



IWD 2018

ECLAC CARIBBEAN PARTNERS WITH
T&T NGOS FOR INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY 2018

CARIBBEAN DEBT

DEBT SWAP TASK FORCE OUTLINES
ADVANCEMENT GOALS

EXPORT STUDY

NEW ECLAC STUDY MAKES
RECOMMENDATIONS ON
IMPROVING CARIBBEAN EXPORT
PERFORMANCE



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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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April Events

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World Autism Awareness Day
2 April 2018

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World Health Day
7 April 2018

9-13

Commission on Population and Development, Fifty-first session, New York
9-13 April 2018

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Chinese Language Day
20 April 2018

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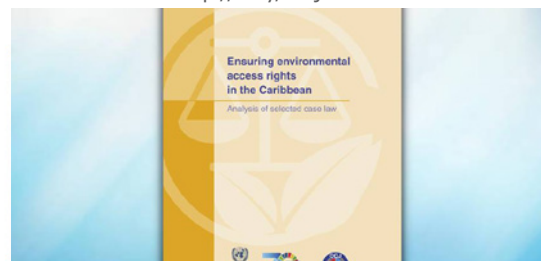
Spanish Language Day
23 April 2018

ECLAC Caribbean

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DEBT SWAP TASK FORCE OUTLINES ADVANCEMENT GOALS

Many Caribbean countries are carrying a significant burden of public debt. This is compromising their prospects for sustained growth and development. ECLAC has proposed a Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap initiative to address this challenge, as well as to generate the resources needed to finance resilience building measures.

It is an innovative strategy that involves harnessing concessionary flows to transform the debt of the region into a resource for investment in resilience, while at the same time re-energizing growth through economic diversification in green industries.

A task force comprising many key regional organizations was established to advance this initiative. The task force met most recently via Webex in Port of Spain on 23 February 2018.

Participants included consulting experts and representatives from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the governments of Anguilla and Jamaica. ■



SAME DAY MONEY TRANSFER IMMINENT THROUGHOUT EASTERN CARIBBEAN CURRENCY UNION

Clients of commercial banks in the countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union will soon be able to send and receive money in EC currency, on the same day.

According to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the ECCU Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) system, which offers a more secure, faster and more efficient method of transferring funds, is expected to be available to customers by June 2018. A representative of the ECCB said that, globally, many countries have already moved or are moving towards electronic funds transfer and the implementation of the EFT. The bank therefore, seeks to keep pace with global trends and international standards.

"It also forms part of the overall thrust of financial institutions to enhance the services offered to their customers and is another step towards fulfillment of the ECCB's objective of creation of a single financial space," the spokesperson stated.

The Eastern Caribbean Automated Clearing House (ECACH), a partnership between the ECCB and ECCU commercial banks responsible for the electronic clearing and settlement of cheques will be responsible for the launch and management of the Electronic Funds Transfer system. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

ECLAC CARIBBEAN PARTNERS WITH T&T NGOs FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018



ECLAC Caribbean, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and other agencies of the UN System of Trinidad and Tobago, recently joined the Mayor's Office of Port of Spain and local women's organisations, including the Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago, the National Muslim Women's Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago, and Soroptimist International San Fernando, to support the InterClub of Trinidad and Tobago in celebrating the International Women's Day (IWD) 2018 in Port of Spain.

READ MORE



International Women's Day 2018

This year, IWD came on the heels of an unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality and justice. Sexual harassment and violence and discrimination against women have captured news headlines and dominated public discourse in recent times. This has propelled a rising demand for change. The 2018 celebration, therefore, provided an opportunity to call for the empowerment of women, and to celebrate activists who are working to establish women's rights and to help women to realize their full potential.

The United Nations theme of this year's IWD was 'Time is now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives', and the events brought together many stakeholders to discuss the many issues affecting women at all levels of society.

ECLAC Caribbean's Associate Gender Affairs Officer, Lydia Rosa Gény, and the President of the InterClub, Jan Ryan discussed some of the achievements made by women in the region, on two local television talk shows, ahead of the IWD. Gény alluded to the importance of including men into the conversation when discussing gender equality.

"Women's day is every day and everywhere, and we must ensure that the concerns and experiences of both women and men at all ages and their participation are always included in our efforts, especially daily, if we want to contribute to making societies more equal and



Members of the organizing committee of the International Women's Day event

inclusive places for everyone," Gény said.

In addition, Ryan presented the week of activities showcasing women in their many roles in society, which took place from 5-9 March 2018, with an inauguration ceremony at the UWI Saint Augustine campus on 'Gender Justice'.

The highlight and arguably the most well-attended event of the week was a 'Women's City Village: Empowering rural and urban women', held at the Port of Spain City Hall on Wednesday 7 March, where ECLAC Caribbean played a leading role, jointly with UNFPA, in supporting the Port of Spain City Corporation and other collaborating organisations. *

That day began with a "power-walk" around Woodford Square in Port of Spain, as a show of solidarity

and unity for the promotion of the rights of women and girls. This was followed by the official opening of the Women's City-Village at the City Hall by the Deputy Mayor of Port of Spain, Hillian Morean, where more than 25 organizations, ranging from Government institutions to local businesses from both rural and urban areas had the opportunity to showcase their initiatives, products and services in a vibrant Marketplace

ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, referred to the immeasurable, untapped potential of rural and urban women. "With just a little help we can empower our women and girls to allow them to become more independent in both their economic and personal decision making. Today's event is an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of sisterhood, kinship and solidarity, that will no doubt bolster individual



and collective resolve for the work that will still need to be done when we leave this place," she said in her opening remarks.

Quarless added that promoting gender equality and the empowerment and autonomy of women and girls of all ages is imperative. "We advocate that without gender equality, development is neither genuine nor is it sustainable." The Liaison Officer of the UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, Aurora Noguera-Ramkissoon mentioned that "While there were challenges faced by women and girls in the inner city, some of the highest rates of gender-based violence, unemployment, illiteracy, adolescent pregnancy and other social issues happened in the rural areas". She said that many of the rural areas also tend to lack the physical infrastructure and public transportation that were available in urban areas, which makes access to public services a challenge.

The President of the InterClub, Jan Ryan, expressed her appreciation to the different stakeholders for their collaborative effort in organising the event and hoped that it was beneficial. The Alderman of the Port of Spain City Corporation, Asha Permanand, highlighted the need to promote the event on and into different communities.

This event was organized to give a voice to those women and girls who are sometimes left out of development initiatives, while also sharing some key success stories.

In the morning of the marketplace sessions, attention was paid to issues related to women's health and wellness by highlighting, for instance, diseases affecting them such as cervical cancer, endometriosis, and diabetes, and by providing information about prevention, care services and recovery. Another critical session was on safety and security, where several experts discussed violence against women, citizen security, including some tips on women's self-defence. Furthermore, a key session addressed food security, by stressing the important role of agricultural communities, identifying the challenges they face and solutions to overcome them.

The afternoon of the marketplace sessions was aimed at providing the tools and information needed to strengthen women's economic autonomy, through financial management and microenterprise development.

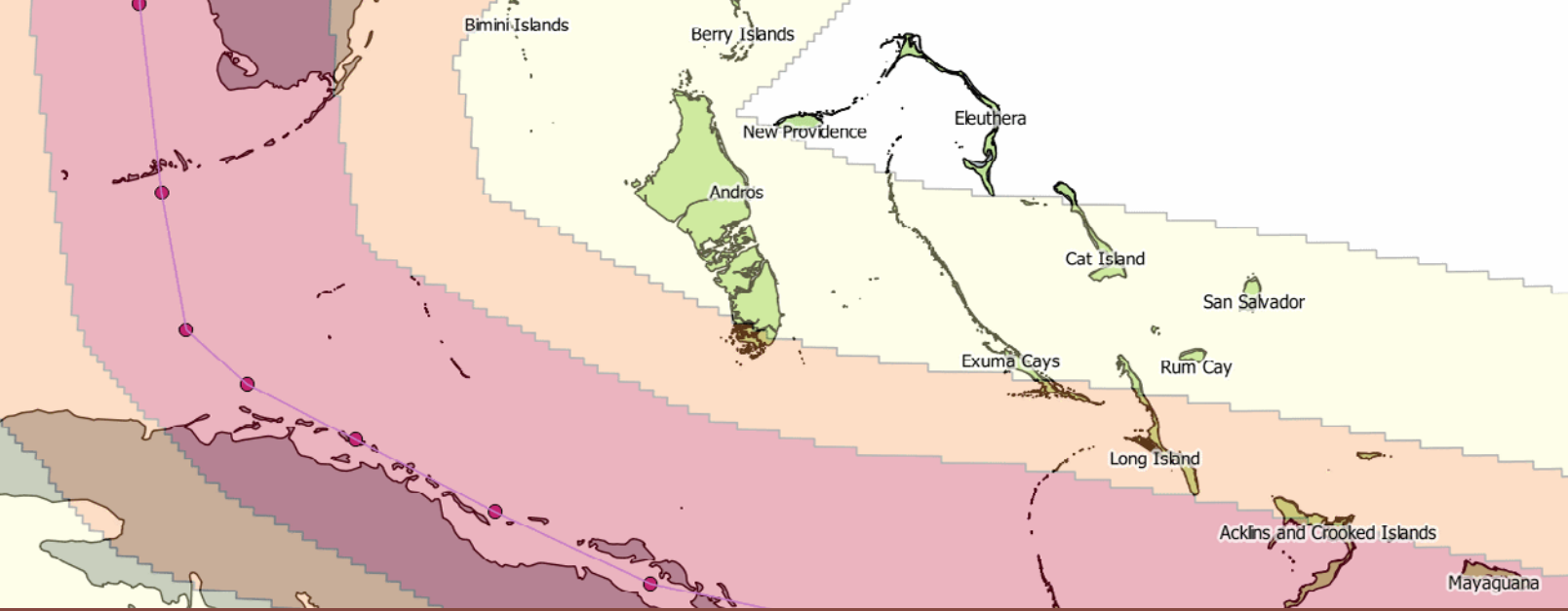
In fact, without access to adequate finance, women found it difficult to budget over the long term and achieve many goals. In this regard, challenging areas include being able to improve the quality of their business production, and saving for future consumption, investment or contingencies and to help their families avoid the poverty cycle.

Women visiting the City Village left the event feeling empowered and better informed to become agents for transformative change in the lives of women and girls in Trinidad and Tobago and across the region. This effort was facilitated by National

Financial Literacy Programme of the Central Bank, the services offered by the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) and the sharing of experiences of successful women's entrepreneurs in the country.

The day was also marked by many other attractions. Participants had the privilege to listen to the young spoken word poet and artist, Deneka Thomas, who used her voice against gender inequality and to the talented group of young female musicians of the St. Francois Girl College Steel Orchestra, who used their pan sticks and made a beautiful and heart touching performance to close the event. All the partners contributed to make this event a successful one. ■

* Association for Differently Abled Persons; Caribbean Lifestyles Diabetes Centre; Cashew Gardens Community Council; Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago; Central Handicraft Association of Artisans and Talented Traders (CHATT); Conflict Women Ltd.; Dianne Tea Shop; Eco Truffles; Evergreene Virgin Coconut Oil; Girl Be Heard TT; ISD Health Solutions; Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago; Mamatoto Resource and Birth Centre; Ministry of Social Development and Family Services; My Sister's Keeper; National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO); National Muslim Women's Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago; Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago; Optometrist TT; Planting Seeds; Port of Spain City Corporation; Powerful Ladies of T&T (PLOTT); Rape Crisis/CADV; Soroptimist International San Fernando; Susan Shim; St Francois Girls College Steel Orchestra; Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA); Trinidad and Tobago Endometriosis Association; The Alliance of Rural Communities (ARC TT); The InterClub of Trinidad and Tobago; and Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago.



ECLAC PRESENTS DALA FINDINGS FOR BAHAMAS

The Bahamas was one of several Caribbean countries that suffered devastation following the passage of Hurricane Irma during September 2017. This disaster was the third in as many consecutive years that impacted the country, following hurricanes Joaquin in 2015 and Matthew in 2016.

A team from ECLAC travelled to the Bahamas in September 2017 to conduct the damage and loss assessment (DaLA) shortly after Irma's passage. ECLAC's DaLA estimates the damage, losses and additional costs caused by disasters in a country. This methodology considers the affected population, along with the social sector (which includes education, health, housing, public buildings); infrastructure sector (which includes roads, airports and docks, water and sewerage, power, and telecommunications); and productive sector (including tourism and fisheries).

On 12 February 2018, Dr Omar Bello, leader of the ECLAC team and Coordinator of

ECLAC Caribbean's Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, presented to the Government findings from a damage and loss assessment (DaLA) mission to the Bahamas, along with some recommendations for preparing for future hurricane seasons.

In the Bahamas, there were no fatalities or serious injuries reported because of Irma. The effects were mainly felt on five islands: Acklins, Bimini, Grand Bahama, Inagua and Ragged Island. Over 3,500 persons were housed in approximately 133 shelters which were activated during the hurricane. Irma's destruction was magnified due to the small and clustered settlements scattered throughout each island. According to the Bahamas' 2010 Census, there were 26 occupied dwellings in Ragged Island, 319 in Great Inagua, 209 in Acklins, 751 in Bimini and 15,140 in Grand Bahama.

In terms of housing, dwellings were damaged by strong winds and flooding. During field visits to the affected islands, the ECLAC team observed

that the most common roofing materials were plywood and asphalt shingles. In two of the southern islands, namely Acklins and Ragged Island, homes were not consistently constructed in keeping with the strict building codes observed on other islands.

Unlike previous storms, Irma did not directly affect the major tourism infrastructure of the Bahamas. However, the disruption in the tourism sector was still significant. This means that while most hotels and guest houses may not have been severely damaged, there would have been a decrease in the number of tourists visiting the islands over the course of the last few months of 2017.

The total estimated damage of Irma is US \$32.3 million, the losses US \$86.9 million and additional cost US \$11.4 million. Most of the damage was concentrated in the social and infrastructure sectors, while the losses were mostly in the productive sector, particularly in tourism. ■



ST KITTS-NEVIS BECOMES FIRST CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENT TO HAVE UNIQUE INTERNET IDENTITY

The government of St Kitts and Nevis has become the first in the Caribbean to have its own unique identifier on the global Internet.

An autonomous system number, called an ASN, was assigned to the Caribbean nation by the American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) on March 7. An ASN is used to identify a computer network on the global Internet, and is an important part of the system used to exchange data between the thousands of networks that make up the Internet.

Previously, the St Kitts and Nevis government network was connected to the Internet through a number assigned by a commercial Internet service provider. Now, with its own autonomous system number, the government joins the ranks of other independent network operators around the world that are identifiable by a unique number.

“On September 19, 1983, the nation of St Kitts and Nevis achieved political independence. With this allocation of our very own autonomous system number, our government has taken an important step toward network independence. We see this as a critical element in our plans to build our government network and to provide our citizens and business community with the digital services they are demanding and deserve,” said Vincent Byron, attorney general and government minister responsible for justice, legal affairs and communications. As governments and businesses in the Caribbean rely increasingly on the Internet, more investment is

being made in securing domestic infrastructure and developing local technical capacity. ARIN, the non-profit corporation that manages the distribution of Internet number resources in the Caribbean, as well as Canada and the United States, as well as regional agencies like the Caribbean Telecommunications Union and the Caribbean Network Operators Group, has been working with the Federation to help build and secure government networks and digital services. “With autonomy comes greater responsibility,” said Bevil Wooding, Caribbean outreach liaison at ARIN.

“Just as political independence entailed new levels of responsibility, so too does network autonomy. The government of St Kitts and Nevis has demonstrated its commitment and leadership to building the local digital economy by securing its own autonomous system number. Next, it must build on this by investing in technical training, policy development and service innovation necessary to foster innovation and new economic opportunity,” Wooding added.

He was speaking at a training workshop recently held by ARIN in Basseterre, where the allocation of the ASN was announced. ARIN events in Grenada, Barbados, Saint Lucia and St Kitts and Nevis have sparked interest in increasing the number of autonomous networks in the Caribbean. Similar events are being planned for St Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica in the coming months. ■



CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE

Under the general theme, 'Promoting climate resilience and sustainable economic growth in the Caribbean', the Fifth meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR), this year was held in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia on 26 April 2018.

The CDR took a frontal look at four major issues facing the region with a view to identifying workable solutions to address them successfully.

Through panel presentations and dialogue among policy makers, academics, the private sector and other stakeholders, the meeting

discussed the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative; opportunities for investment in green industries to promote economic diversification; efforts to promote fiscal responsibility through the use of Public Expenditure Reviews in the Caribbean; and the continuing challenge of de-risking and ongoing difficulties being experienced by the offshore financial sector in several member States.

These interrelated issues received comprehensive attention at the CDR with a view to improving the resilience of the region from both economic and environmental perspectives. ■



NEW ECLAC STUDY MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPROVING CARIBBEAN EXPORT PERFORMANCE

The trade prospects of Caribbean countries could be improved if greater efforts were made to boost intra and extra-regional exports in the short-term. Countries may consider any of the following: the establishment of a registry of businesses, a buyer-seller forum, a regional framework for the conduct of market research, mechanisms to improve access to finance, particularly by single market economies (SMEs), as well as the strengthening of regional quality standards and improving transportation infrastructure.

These recommendations were made by ECLAC Caribbean in a newly published report on 'Monitoring trade agreements: Improving export performance and promoting industrialization in goods-producing economies of the Caribbean'. In the goods-producing economies agriculture, mining and manufacturing account for a larger share of value-added relative to the rest of the Caribbean. They are Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

ECLAC's study identifies the constraints faced by the subregion in exploiting trade opportunities provided by Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Partial Scope Agreements (PSAs). The challenges and capacity

constraints faced by the subregion are identified through case studies for Belize, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Considering the economic and fiscal circumstances of many Caribbean economies, the current regional model needs to be reshaped to optimize economic growth.

To date, the Caribbean's exports have largely been characterized by primary products and relatively low levels of technological intensity in production. However, Caribbean economies that can actively achieve deeper integration into the multilateral trading system may benefit from increased market access and investments and policy frameworks geared towards inducing the requisite structural change. ■



OFFSHORE MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

High demand for medical education in North America, challenges in accessing training in North American medical universities and an abundance of financial capital are noted factors influencing the emergence of a cluster of tertiary level medical education institutions across the Caribbean.

The subregion also appears to be an ideal location for the establishment of offshore medical universities (OMUs), given its proximity to the United States, language similarities, and the relative ease afforded the establishment of these medical universities.

These and other findings are outlined in a recently published study from ECLAC Caribbean, entitled 'A global value chain analysis of offshore medical universities in the Caribbean'. The main characteristics of the OMU cluster in the Caribbean include the fact that they are for profit institutions, training students seeking to become physicians in the US. The Caribbean OMUs act as a substitute for US medical universities, allowing students to attain pre-clinical training. The idea of OMUs in the Caribbean started in the 1970s when American

entrepreneurs saw a demand for medical education from North American students which could not be met domestically.

The Caribbean region was appealing because of what was perceived as less stringent regulatory oversight than that found in the US or Canada. Caribbean governments were willing to offer tax incentives to foreign investors proposing to establish such institutions. Tuition at these Caribbean offshore medical universities was offered at significantly lower rates than those at US medical universities.

OMUs contribute to the economies of the host countries through the taxes directly paid by the universities, and expenses incurred by the staff and students. The operations of the universities and the needs of their population positively impact the local economies of their host countries. When compared to other medical universities in the world, OMUs in the Caribbean rank low in terms of the quality of their institutions. However, if the comparison is based on their performance and on the number of awards of Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) Certification, the medical

institutions in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and Sint Maarten, will emerge among the top 10 universities.

ECLAC's study examined two strategies that have been taken to improve the quality of the Caribbean OMUs. One strategy has been the implementation of the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP) since 2003, to accredit medical universities located in the Caribbean region. The second measure is the new requirement of the ECFMG, whereby offshore medical universities producing international medical graduates for the US market must gain accreditation that is comparable to the standards established by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

The study offers a preliminary look at the pros and cons of OMUs as a budding sector in the Caribbean's search for opportunities for economic diversification and export-led growth. ■

SEVENTH RCM/TAC MEETING EXAMINES SIDS AGENDA IN THE CARIBBEAN

Strategies for building synergies between the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were discussed during the Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM), which was hosted by ECLAC Caribbean in March 2018.

The RCM is a regional coordinating mechanism created in response to requests from governments, and the TAC is the technical body charged with the practical aspects of coordination and reporting its recommendations to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

The RCM was first proposed by Caribbean states, as a

coordinating mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the development agenda as outline under the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA). It has been retained for the coordination of all subsequent development programmes including the MSI, and the SAMOA Pathway.

One area of focus at the more recent meeting was the proposal of national and multinational institutional infrastructure for the implementation of the SDGs, whereby the requirements of the RCM could be incorporated. This would require the establishing of independent data platforms for the exclusive use by the RCM.

To be clear, as countries begin to implement the SDGs, their mainstreaming into the national strategy would be more relevant. However, in order to successfully

realize these national and subregional indicators, data collection and reporting systems would have to be standardized in accordance with global requirements.

Critical also for the sustainability of this regional mechanism would be clear and specific financing arrangements for the operations of the RCM secretariat, which would provide a basis for the undertaking of targeted resource training in the form of donor-funded projects.

