



FUEGO VOLCANO

ECLAC TEAM ASSESSES IMPACT OF
GUATEMALA VOLCANIC ERUPTION

COTED MEETING

ECLAC ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHTED AT
COUNCIL FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT (COTED) MEETING

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ECLAC COMPLETES PROJECT
WITH THE GERMAN AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
(GIZ)



UNITED NATIONS

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CONTENTS



Cover Photo: Volcan de Fuego
by Marco Verch

4

Article

World Population day event at Sangre Grande

6

Feature Article

ECLAC team assesses impact of Guatemala volcanic eruption

10

Article

Grenada's Spicemas Festival Set for August

12

Article

ECLAC completes energy efficiency project

15

State of Affairs

Recent activity by Caribbean governments

18

Around the Region

- New range of gourmet breads at Saint Lucia bakery

20

ECLAC Caribbean Family

Longest serving staff member retires

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
Writer : Denise Balgobin
Design: Blaine Marcano

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

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ECLAC Caribbean
Non-profit Organisation

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Message



Timeline

About

Events

Photos

More



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August Events

9

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
9 August 2018

12

International Youth Day
12 August 2018

21

World Humanitarian Day
21 August 2018

23

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave
Trade and Its Abolition
23 August 2018

27

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
Twentieth session
27 August 2018



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jul 27

#ECLACCaribbean has called on decision-makers to create a subregional mechanism to facilitate the participation, engagement and collaboration of youth in development.



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jul 26

Caribbean Forum on Population, Youth and Development (24-26 July 2018). Website here: www.cepal.org/en/events/caribbean-forum-population-youth-and-development



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ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Jul 24

ECLAC promotes family planning and community empowerment at local event



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WORLD POPULATION DAY EVENT AT SANGRE GRANDE

On 11 July 2018, World Population Day (WPD) marked the 50th anniversary of the 1968 International Conference on Human Rights, where family planning was for the first time, globally affirmed to be a human right.

To mark this occasion, ECLAC Caribbean partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the second installment of its community-focused awareness events, under the theme, 'Family Planning is a Human Right'. The first installment was the Women's City Village held in Port of Spain for International Women's Day, earlier this year.

A number of stakeholders joined in the creation of a Community Village at the Guaico Secondary School in Sangre Grande. The event featured information/ educational booths and mobile health clinics offering

routine checks, hypertension and diabetes screening, PAP smears and HIV testing. Community focused presentations were delivered from local entrepreneurs, civil society organizations and key government institutions. Attending community members were encouraged to take back to their respective communities some of these messages and including how to further access resources and services in the public institutions.

Speaking on behalf of ECLAC Caribbean was Sustainable Development Officer, Artie Dubrie, who reiterated ECLAC's position of supporting the right of individuals and families to decide freely whether, when, and how many children they want to have. "Our office works to promote the equality, empowerment and autonomy of all persons. We support national policies that give access to family planning and sexual and reproductive health

services and recognize that educating the community on these topics is an important roadway to empowerment." Highlights of the day included the launch of a pilot scheme for contraceptive implants into the public health system of Trinidad and Tobago, a joint initiative of UNFPA and the Ministry of Health.

Dubrie mentioned that family planning is part of the global development agenda to which the entire international community is committed. "As citizens, our role is instrumental in promoting the global sustainable developmental agenda and, in this regard, in advancing efforts aimed at safeguarding the right to family planning and bolstering health, gender equality and women's empowerment. Sustainable development is a responsibility of each one of us," she said.

Throughout the day, the Family Planning Association



ST THOMAS: USVI PLANS \$230 MILLION AIRPORT MODERNIZATION PROJECT

offered free sexual and reproductive health services such as PAP smears, breast examinations, urine and blood pressure testing. The Eastern Regional Health Authority and Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association also offered HIV testing and other health services to the public.

Presentations on safety, security and the environment, entrepreneurship and financial management, and youth development also highlighted and brought awareness to other issues of concern in the region. ■

The Cyril E. King Airport in St Thomas will soon begin a major project aimed at modernizing the airport. The plan, revealed recently by the Virgin Islands Port Authority, is estimated to cost around US \$230 million.

The vision for the project includes adding new jet bridges, parking garages, restaurant expansions, upgrading retail areas, along with adding a connected ferry terminal that would expedite maritime travel for passengers after exiting the terminal (something that could be a boost for both St John and St Croix and for the nearby British Virgin Islands).

The wider expansion will include an upgraded airline ticketing area, concessions, restrooms, baggage screening, baggage claim and, perhaps most importantly, enclosed loading bridges. The first phase of the expansion project will include a second level with views of the surrounding area, along with new duty-free offerings and a new roof. The project began several years

ago with a master plan process, according to Tom Schnetzer, head of long term projections for the Cyril King airport. The existing terminal was built 30 years ago when airports functioned differently. Officials assured that the repairs will not detract from recovery efforts, following the 2017 hurricane season.

“We will continue doing repairs to all of our facilities in relation to the hurricane damage, but in the mindset that we do for today can be useful for tomorrow,” said US Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp. ■



FEATURE ARTICLE

ECLAC TEAM ASSESSES IMPACT OF VOLCAN DE FUEGO ERUPTION IN GUATEMALA

More than 477 thousand people in three communities in Guatemala were exposed to the effects of the eruption of Volcán de Fuego (Fire Volcano) on 3 June 2018. Described as the most severe volcanic eruption in the country in the last 45 years, the disaster caused over 110 confirmed deaths, with more than 300 persons still missing and around 13,000 people evacuated.

[READ MORE](#)





ECLAC assesses impact of Volcan de Fuego eruption in Guatemala

Within weeks of the eruption, ECLAC was invited by Guatemala's Secretariat of Planning and Programming (Segeplan) and Guatemala's Ministry of Finance to carry out a damage and loss assessment (DaLA) in the affected regions.

The Volcan de Fuego is situated about 27 miles southwest of Guatemala City, the country's capital. It is an extremely active volcano with one previous eruption this year in February. It is located on the seismically-active Pacific Ring of Fire, similarly to the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii.

The villages of El Rodeo and San Miguel de Los Lotes were the most affected by the eruption. Described as ground zero, Los Lotes, once a beautiful place and home to over 2,000 people was permanently changed within few hours. The blast belched thick black smoke over an area extending all the way to the

capital, Guatemala City. Volcanic ash reportedly spread over a 12-mile radius.

Heading the DaLA mission was the Chief of ECLAC Caribbean's Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Omar Bello, who was supported by other ECLAC staff members: Luciana de Meira and Blaine Marcano (ECLAC Caribbean), and Diana Ramírez, Juan Carlos Rivas and Humberto Soto (ECLAC Mexico).

The assessment was completed within two weeks by a team of more than 65 representatives of an Inter-Agency Commission, which benefitted from the support of World Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB) and the European Union (EU) and Guatemalan experts.

The head of Segeplan, Miguel Angel E. Moir, reported that prompt action was necessary to determine the best means of assistance for the

affected population. He also added that: "ECLAC's assessment provides an idea of social, infrastructural, productive and macroeconomic impacts of the volcanic eruption."

In explaining the intricate aspects of the assessment, ECLAC Caribbean's Public Information Assistant, Blaine Marcano, pointed out that in terms of the power sector there weren't many power generation plants and transmission lines near the volcano area, however, he explains that "the physical effects of the eruption on the communities impacted by volcanic ash was very severe, affecting houses and related infrastructure".

Below: Various tweets showing coverage of the findings of the Damage and Loss Assessment.



The DaLA team estimated that the country has suffered damages of almost Q\$1.6 billion (approximately US\$233 million).



Omar Bello summarized the two fundamental characteristics of the eruption: "It was both a national and localized event, considering that it affected the whole of Guatemala, but it was a major tragedy for the directly-hit communities with many lives being lost."

The DaLA team estimated that the country has suffered damages of almost Q\$1.6 billion (approximately US\$233 million). Mr. Bello pointed to some of the economic effects of the event: "First, in the agricultural sector - there were some territories allocated specifically to produce coffee. These terrains have now been damaged and may not produce the same quality of coffee as before in the coming years. Second, the tourism sector was also affected. Damage on this sector was concentrated on one facility and losses include all the foregone revenues associated with travel cancelations due to the disaster".

Looking ahead, Mr. Angel E. Moir underscored that following the DaLA team's assessment of the disaster, "restoration of the livelihoods of the affected people will be immediately addressed, focussing first on the housing sector." ■





GRENADA'S SPICEMAS FESTIVAL SET FOR AUGUST

Grenada has the distinction of hosting Spicemas from 13-14 August 2018. This signature festival is enriched by the costumes and masquerades that display the destination's deep ties to its African, French and English origins.

Here are some of the characters of Spicemas.

ShortKnee - Colourful Masquerader

The mask-wearing Shortknee is one of the most compelling icons of Spicemas and the masquerade pays homage to Grenada's French and African heritage. The word "Shortknee" was coined back in the 1920s when creole (local language) was gaining popularity. Previously the masquerade was known by the French phrase "Grenade Pierrot" meaning clown. The word Shortknee is a clear reference to the trousers worn by the masqueraders that end just below the knee. The trousers and bodice are made of yards of brightly coloured cloth and fastened to the legs and wrists. The front and back of the bodice are decorated with tiny mirrors, which culturally were thought to protect the wearer by "reflecting" his enemies. The Shortknee also wears a wire screen mask over a powder-whitened face. During Spicemas you can behold the spectacle of a Shortknee band, or better yet, join one.

Jab Jab

Before emancipation, African slaves were not allowed to participate in the elaborate masquerade balls

staged by the white and free colored at Christmas and before the Catholic Lenten season, but this never stopped them from celebrating. One of their portrayals is the Jab Jab, in which masqueraders once covered themselves in molasses. These days they are covered in black oil. The masquerade was a representation of how the slaves saw their colonial masters complete with horns and chains. Today, Jab Jab is more of a celebratory portrayal in which everyone can participate, even you. Since then Jab Jab has turned into a movement that has spawned a whole type of sound call the 'Jab Jab' riddim, which is prevalent during the festival.

Vieux Corps - Authentic Portrayal

Vieux Corps is a mas of disguise which dates as far back as the pre-emancipation era and is indigenous to Grenada. Vieux Corps are French words which literally translate to "dead body" however the portrayal has more to do with the era of slavery. The masquerader's identity is concealed by a mask made of wire mesh signifying the loss of identity endured by the slaves brought to Grenada from West Africa. Traditionally, the gown of the costume was made of crocus bag material or black cotton fabric. More recently, costumes have become more colourful and creative. Heavy clogs made from the wood of the mango tree are worn on the feet with band members stomping in a rhythmic fashion, to accompany their chants. ■



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ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHTED AT PREPARATORY COTED MEETING

In the Caribbean it is well known that telecommunications services can provide invaluable support to disaster management efforts by facilitating communication, coordination, and intelligence collection during emergency situations.

"ECLAC research has found that telecommunications infrastructure can be vulnerable to disasters, as was exemplified by the impacts of the recent tropical storms and hurricanes. As a matter of public safety, ensuring the resilience of telecommunications infrastructure in the face of natural hazards is therefore of national importance." This according to Dale Alexander, ECLAC Caribbean's Focal Point for the Associate Member Territories.

ECLAC Caribbean offers a diverse portfolio of interventions and services in the fields of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development and Knowledge Management. Some of these were discussed during the recent CARICOM Meeting of Officials Preparatory to the



Seventy-Second Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).

Alexander attended this event in Guyana in June 2018 and gave an overview of the organization's work during 2017-2018. In addition to disasters and ICT, Alexander also focused on technical assistance provided to Caribbean countries, capacity building workshops and seminars, and the digital agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, Alexander outlined that ECLAC has carried out extensive research in the areas of disaster risk reduction and digital currency. In his presentation, he explained that this resilience can be enhanced by strengthening the relationship between operators of telecommunications services and national disaster offices.

Drawing from ECLAC's study on 'Strengthening the cooperation between

telecommunications operators and national disaster offices in Caribbean countries', Alexander highlighted that there are areas for enhanced engagement such as the development of more formalized frameworks for mutual support. This study also considered the need for improved information sharing practices, collaboration on public early warning systems, and the inclusion of telecommunications operators in disaster drilling exercises.

Alexander further outlined some areas of technical assistance which ECLAC has provided to the Caribbean. He noted that in November 2017, ECLAC Caribbean provided technical advice to the Government of Jamaica through the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) on best practice initiatives and implementation in internal knowledge management. CANTO also benefitted from ECLAC recommendations in establishing its framework for

engaging with natural disaster offices on behalf of Caribbean telecommunications operators in disaster risk mitigation and response.

He added that in another effort, a national data gathering facility was developed within ECLAC's Knowledge Society Toolkit, which was adopted by Caribbean member States and regional organizations. The form contained within the toolkit was used for training exercises by CANTO and CDEMA.

The meeting was held in preparation for the COTED ICT meeting, to be convened later in the year and at which a number of recommendations will be considered for decision-making. ■



ECLAC COMPLETES ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

The last in a series of training workshops on energy efficiency (EE) was recently hosted at ECLAC Caribbean's headquarters in Port of Spain, in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME).

Energy efficiency is increasingly at the forefront of policy making and public interest across the Caribbean. Faced with the well-known constraints posed by economies of scale, and still dependent to a large extent on fossil fuel imports, there is ever-increasing awareness in the subregion surrounding the need to improve the efficiency with which energy resources are used. However, while on the one hand quantifying the success – and possible shortcomings – of this shift towards greater efficiency in the consumption of energy

resources is essential for decision making, on the other hand it is not an easy task, as energy efficiency data are often times hard to come by.

Cognizant of this challenge, over the last 12 months, the ECLAC-managed project pursued the Development of a Database of Energy Efficiency Indicators (BIEE), described as a tool that provides a template to gather national data for assessing and analysing policies and programmes on EE. The BIEE project assisted in strengthening the capacity of energy authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean with monitoring their energy efficiency, improving data reliability and in turn enhancing evidence-based decision-making on energy efficiency.

The database also facilitates the regional comparability of the energy sector, and promotes the implementation, monitoring and

standardization of EE policies and programmes.

The final workshop that wrapped up the project saw energy experts from Barbados, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago coming together to review the first set of country reports and discuss their experiences in gathering and analysing EE indicators, as well as the challenges and lessons learnt in gathering EE data.

More on the outcomes of this exciting project in the next editions of *The Hummingbird*! ■



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND BAHAMAS WIN AT CARIBBEAN'S TOP CULINARY COMPETITION

A Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) national culinary team took home top honors in the latest edition of the Taste of the Caribbean competition in Miami recently.

The team beat 11 other national culinary teams from around the Caribbean in the annual event run by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association. Trinidadians in winners' row included Shana Rajahram, who won the Caribbean Bartender Competition, and Tricia Gregoire, who captured the Certified Angus Beef-sponsored Beef Competition. The Best Non-Alcoholic Drink award also went to T&T.

A dozen teams participated in the highly anticipated Taste of the Caribbean culinary competition in Miami from June 22 to 26, with the Bahamas taking home the Chef and Junior Chef of the Year Awards.

Jamall Small from the Bahamas was crowned Caribbean Chef of the Year while teammate, Hazen Rolle, was named Caribbean Junior Chef of the Year. Rolle also received the Hans Schenk Commemorative Award for the Most Innovative Dish Utilizing Indigenous Ingredients. Vadivel Raju from Turks and Caicos won the Caribbean

Pastry Chef competition; