshop, "there are more than a million people in the Caribbean living with some form of disability and an estimated 250,000 who experience significant disabilities. With population ageing and an increasing number of people suffering from non-communicable diseases, the prevalence of

disability could increase by 30 to 40% between 2015 and 2050."

In anticipation of this, ECLAC has urged the subregion to take early action. People living with disabilities still routinely encounter discrimination and barriers which exclude them from everyday activities. If their human rights are to be fully realised, it is abundantly clear that much remains to be done, and in a timely fashion.

Jones, whose presentation focused on 'Disability Statistics from Caribbean Censuses: An analysis of data from the 2000 and 2010 Census Rounds', informed the workshop that until recently, disability was seen mostly as a medical problem, whereby persons with disabilities were looked upon as being in need of treatment, charity and care.

"This is not the case. There is need to raise awareness

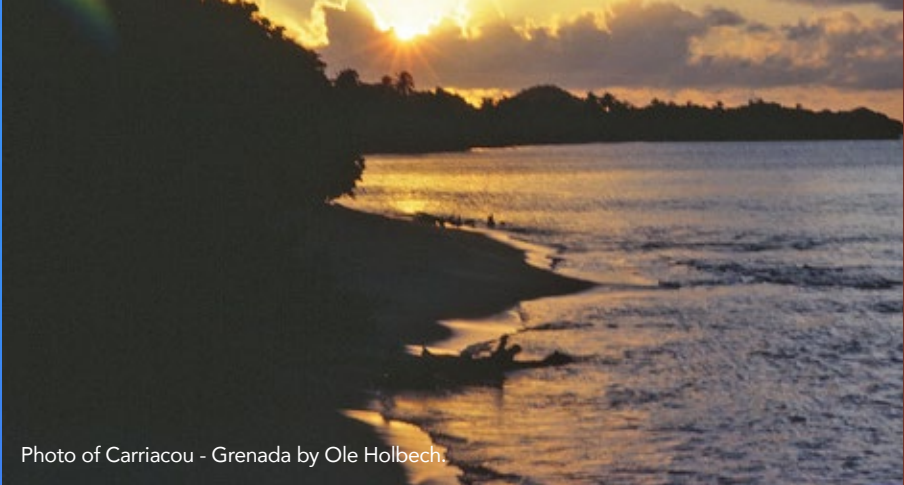


Photo of Carriacou - Grenada by Ole Holbech.

that persons with disabilities are equal members of society, with the same human rights as everyone else. Only four countries in the Caribbean have implemented policies which address disability – Barbados, Cayman Islands, Guyana and Jamaica,” he stated.

However, Jones also acknowledged that Caribbean countries have made commitments to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. “For example, in 2013 in the Declaration of Pétion-Ville, governments in the subregion agreed to address the development of legal frameworks at the national level, which in turn, would give effect to the commitments made in international and regional instruments to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.” He concluded his contribution by urging countries to further commit to developing and implementing national legislation towards persons with disabilities. ■

Grenada – Carriacou Corn Festival

Plans are on stream in Grenada, for the hosting of the third annual Carriacou Corn Festival on Sunday October 29th 2017, under the theme, ‘Discover and Relish Corn’s Goodness’.

Known for growing a large quantity of corn, the island will again witness a wide variety of products prepared from corn on sale including: coo-coo, corn bread, corn cake, conkie – ‘paime’, corn porridge and corn-kebabs. Coordinators of this unique event, Dexter Lendore and Dexter Leggard, noted that Corn Fest 2017 is intended to inspire and encourage community togetherness while exploring the variety of products derived from corn.

Corn was the predominant staple food enjoyed by Grenadian ancestors, and is a permanent feature of the islands’ traditional ‘saraca’ or smoked food.

The day’s event, which will be held at the popular Foot Print Bar, close to the Lauriston Airport, will showcase a number of Carriacou’s cultural traditions including string band music, May Pole dancing, steel pan, Quadrille dance performances, domino competitions, a bouncing castle and much more to keep everyone entertained.

The venue, according to the organizers, was chosen to highlight the surrounding turquoise water, easy access, adequate parking and spacious sandy grounds.

Lendore and Leggard, who both have extensive background and knowledge in the local cultural and tourism landscape, are hoping that Corn Fest will continue to be an additional feature on the island’s cultural calendar.

So, whether your taste buds tingle towards corn bread, corn soup or the ever-popular roast corn, this fun family friendly event will allow you to discover and relish the goodness of corn. ■

SNEAK PREVIEW

Look out for more in
upcoming issues!