The implementation of this proposal will require enhanced operational and reporting elements of the RCM at the level of the CDCC. A draft position paper on the RCM, prepared by ECLAC, will be presented to the CDCC this month. ■



STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Antigua and Barbuda

VISA-FREE AGREEMENT WITH UKRAINE

- Feb -

The Ukraine signed a visa-free agreement with Antigua and Barbuda. The agreement was signed by the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Valery Chaly and Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the U.S. Ronald Sanders. The visa free regime with Antigua and Barbuda allows Ukrainian citizens to stay in the country for a period not exceeding 90 days in any 180-day period.

UAE CLIMATE PROJECT

- Feb -

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a climate project to aid people displaced by natural disasters and reduce climate change risks around the world. Barbuda will get a share of \$1 million to be used in strengthening the physical infrastructure and providing utilities among vulnerable groups, especially women. According to Prime Minister Browne, Barbuda Island will also install 10 MegaWatt of solar through a UAE \$15 million concession loan.



Belize

SECURITY COOPERATION

- Feb -

Belize received US \$500,000 from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to support ongoing efforts aimed at strengthening the Belize Police Department as part of the Security Cooperation that exists between the two countries. Receiving the cheque on behalf of the Government of Belize was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, Hon. Wilfred Elrington; and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) was Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize, His Excellency Charles K. Y. Liu.

CLIMATE RESILLIANCE MEASURES

- Mar -

Belize will seek to reduce its vulnerability to climate change and risk with the implementation of climate resilience measures in the tourism sector and the improvement of disaster risk management governance, through a US\$10 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The project is expected to directly or indirectly benefit 103,503 people living in Belize City and Caye Caulker.



Saint Lucia

MEXICO VISITS

- Mar -

Mexico's Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray is scheduled to visit St Lucia during March to discuss several projects being funded by his government. The visit to St Lucia is a follow-up to the state visit by Prime Minister Allen Chastanet to Mexico in October 2017, when Mexico agreed to fund several infrastructure projects for the island.

CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Feb -

Ambassador Shen, on behalf of the Taiwan Government, presented funding of 4.7 million EC dollars (1.75 million US dollars) to sponsor the phase two project of the 2017 Constituency Development Programme (CDP). Prime Minister Allen Chastanet expressed his thankfulness to Ambassador Shen and Taiwan government for its generosity in supporting the CDP program, and its willingness to assist the economic development of Saint Lucia.



BLACK PANTHER INSPIRES SURINAME NGO TO PUSH EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Enslaved Africans brought to Suriname came mostly from Dahomey (Benin), Ghana (Gold Coast) and Loango (Western Congo), and in many cases, they were able to retain their ancestral cultures. Today, Suriname is facing a crisis of a rising number of high school dropouts.

Against this backdrop, a group of concerned citizens are sponsoring over 1,000 local students to watch the blockbuster US film, 'Black Panther'.

Former Ambassador of Suriname to the UN, Henry MacDonald, said, "The movie is inspiring, especially because it celebrates high tech education. Children are interested in education."

"The dropout rate in secondary school in Suriname is very high. And this movie will inspire all young people in Suriname and not just Afro-Surinamese," MacDonald added.

According to MacDonald, the idea started on Facebook after one person said, "It would be great if people can sponsor one or two children in Suriname to watch Black Panther."

Someone then challenged her to take up the idea. Eventually, sponsorship came from the United States, Holland, and Suriname. Many companies, organisations, and individuals contributed from SR\$25 to hundreds of US dollars, MacDonald said.

MacDonald said that the funds are accounted for and there is a system whereby donors can monitor it.

Last Saturday, the first batch of 250 children saw the movie in Paramaribo. They came from as far as Para and Brokopondo districts, and transportation was provided by the National Army of Suriname. The event will be repeated three additional times to cover about 1,000 students across Suriname. The age bracket is 13-17 and students should be from a disadvantaged household. School leaders were asked to identify these students.

MacDonald said he was honoured to inspire the first group with a short motivational address. The second group will be motivated by the first female commercial jet pilot of Suriname, Astrid Deira. Similarities between the mystical "Wakanda", a country that did

not experience the tragedy of colonialism and Suriname exist. For example, many militant enslaved Africans staged uprisings across Suriname and eventually prevailed into independent self-governing villages after the Boni wars of liberation from the 1760s, and all this happened before the Haitian revolution.

"Many Africans sold into slavery in Suriname escaped. They were never colonized. They lived 300 to 400 years of freedom," MacDonald noted. ■



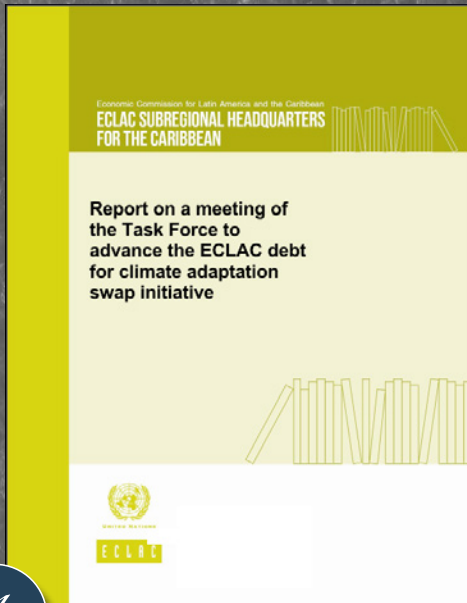
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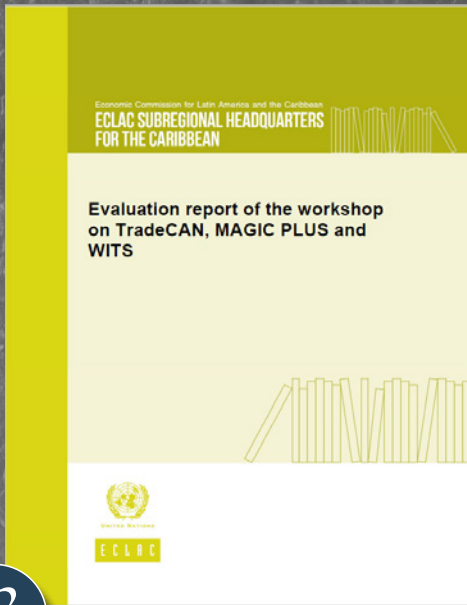
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1.

Report on a meeting of the Task Force to advance the ECLAC debt for climate adaptation swap initiative



2.

Evaluation report of the workshop on TradeCAN, MAGIC PLUS and WITS

ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*

BROWN BAG ON UMOJA TRAVEL

“**V**ery informative” and “long overdue” were some of the comments from staff at ECLAC Caribbean, following a Brown Bag lunchtime session a couple of weeks ago.

The topic that was clearly such a hit with everyone was UMOJA travel, an inter-office tool that has proven somewhat of a challenge to manoeuvre for those who use it.

The latest Brown Bag discussions covered areas including job aid on creating an official travel request, job aid on creating an expense report and a mission report template.

There were lots of questions, which the moderators, Lindy Ann Edwards-Alleyne and Blaine Marcano, both members of ECLAC family, tried their best to answer and find solutions, with vital support from the Administration Unit. ■



Lionfish with Mango Sweet Pepper Salsa

Prep and cooking time: 1 hr 15 min

Yield: 4 servings

What you will need:

- **Salsa:**
 - 1 1/3 cups coarsely chopped mangoes
 - 1 cup chopped sweet peppers
 - 1/3 cup thinly sliced green onions
 - 1/4 cup fresh lime juice (from about 2 limes)
 - 1 teaspoon chopped fresh cilantro
 - 1 teaspoon minced seeded jalapeno pepper
 - 1 garlic clove, minced
 - Pinch of salt
- **Fish:**
 - 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon olive oil
 - 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
 - 1 garlic clove, minced
 - Four 6-ounce skinless lionfish fillets (fresh hogfish or flounder would work as well)
 - Nonstick grill spray, for spraying the grill grates
 - 3/8 teaspoon salt
 - 3/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

What you need to do:

For the salsa: Combine the mangoes, sweet peppers, green onions, Key lime juice, cilantro, jalapeno, garlic and salt in a medium bowl and toss gently. Let stand for 30 minutes at room temperature (place in the fridge if it will be longer).

For the fish: Combine the olive oil, Key lime juice and garlic in a large, shallow glass baking dish, stirring with a whisk. Add the fish to the juice mixture and turn to coat. Cover and let stand 15 minutes.

Coat the grates of a grill with nonstick grill spray and prepare the grill for medium-high heat.

Remove the fish from the marinade and discard the marinade. Sprinkle the fish evenly with the salt and black pepper. Grill to desired doneness, about 3 minutes per side. Serve the fish with the salsa.



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