



DISASTER ASSESSMENT

**ECLAC RECEIVES SUPPORT
FROM ACS**

POVERTY IN THE AMERICAS

**165 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE
AMERICAS LIVE IN POVERTY**

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

**DELIVERING EARLY
WARNINGS VIA MOBILE
PHONES**



ECLAC

CONTENTS



4

Article

Investment in green industries to assist with alleviating high Caribbean debt!.

7

Feature Article

ECLAC and ACS support disaster assessments in the Caribbean

10

Article

Delivering early warnings via mobile phones can save lives during a disaster.

12

Article

Taking a look at poverty in the Americas

16

State of Affairs

Recent activity by Caribbean governments

20

Around the Caribbean

- Saint Kitts and Nevis' Eggplant Casserole
- Chocolate lovers showcase in TCI

22

ECLAC Caribbean Family

Celebrating Aussie day with Peter Nicholls

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.

EDITORIAL TEAM

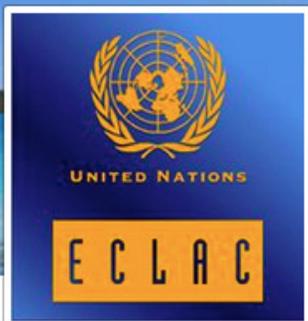
Editor: Alexander Voccia
Copy Editor: Denise Balgobin
Publication Design: Blaine Marcano

Please see our contact details on the back cover of this magazine

ECLAC CARIBBEAN



UNITED NATIONS



ECLAC Caribbean
Non-profit Organisation

Liked

Following

Message



Timeline

About

Events

Photos

More



Like us on Facebook

February Events

6-7

Joint ECLAC-WHO/PAHO disaster training
Lima and Piura, Peru
6 - 7 February 2017

14-15

8th International Conference on Integrated Natural
Disaster Management
Iran
14 - 15 February 2017

14-16

Caribbean Symposium on Mainstreaming the SDGs
into National Development Planning
Jamaica
14 - 16 February 2017

15-16

Preparatory Meeting of the UN Conference on SDG 14
New York, United States
15-16 February 2017

21-23

Symposium on Implementing the 2030 Agenda and
the Samoa Pathway in SIDS
Nassau, Bahamas
21-23 February 2017



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jan 23

Catch the full presentation on Debt Reduction Strategy delivered at UWI by the ECLAC Caribbean Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne: <http://vrb.al/alleyne-debtreduction>

SALISES Seminar: Debt Reduction Strategy



Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jan 15

The first United Nations World Data Forum. To explore and contribute, click here: <http://undataforum.org/>

UN World Data Forum



Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jan 11

The latest issues of #FOCUSmagazine. Inside: the importance of ICT for people with disability: <http://vrb.al/f2016-3>



Like · Comment · Share

INVESTMENT IN GREEN INDUSTRIES TO ASSIST WITH ALLEVIATING HIGH CARIBBEAN DEBT!

The Caribbean needs to pursue a new sustainable development framework that integrates economic, social and environmental issues in a seamless way, in order to alleviate its public debt burden which, since the global crisis of 2008-2009, has averaged over 77% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - far exceeding the 56% threshold. This is one of the findings coming out of the soon-to-be-published report, "A Framework for Caribbean Medium-term Development" by ECLAC Caribbean.

The report outlines that achieving medium-term growth entails the rebuilding of export capacity in areas of comparative advantage, and the search for new areas of potential competitive advantage. For this a two-pronged approach is needed. With regard to economic restructuring, this should be aimed at upgrading traditional sectors, including agriculture, mining, light industry and tourism to make them competitive. With regard to economic diversification, this should entail developing new products and services and finding new markets to expand trade. However, while these efforts are necessary, they are not sufficient to build a robust and dynamic Caribbean society.

It is estimated that consumer food products account for over 50% of the Caribbean's annual imports from the United States, comprising mainly poultry, red meats dairy products and processed fruits and vegetables. This list suggests that there is definite scope for

substituting imports with higher domestic production. This can be facilitated by achieving greater economies of scale by expanding production in the larger countries such as Guyana and Suriname. Indeed, businesses in Trinidad and Tobago are now investing in food production in Guyana.