ECLAC ASSESSES CHALLENGES OF OFFSHORE FINANCIAL CENTRES

Traditionally, tourism has been the mainstay for many Caribbean islands. However, in an effort to offset the risks of an economy that is overly dependent on tourism, several islands diversified into financial services, which appeared to be more stable, as well as lucrative.

The 1980's saw Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) islands like Antigua and Barbuda, Nevis, and later Barbados, Saint Kitts and other islands, making their foray into the offshore banking sector. By early 2000, the volume of cross border transactions for the English-speaking Caribbean totalled approximately US \$1 trillion, with this figure rising to US \$2 trillion by 2007, according to the Bank for International Settlements.

Over the years, Offshore Financial Centres (OFCs), sometimes referred to as



International Financial Centres (IFCs), became a significant part of the Caribbean financial landscape. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) notes that to qualify as an OFC jurisdiction, there must be a large number of financial institutions functioning in a simplified regulatory environment, with low or no tax, with the majority of its transactions initiated offshore.

However, the 2008 global financial crisis, coupled with the slow rebound of the global economy in the area of finance and financial management has led to uncertainty in financial markets, and stunted the growth of the once thriving OFC sector.

Against this backdrop, ECLAC Caribbean will

soon publish a study on 'An Assessment of the Challenges to Offshore Financial Centres in Saint Kitts and Nevis and Antigua', which will look at the way forward for the Caribbean in light of the existing challenges, which may be turned into opportunities for Caribbean countries to execute unity.

In particular, the study will examine the crucial link between the offshore sector to employment creation and economic viability. The economies under study have benefitted from capital flows of OFCs, in addition to the development of more sophisticated capital markets and financial structures.

The study will also assess the on-going challenges to the offshore sector, and whether a policy shift is needed

in the region. Such policy should be underpinned by transparency, and should take into consideration the survival of the region and avoid unnecessary competition with regional partners.

In this regard, the critical need for a regional approach to data collection and archiving will be examined. Focus will also be paid to improved public-private sector partnerships, particularly as it relates to legislation and policy. ■

Belize gets PERs support from ECLAC



A team from ECLAC Caribbean recently visited Belmopan, Belize, to conduct consultations designed to explain the importance of pursuing public expenditure reviews (PERs) as part of the Government's budgeting process.

PERs are intended to align expenditures with government's priorities. They also aim to provide savings, either from expenditure reallocation or by reducing unproductive expenditures. In addition, they improve fiscal management and can provide fiscal space especially when a

country is experiencing high debt levels, which is the situation with several countries in the Caribbean.

In this context, the ECLAC Caribbean team led by Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, along with Coordinator of the Economic Development Unit at ECLAC Caribbean, Sheldon McLean, and consultant, Professor Vanus James, held discussions on how annual budgetary expenditure allocations may reflect the policy priorities and desired socio-economic outcomes of the Belize government, as specified in its medium and long term plans.

Benefitting from the recent sessions were government Chief Executive Officers, representatives from line Ministries and finance officers. This exercise followed an ECLAC national training workshop in Belize in July 2016, which benefitted public finance officers in various ministries, and a regional workshop on revenue and expenditure forecasting with a consideration of fiscal transparency issues, held in September 2016.

These efforts are part of an ECLAC project to increase the capacity of public finance officials to address fiscal challenges.



The latest consultations represent the third and final stage of the project. The project began in 2014, and is scheduled to be completed in December 2017.

Countries participating in the project include Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Guyana. The first phase of the project was a scoping exercise which assessed the skills and knowledge of public finance managers, and identified country-specific training needs. From this, a training manual was developed which was used to provide capacity building on the PER methodology during the second phase of the project. ■

See and Taste festival for children with disabilities

The second annual See and Taste Belize Festival takes place on 7 October 2017, at the Florida International University Kovens Center. This year's event will raise funds for the Inspiration Center of Belize, the first of its kind to care for children with disabilities in Belize.

Last year's festival enjoyed immense success thanks to the support of its sponsors and the Belizean diaspora who came from all over the US to enjoy and celebrate Belize. This gathering offered an amazing opportunity to raise over US \$60,000 towards the building of the first Neo-Natal and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Belize.

See and Taste 2017 will once again celebrate Belize's vibrant and diverse culture in South Florida, represented by a fusion of foods spanning its Mayan, Garifuna, Creole and European heritage. Renowned chefs and artists from Belize will be there to share their gastronomical and artistic talents, and guests will also be able to enjoy samplings of Belize's local rum, as well as the famous Belikin beer. ■



Planning for the Caribbean's 2020 round of censuses

Most Caribbean countries conduct a Population and Housing Census every 10 years. During the 2010 round of censuses, many countries implemented the CARICOM Common Census Framework. This effort allowed demographic and housing statistics to be more easily compared across the subregion.

In preparation for the 2020 Census round, ECLAC Caribbean sought to further build the statistical capacity by conducting a technical needs assessment survey of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the Caribbean in 2016. This survey provided a first indication of the changes being contemplated by countries to the census questionnaire and the

anticipated technical assistance needs. Twelve of the 20 countries targeted completed and returned a survey questionnaire, the results of which provided a good basis for channelling technical assistance to countries in the 2020 round of censuses.

The findings will form the basis of an upcoming ECLAC Caribbean study on 'Using the 2020 censuses to enhance the capacity of Caribbean countries to produce SDG indicators'.

The study will take a close look at how the contemplated changes for the 2020 round of censuses may hinder or enhance the use of census data for the production of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators in the subregion.

The paper will identify opportunities for data disaggregation and the inclusion of under-represented populations through the proposed changes. It will also provide recommendations on how technical assistance could be provided to NSOs in support of the conduct of the censuses.

It is noteworthy that the 2020 round of censuses will be the only one conducted in a decade during which the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs is likely to be accelerated. The 2020-2029 decade will also be a critical period for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.



These events will place greater demand on the NSOs for demographic and other forms of data that would inform the preparation of Voluntary National Reports by Caribbean countries to the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs.

Look out for the publication of ECLAC's study later in 2017. ■

SDG implementation in the Caribbean

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes 169 targets which are poised to shape global sustainable development efforts until 2030. Since its implementation in January 2016, many global and regional initiatives, mechanisms and frameworks have been established to guide, follow-up and review the SDGs, but the 2030 Agenda remains primarily a country-led development agenda.

In its capacity as one of the leading thinktanks of the region, ECLAC Caribbean has identified the lack of a national institutional framework for SDG implementation as a major factor contributing to the slow pace of implementation in the Caribbean. It is, therefore, essential that a clear institutional arrangement for SDG implementation be defined at the national

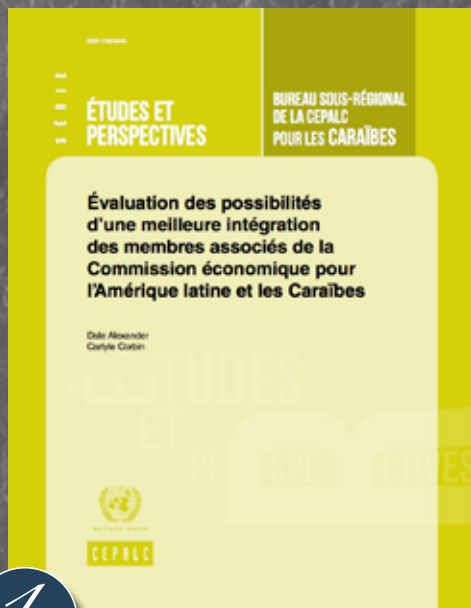
level to ensure national ownership of the 2030 Agenda and to promote a coordinated approach to the implementation of the SDGs.

This recognition informs an upcoming ECLAC study on 'Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean through National Institutions.'

This study will assess the status of implementation of the SDGs in Caribbean countries, and identify success factors and enablers in countries that are making good progress in their implementation as well as the obstacles and limiting factors in those countries which are lagging behind.

Based on the results of this, policy recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean will be outlined in the study.

ECLAC's study will be published later this year. ■



1.

Évaluation des possibilités d'une meilleure intégration des membres associés de la Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes



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

8/9



International Literacy Day

"Persons who struggle to read and write can become trapped in a cycle of poverty with limited opportunities for employment or income generation. International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on 8 September, is an opportunity for Governments, civil society and stakeholders to reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges and encourage those who work tirelessly for change."

#DirectorsTake

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



STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Antigua and Barbuda

USAID AIRLIFTS CRITICAL RELIEF ITEMS

- Sept 27 -

The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is coordinating closely with Caribbean governments, the US military, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations to rapidly distribute aid to affected communities in the Caribbean region. During the weeks after Hurricane Maria, several flights bearing aid have been deployed to Barbuda and other countries within the region. Thus far USAID has airlifted more than 151 metric tons of relief supplies for hurricane relief efforts in the Caribbean.

CHINA DONATES US\$2.5 MILLION TO RELIEF EFFORTS

- Oct 3 -

The government of the People's Republic of China has announced that it will donate US\$2.5 million to support the government of Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to rebuild Barbuda, which was severely impacted by Hurricane Irma. Premier of the State Council, Li Keqiang, in a letter to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, stated that he was shocked to learn of the devastating effects of the hurricane on the island of Barbuda. He also noted that it is his belief that, under Prime Minister Gaston Browne's leadership, the government and people can rebuild Barbuda soon.



Cuba

CUBA OFFERS HELP TO PUERTO RICO

- Oct 3 -

The Cuban government has offered a field hospital and 41 health specialists, who are all experts in disaster situations, to assist the hurricane victims of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico was hard hit by Hurricane Maria and according to official figures; only one in 69 hospitals are in operation. The Cuban foreign minister, Bruno Rodriguez, has also expressed that Cuba is ready to provide the services of engineers and electricity personnel to assist in the restoration of that vital health service that is affecting more than 90 per cent of the Puerto Rican population.

U.S. EXPELS CUBAN DIPLOMATS

- Oct 3 -

The United States expelled 15 of Cuba's diplomats to protest its failure to protect Americans from unexplained attacks in Havana. Prior to this, the U.S. announced it was withdrawing 60 per cent of its own diplomats from Havana because of concerns that they could be harmed should they stay. The withdrawal of Diplomats from both sides signals an unwinding of the progress made to end the hostility and mistrust that had characterized the relationship between the United States and Cuba for more than a half-century.



Jamaica

US\$20 MILLION LOAN FOR MSMEs

- Sept 13 -

On 6 September, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the government of Jamaica signed an agreement, for a US\$20 million loan that will facilitate increased access to credit for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Jamaica. This credit enhancement programme for MSMEs will capitalize the credit enhancement facility (CEF) established in 2009 and managed by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ). In addition to the loan to scale up the CEF, the IDB will provide US\$250,000 in technical cooperation to the DBJ to improve and streamline its operations.

UNWTO DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR CARIBBEAN

- Sept 17 -

Jamaica's minister of tourism, Edmund Bartlett, has been appointed coordinator of the United Nations World Tourism Organization's (UNWTO) newly-formed disaster recovery working group for the affected states in the Caribbean. The program was formed to meet the needs of member states that have been recently impacted by powerful natural disasters such as hurricanes, tropical storms and earthquakes.

A Must-Visit Food Festival in St Barth



Saint Barth will hold its fourth annual 'St. Barth Gourmet Festival' from 2-5 November 2017. Hosting six of the world's leading chefs in French gastronomy, the event will showcase their signature styles and celebrate the long-standing tradition of culinary excellence on the island.

During the festival, these chefs will pair with some of the island's most talented chefs to present a unique multi-course tasting menus. Chef Eric Frechon, executive chef at the three Michelin star Epicure restaurant at Le Bristol Hotel in Paris, will serve as patron to the festival, and as president of the jury for the Saint Barth's Chefs Challenge, among other duties.

The Chef's dinners will be held at some of the top

hotels and restaurants on the island, including Aux Amis at the Le Barthélemy Hotel, On the Rocks at Eden Rock, Batholomeo at Le Guanahani, Taïno at Hotel Christopher, Cheval Blanc St.-Barth Isle de France and Le Sereno Hotel. On all three evenings, each chef will prepare a four-course menu, as well as an eight-course menu.


"The Saint Barth Gourmet Festival is a major event that helps confirm the dominant position of the island as a world-class tourist Caribbean destination, while allowing both guests and residents to enjoy the best of French gastronomy in a friendly, festive atmosphere," said Nils DuFau, President of the Territorial Tourism Committee of Saint Barth.

In addition to the chefs' dinners, the festival will

include other activities to celebrate the many facets of French gastronomy. This year, there will be a bartender contest held by Cognac Martell at Quarter on Friday 3 November, as well as culinary competitions such as the Saint Barth's Chefs Challenge by Champagne Lanson at Bonito on 5 November.

A new event this year is the Challenge Joyfood by Badoit, which will take place on 4 November, and will feature teams of locals and visitors cooking together for the chefs. ■

Cuba - Dancing with sharks



Shark!" someone shouts, and the crew is on guard. Very close to the stern, an enormous fish approaches the surface and shows its dorsal fin, in a gesture that for years has been interpreted as a threat. For the Cuban fishermen on board, however, this is simply part of their daily ritual in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

In fact, Víctor Martínez, a fisherman with 50 years experience, assures that, "if a shark doesn't come close to the boat, neither do the fish."

Thus, while mainstream Hollywood movies have repeatedly presented sharks as the bad guys, Víctor says there is a lot of fantasy behind such stories. In real life, at least here, it is not true that sharks charge boats, or pursue those travelling in them.


"We fish with 10, 20, and even 40 sharks surrounding us, and that has never happened," he explains. Leonardo Méndez, who has been fishing for about 35 years, states the same. "In time, you see them as a normal, everyday thing, and so far we have not had any scares with them."

Both are part of the La Coloma industrial fishing enterprise, the largest of its kind in the country, located in the province of Pinar del Río, and devoted to catching fish of the tuna family (bonito, albacore and tuna fish) in the deep waters of the Gulf.

According to experts, this is the hardest type of fishing conducted in the waters surrounding the Cuban archipelago, as it involves two tasks in one. First, catching the bait, from among mangroves, shortly after dawn, and hours later, catching the fish at sea.

Luis Alfredo Martínez, another fisherman, explains that the working day begins around 6 am. "We have to reach the keys near the Isle of Youth, and with the water at our waist and a net, catch the bait and throw it into a tank on the boat, so that it stays alive. Then we sail several miles, skirting the Isle, and around 3 pm we leave for the Gulf, to fight it out."

Apart from a fright, nothing has happened to those fishermen who have fallen overboard. ■



Trinidad and Tobago – Exploring attractions in Chaguaramas

Walking amongst nutmeg trees that are more than 200 years old in Nutmeg Vale, marvelling at the Blue Grotto, stalagmites and stalactites in the Gasparee Caves and ziplining through the rainforest, are just three of the many nature-based activities visitors can enjoy in Chaguaramas, on the northwest peninsula of Trinidad and Tobago.

Speaking at a recent “Stay to Get Away 2017” tour of Gasparee Caves on the Island of Gaspar Grande, President of the Trinidad and Tobago In Coming Tour Operators (TTITOA), Lorraine Pouchet, outlined her support for partnerships with the Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA) and private tour groups.

“We are going to have on-going discussions on the way forward in marketing Chaguaramas and on how best we can achieve that, using what we have,” she stated.

Pouchet’s call to maximise limited resources was echoed by the CDA’s Acting General Manager (GM), Deowattee Dilraj Batoosingh, who confirmed that the CDA has been using its available funds to make improvements to the facilities under its management.

“I have instructed our maintenance crew to ensure the grass on the Chaguaramas Golf Course is maintained properly; this is the only public course in Trinidad, so that the public can have a better experience. Cleaner, better maintained sites would help us to attract more visitors, who would then spend money at our tenants’ businesses, which augers well for our ability to generate more revenue down the line if and when those tenants decide to expand.” ■

ECLAC CARIBBEAN

Family

Brown Bag: Musical Merge

Organizers of ECLAC's Brown Bag sessions presented an informative and interactive lunchtime session in September on the topic, 'Musical Merge'.

Providing the inspiration for this session was ECLAC family's own Leeandra Seelochan, who shared her knowledge and insight about the multiple genres of music and musical expression indigenous to Caribbean culture, with a touch of non-Caribbean music that we all love and listen to.

Thought we are unable to share those sounds with you in *The Hummingbird*, we take pleasure in sharing some of the photographic highlights from that day for your enjoyment! ■





Pumpkin Cheese Bread

What you will need:

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese**
- 1/2 cup white sugar**
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour**
- 1 egg**
- 1 tablespoon orange zest**
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon**
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves**
- 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice**
- 1 cup pumpkin puree**
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar**

What you need to do:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Lightly grease two 8x4 inch loaf pans.
2. In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon flour, 1 egg and orange zest; beat until smooth. Set aside. Sift together 1 2/3 cup flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cloves and pumpkin pie spice; set aside.
3. Place pumpkin, vegetable oil, 2 eggs and 1 1/2 cup sugar in a large bowl; beat well. Stir the pumpkin mixture into the flour mixture just until combined. Fold in the pecans if desired. Pour 1/2 of the pumpkin batter into the loaf pans. Spoon cream cheese mixture on top of this layer and then pour on the remaining batter.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 70 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean. Cool bread in pans for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.



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