Diversification activities such as these may assist in building a competitive economy with new productive activities. These could include investment in the green industries, such as green energy, agriculture and tourism, which together can provide the region with a competitive advantage. The ECLAC report also shows that both economic and social reforms need to be anchored to a framework that recognises the importance of the environment to





development. In this context, the report highlights that improved environmental management, including the protection of rare species and a focus on mitigating harmful effects of environmental damage caused by climate change, including potentially more intense natural hazards, is central to the sustainable development of Caribbean countries.

The above notwithstanding, economic restructuring and diversification must be underpinned by socio-political reforms. Crucial among these are the creation of improved social protection systems to contain the fall-out from economic adjustment, policies to reduce inequality and poverty and smarter crime fighting strategies to reduce the impact of crime and deviance on Caribbean societies. In addition, the region must address binding constraints in key areas.

Important among these are improved macroeconomic stability and the liberalization of key sectors such as telecommunications and regional transportation to drive down costs and increase efficiency in production and trade. Policymakers also need to design better policies and incentives to revitalise the private sector to make it the real engine of growth. This should include measures to improve the ease of doing business and enhanced incentives for investments in higher value added products and services that can compete in international markets. ■

** It is estimated that above this threshold debt starts to hurt growth in the Caribbean.*



FEATURE ARTICLE

ECLAC and ACS support
disaster assessments in
the Caribbean



E CLAC Caribbean, together with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), recently convened a four-day training course in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, to improve the ability of policymakers from eight Caribbean countries to prepare for disasters and to assess their effects and impacts.

[READ ARTICLE](#)





Under the theme, “Planning for Disaster Risk Management and Disaster Assessment Methodology in the context of the 2030 Development Agenda and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, the training on 24-27 January 2017 was attended by representatives from ECLAC, the ACS, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility).

In delivering opening remarks, the Director of ECLAC Caribbean, Diane Quarless, noted that the week’s activities “places appropriate emphasis on disaster risk management, in which the imperatives of risk reduction, risk identification, preparedness and financial protection are critical pillars of sustainable development and resilience.”



ECLAC AND ACS SUPPORT DISASTER ASSESSMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN

These perspectives were shared by the Secretary General of the ACS, Her Excellency Dr. June Soomer, who stated that “the benefits of more integrative, proactive frameworks will better aid in disaster risk reduction and will ensure that all citizens understand vulnerabilities and their role in managing such risks.”

Special focus was placed on the link between disaster risk management, the 2030 Agenda and the promotion of Principle 10 in the region. The Partnership for Principle 10 seeks to improve national public participation systems to ensure access to information, public participation, and justice in decision-making that affects the environment. With regard to the link between disaster risk reduction and the 2030 Agenda, Ms. Quarless underscored the importance of promoting the implementation and follow-up to the SDGs, including through the production of indicators for monitoring and measurement of the goals at national and regional levels, and the strengthening of national statistical systems.*

“

...risk reduction, risk identification, preparedness and financial protection are critical pillars of sustainable development and resilience.

Diane Quarless - Director, ECLAC Caribbean

”

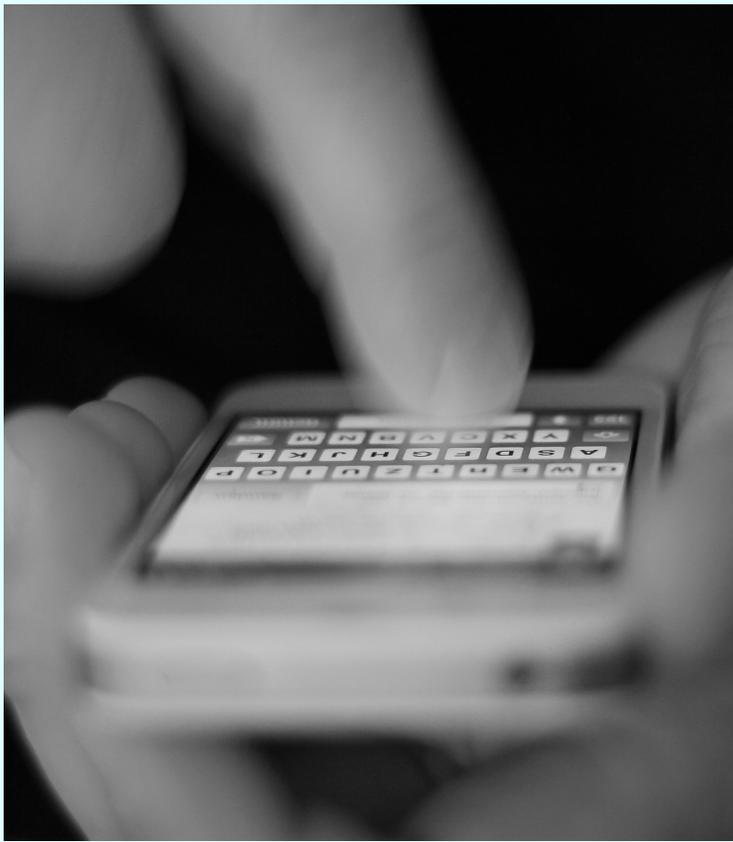
During the disaster training, ECLAC’s team shared the experience of various regional governments in the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in public investment and other disaster risk management initiatives and best practices. Additionally, country experiences were used during the presentations to clarify the application and importance of the Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) methodology, including from ECLAC assessments and trainings in the Bahamas, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti and Peru.

Following the week-long training, participants expressed their appreciation for the practical application of the DaLA methodology to assess damages and losses, for the clear differentiation between effects (damage,

loss and additional costs) and impacts, and for the use of examples to illustrate it. They also understood the importance of collecting sectoral data permanently in order to have reliable baseline information in case of a disaster and to identify existing vulnerabilities and risks before an event. This training was one of several efforts by ECLAC to strengthen the capacity of policy makers across Latin America and the Caribbean to prepare for and assess disasters. ■

* *These issues were at the heart of discussions during a meeting held in Port of Spain in December 2016, convened by ECLAC Caribbean, along with the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Unit of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat.*





Delivering early warnings via mobile phones can save lives during a disaster.

This is one of the findings of a study commissioned by ECLAC Caribbean on “Strengthening cooperation between Telecommunications Operators and National Disaster offices in Caribbean countries,” which will be published later this year.

Instituting mobile phone-based public early warning systems for disasters and emergencies may be extremely beneficial for the Caribbean. For instance, telecommunications service – especially mobile telephony and data services - can provide invaluable support to disaster management efforts by facilitating communication, coordination, and intelligence collection during emergency situations. Thus, as a matter of public safety, ensuring the resilience of telecommunications infrastructure in the face of natural hazards is of national importance.

However, some countries face challenges insofar as some of the systems which are crucial to building national resilience are either unavailable or inadequate. In addition,

modern telecommunications infrastructure is vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters, as was evident during recent events such as Tropical Storm Erika in Dominica, Hurricane Joaquin in the Bahamas, and Hurricane Earl in Belize. This means that in order to establish effective early warning systems, varying levels of progress will be required across the Caribbean subregion.

According to ECLAC’s report, one way in which resilience can be enhanced is by strengthening the relationship between operators of telecommunications services and national disaster offices. In this regard, the report outlines numerous areas for engagement between these entities and recommends the development of more formalized frameworks for mutual support. Among other issues, it considers

the need for improvement in information sharing practices, collaboration on public early warning systems, and the inclusion of telecommunications operators in disaster drilling exercises.

In these areas, ECLAC and other international organisations can provide a certain amount of expertise and advice, but there must be a sense of initiative from persons working within disaster offices and the telecommunications industry. Building disaster resilience is a challenge that will require national champions if it is to be considered a national priority. By working together, national disaster offices and telecommunications companies serve as champions. ■

CAR RIA COU

MAROON AND MUSIC FESTIVAL



Grenada was one of eight countries that participated in the joint ECLAC/ACS disaster training in Trinidad and Tobago in January. And while the island has been at the receiving end of some of the Caribbean's worst disasters, such as Hurricane Ivan in 2004 which caused widespread damage to the entire island, Grenada is also home to one of the subregion's most popular musical events.

The Carriacou Maroon and Music Festival is slated for April 2017 and will take place over three days at three venues. This tiny island, located on the northeast of Grenada celebrates the Maroon aspect of the festival with thanksgiving and prayers to the source of all life, production and prosperity. Its African origins are authentically depicted through the drumming, singing, eating of "smoke food" and other rituals practised in the unique Carriacou way by its people.

The event encourages patrons to bring along their families to sample the taste of the traditional smoked food, enjoy performances by artistes from other Caribbean islands and participate in three evenings of fun, games and pure entertainment. One unique aspect of the music festival commonly enjoyed by visitors is the string band music from some of Carriacou's popular musicians. ■

Taking a look at poverty in the Americas

There are more than 165 million people in the Americas who live in poverty, 69 million of whom live in extreme poverty. This according to a draft report, entitled "Poverty, Extreme Poverty, and Human Rights in the Americas", from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), which recently brought together experts for a regional consultation on the topic.

Lydia Rosa Gény, Associate Gender Affairs Officer at ECLAC Caribbean, was one of the experts who recently attended a consultation on the draft IACHR report in Panama City.

Ms. Gény highlighted that the Caribbean subregion faces a high incidence of poverty, inequality and crime. "All of these negatively impact social and human capital and development and place obstacles to the effective enjoyment and exercise of all human rights by people of the region. Even though -with a few exceptions-, Caribbean countries are classified as having high levels of human development, statistics indicate that poverty is around 25% for countries with data." More specifically, the report highlights that official data using US\$1.25 and US\$2 per day criteria show that five countries in the region- Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago- account for a little more than 75% of the Caribbean population living in extreme poverty. Estimates based on national poverty lines suggest that in the early 2000s those five countries accounted for approximately 88% of the extreme poverty and more than 80% of total poverty in the subregion.*

The report provides an opportunity to recall the international and regional legal framework establishing States' obligations and responsibilities, and also provides a series of recommendations to address poverty, discrimination and human rights violations. "The theme of the consultation was of utmost importance for the Caribbean. The report only included information from Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname. Due to the scarcity of data, it is essential to find synergies between our programs of work under the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable



Development Goals (SDGs), the first of them being to eradicate all forms of poverty. 'Leave no one behind' must be applied to all individuals, and all countries, including those in the Caribbean," Ms. Gény emphasized.

Ms. Gény also informed her peers that, with few exceptions, Caribbean countries are classified as having high levels of human development. "There has been considerable progress in health and education, with an increase in life expectancy and a decline in infant mortality. However, the subregion faces a high incidence of poverty, inequality and crime, which negatively impacts social capital and social cohesion, and places obstacles to the effective enjoyment of the entire spectrum of human rights by all inhabitants of the region. More attention should be given to the specific needs of women and girls, older persons, those with disabilities, persons living in rural areas and those affected by disaster related situations, who might be more at risk of falling into poverty. Everyone in the Caribbean has the right to a life with dignity."

"These are important concerns, because they not only affect social welfare, cohesion and harmony, but also slow down economic growth. It is now well established that growth is good for equality and equality is good for growth. By opening the space for more citizens to reach their full potential, equality promotes productivity and growth, leaving no one behind," she added.

As ECLAC Caribbean's representative during the consultation, Ms. Gény opened the door for further constructive dialogue and cooperation between IACHR and ECLAC.

* United Nations (2010). *Millennium Development Goals. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals with equality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress and Challenges*. 19 September 2016. p. 8-11

Mashramani festival to celebrate Guyana's Republic Day

Guyana was one of the four Caribbean countries for which data was available for inclusion in the report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), as discussed in the previous article.

In addition to placing importance on the gathering of information on poverty and human rights, Guyana is also busy preparing for its Republic Day this month, with activities centering on its national carnival festival, or Mashramani as it is more widely known. Mashramani is the Arawak word for Mashirimehi, which was a type of festival held by Amerindians whenever they gathered to celebrate a special event.

Taking place this year on 23 February, "Mash" is the largest annual event held in Guyana. Locals and tourists gather in Georgetown, Linden and Berbice to participate in the celebrations, which start before dawn and peak a few hours after sunrise. There is an elaborate costume parade and competition, games, music, food, floats, masquerade bands, and dancing in the streets to the accompaniment of steel band music and calypsoes.

Masqueraders often perform acrobatic dance routines, which is a reminder of Guyana's African heritage. Calypso competitions with their witty social commentaries are another integral part of "Mash", and this culminates in the coronation of a King or Queen of the festival for the particular year. ■



Governments can reduce energy transportation cost through the use of electric vehicles



ECLAC Caribbean completed a study on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Caribbean, which focuses on “Promoting Energy Efficiency in Government Transportation Systems”. The study, based on previous analysis done for the Government of Saint Lucia, developed a roadmap for enhancing energy efficiency in government vehicle fleets through the transition to electric/hybrid/plug-in hybrid (EV/HEV/PHEV) vehicles. The study focuses on improving data collection and energy efficiency in the sector as a whole, as a first step in ensuring a sustainable transition to vehicle electrification. The impetus for this undertaking moves from the recognition that transportation accounts for 36% of the total energy consumption in Latin America and Caribbean countries, but that due to lack of available data, progressive decision-making and a comprehensive understanding of the sector can be somewhat challenging.

Transport-related policies are varied and require important investments and systemic changes, such as urban planning, development of public transportation alternatives, establishment of sectoral emissions goals, introduction of tax incentives to promote use of Energy Efficiency (EE) vehicles, and behavioural changes - all of which pose challenges for policy makers in the Caribbean.

However, although transportation is the second most important consumption sector in the Caribbean, governments have less degree of freedom to effectively promote policies in this area, given the complexity of the sector and the unavailability of data for comprehensive analyses. Furthermore, countries in the region are currently underutilizing public transportation. In this regard, while adjustments are needed in order to reduce the use of personal vehicles, these require urban planning and implementation of attractive public transportation options.



Celebrating Saint Patrick's Day in Montserrat

Besides being one of the countries that will be the focus of the upcoming ECLAC Caribbean study on promoting energy efficiency for government transportation systems, the island of Montserrat is also known as the "other emerald isle".

This is because of the dedicated activities that take place on celebration of the annual "green" festival, St. Patrick's Day, which is typically an Irish festival. In Montserrat, the festivities marking Ireland's national holiday last an entire week, and also celebrates the anniversary of the Montserrat slave uprising on March 17, 1768. Unlike anywhere else in the world – outside of Ireland – Montserrat is the only country where St Patrick's Day is a public holiday.

A fact that may not be widely known is that the harp and female figure on the flag and official seal of Montserrat is derived from the island's deep-rooted Irish heritage. Visitors are also reminded of the island's Irish past when they receive a shamrock-shaped stamp in their passports and are greeted by locals wearing national dresses -- in which green is the dominant colour. Not to mention the never-ending supply of Guinness and green Heineken, which are on tap throughout the island's bars getting all ready for the festivities!

The final day (17 March) of the week-long activities is marked by plenty of drinking, partying and a lively parade which includes masked street dancers, a recreated slave village complete with a slave feast of local food, and a junior calypso competition. A friendly race, called The Freedom Run, usually takes place between the towns of Cudjoe Head and Salem Park, ending with kite flying, top spinning and unique music combining African and Irish influences. ■

Governments that choose to transition their vehicle fleets are expected to make improvements to their infrastructure and data, as well as institutional, regulatory and technical frameworks, thus creating an enabling environment and setting the foundations to promote a generalized transition of public and private vehicles in the near future.

Against this backdrop, and cognizant of these challenges, the ECLAC study identifies the main transition phases and suggests a logical framework with specific actions to overcome the main data, infrastructure, governance and technical challenges. In this context, the study also incorporates a technical overview of potential transition technologies, and identifies potential financing partners and conditionalities. ■

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



The Bahamas

OPPOSITION PARTY DIVIDED - Dec 7th -

Seven members of the Free National Movement (FNM) made a written request to the country's Governor General, Dame Marguerite Pindling, to revoke the appointment of the country's Opposition Leader, Dr. Hubert Minnis. The letter was revealed during a parliamentary sitting by the House Speaker Dr. Kendal Major who read the letter for all present. The letter stated that the undersigned members had lost confidence in the abilities of the incumbent leader and that Ms. Loretta Butler-Turner should be appointed in his place.

FIRST FEMALE OPPOSITION LEADER - Dec 13rd -

Ms. Loretta Butler-Turner was appointed to the position of Opposition Leader by the country's Governor General. Further to this the newly appointed leader has also formed an alliance with another minority opposition party known as the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) and named a former political rival, Mr. Branville McCartney as the Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate. Ms. Butler-Turner announced that the two parties will be joining their efforts in getting the ruling Progressive Labour Party (PLP) out of power. For his part, McCartney signaled he was ready to work with the FNM to build a better Bahamas.



Cuba

FIRST EXPORTS TO US IN MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY - Jan 6th -

The US Company Coabana Trading LLC has finalized an agreement with Cuba Export to import into the United States Marabu charcoal which is produced in Cuba. This marks the first time in more than half a century that a Cuban-produced product will be exported from Cuba and sold in the United States. The much anticipated agreement will provide Cuban Marabu charcoal producers with a growing market less than 100 miles away.

CARICOM, CUBA AGREE TO EXPAND PREFERENTIAL MARKET ACCESS - Feb 8th -

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cuba have reached agreement for the expansion of preferential access to each other's markets. A significant number of items from CARICOM countries, including beer, fish and other agricultural products, and manufactured goods, have been approved for entry into the Cuban market free of duty once both sides formalise the agreement. CARICOM member states have also agreed to grant duty-free access to Cuban goods, including pharmaceuticals.



Dominican Republic

TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CURACAO - Jan 20th -

The Curacao Association of Small and Medium size Business (ADECK) and the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in the Dominican Republic recently signed an agreement at the office of the consul of the Dominican Republic in Curacao. The agreement is intended to promote interrelation in the business communities interested in doing business and investing in the Dominican Republic and in Curacao. Another purpose of the agreement is promote technical assistance via the mutual commercial information and technology between the countries.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC US CONGRESSMAN MAKES POLITICAL HISTORY - Feb 13th -

New York senator, Adriano Espaillat's made history when he became a member of the US House of Representatives from New York's 13th District as he is the Dominican Republican in history to do so. "Today, this is a once in a lifetime achievement and it's also proof that hard work and dedication, and perseverance can lead to many accomplishments and victories for all in our communities," Espaillat stated as he assumed office.

EMPOWERING MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE CARIBBEAN

Countries of the Caribbean are being encouraged to collect and analyze data on the interrelationship between development, migration and women's empowerment, in order to enhance gender equality in the subregion. This is one of the conclusions from a [newly released report](#) that summarizes the proceedings of a half-day seminar held in Montevideo, Uruguay in October 2016. Organized by ECLAC Caribbean, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the seminar, which took place on the eve of the Thirteenth Session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, discussed the issue of women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean.

Here are some of the conclusions from that event:

1

The Caribbean region is behind in conducting systematic and regular data collection and analysis on the interrelationship between development, migration and women's empowerment. Such systematic data collection and analysis could enhance gender equality in the subregion and should include data disaggregated by age, gender, migratory status, geographic location, disability and ethnicity, in compliance with international standards on data protection.

2

It is important to adopt a human rights-based approach when considering migration. Migrant women and girls are rights-holders and should be able to exercise their human rights in any circumstances. Therefore, migration laws and policies have to include gender and rights-based approaches that consider the specific needs of women migrants and girls at all stages of the migration process.

3

The right to a nationality is of paramount importance to the realization of other human rights and needs to be addressed in the context of female deportation and statelessness of women and girls.

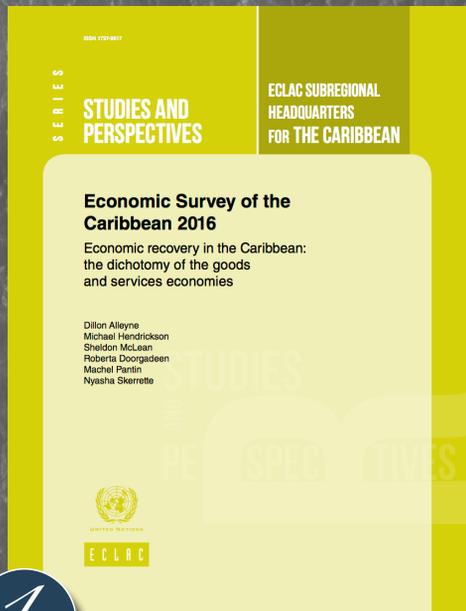
4

Additional research is needed to better understand the impact of migration on areas such as the sustainability of social protection schemes in countries of origin; the implications of migrants returning to their countries of origin, including the social, economic and family dynamics of reunification; and the role being played by new social media platforms on women and girls on the move.

5

Banking systems in the Caribbean need to be enhanced in order to make better use of remittances in the region.

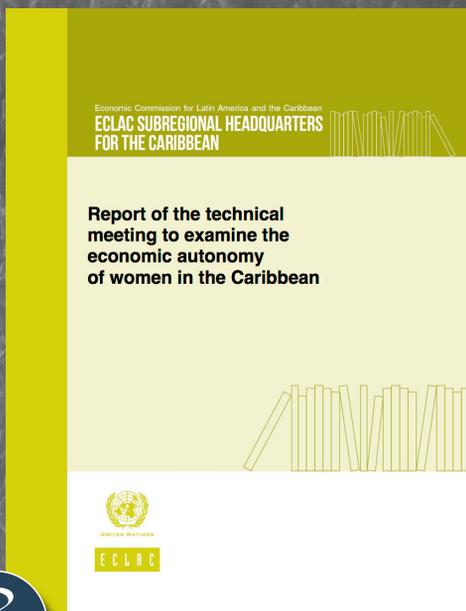




1.

Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2016

Economic recovery in the Caribbean: the dichotomy of the goods and services economies



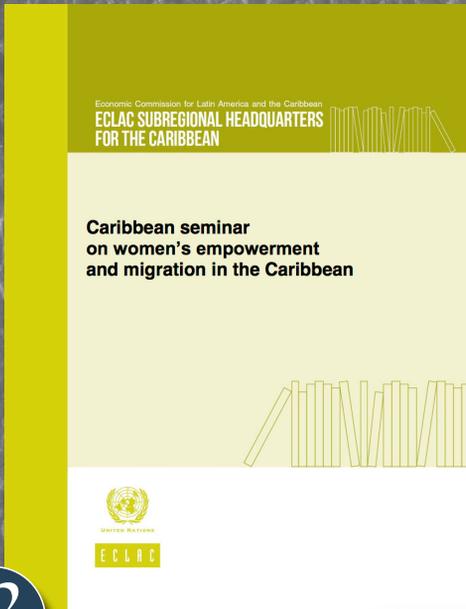
3.

Evaluation report of the training workshop on energy efficiency and renewable energy policy in the Caribbean

AVAILABLE NOW!

CLICK ON COVER TO DOWNLOAD.

HARDCOPIES AVAILABLE AT ECLAC CARIBBEAN WHILE STOCKS LAST.



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 international
observances:



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

11/2



International Day of Women and Girls in Science

“To continue to ignore future pioneers and innovators in cutting-edge science fields because of the pervasive influence of gendered inequality in our societies is to seriously inhibit the fullest development potential of our countries in the fields of science.”

#DirectorsTake

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



Saint Kitts and Nevis' Eggplant Casserole

Ingredients:

2 medium eggplants
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium onion, sliced
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
8 medium tomatoes, sliced
2 carrots, grated
1 tbsp tomato paste
2 medium sweet peppers, chopped
1 stalk celery, chopped
2 sprigs chive, chopped
2 pimento peppers
3 sprigs fine leaf thyme
1 cup parmesan cheese, grated
1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated
Salt and black pepper to taste

Directions

1. Slice one eggplant. Discard the two ends. Sprinkle the slices with salt, and let stand for about 10 minutes in a colander placed in the sink so that the eggplants bitter liquid drains away. Peel and chop, the other eggplant.
2. Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Saute the onion, garlic, pimento pepper and sweet pepper. Add the tomatoes, then after a few minutes add the celery, fine leaf thyme and chive.
3. Add the tomato paste and mix together.
4. Add the sweet pepper, grated carrot and the chopped eggplant. Leave to cook for about a few minutes until the eggplant is brown. Season with salt and black pepper to taste.
5. Place a layer of the eggplant slices in 23x30cm baking dish.
6. Place half of the sauteed tomatoes and eggplant over the slices of eggplant.
7. Layer with half the amount of grated cheese, and repeat until finished.
8. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until the top is golden brown.

Preparation time: 20 minutes.
Cook time: 30 minutes.
Serves 4.





Chocolate lovers showcase in TCI raises record funds

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) was one of ECLAC Caribbean's Associate Member Countries that attended the 13th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in October in Uruguay. In addition to seeking ways to empower women, TCI has recently also been seeking to raise funds at its annual Chocolate Lovers Showcase. The third annual Showcase charity fundraiser and competition was held on 3 February 2017, and was attended by more than 200 persons. About US \$19,000 was collected for the TCI Salvation Army's children feeding programme.

Salvation Army members were very happy that the event, which was hosted at the Regent Palms Hotel, had surpassed the funds collected in previous years. Guests enjoyed sampling scrumptious chocolaty delights from nine of the island's finest restaurants in the beautiful courtyard of the hotel, where live music added to the charming atmosphere of the competition. Participants included chefs from the Gansevoort, Fresh bakery,

Parallel 23, Amanyara, Parrot Cay, Grace Bay Club, Beach House, Seven Stars and Somewhere Café. All served-up some of the most delectable chocolate creations, indulging attendees in a variety of different types of chocolates creatively crafted into sweet and savoury treats - some that no doubt looked too good to eat.

The delicious chocolate creations and even chocolate-inspired beverages made the competition a remarkably close call. In the end, Parrot Cay captured the approval of most attendees and judges, and emerged winner of the number one sweet treat, and also of the people's choice award. Parallel 23 captured the title of best savoury desert while Amanyara received an honourable mention.

In addition to funds raised from tickets sales, a live auction saw generous bidders participating to win fabulous prizes including weekend stays at luxurious hotels on island, spa treatments and dinners - all donated by the local corporate community. ■

ECLAC CARIBBEAN

Family

Celebrating Aussie day with Peter Nicholls

Australia celebrates its official National Day on January 26, and the ECLAC Caribbean family marked the day with a special Tim Tam Slam morning tea with our Aussie colleague, Peter Nicholls.

Coordinator of the Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre, Peter brought several flavours of the popular biscuit to Trinidad and Tobago with him from his home country, and generously shared it with ECLAC staff while testing the office's knowledge of some Aussie vernacular.

For those who are not familiar with Aussie traditions, Tim Tam is a brand of chocolate biscuit made by Australian biscuit manufacturer, Arnott's. It consists of two malted biscuits separated by a light chocolate cream filling and coated in a thin layer of textured chocolate, and is available in a variety of delicious flavours.

The Tim Tam Slam (also known as the Tim Tam Shotgun, Tim Tam Bomb, Tim Tam Explosion and Tim Tam Suck) is the practice of drinking a hot beverage through a Tim Tam. Opposite corners of the Tim Tam are bitten off, one end is submerged in the beverage, and the beverage sucked through the biscuit - as though the Tim Tam itself is a

straw. The crisp interior biscuit is eventually softened and the outer chocolate coating begins to melt, at which point the biscuit is eaten. The Tim Tam Slam can also be performed with cold (usually milk-based) beverages.

Here are some photos of staff trying out the Tim Tam Slam:





CONTACT US

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean,
1 Chancery Lane, P.O. Box 1113,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies.

Telephone: 1 868 224 8000
E-mail: registry@eclacpos.org

MEDIA CONTACT
Tel.: 1 868 224 8075
E-mail: media-pos@eclac.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



www.eclacpos.org

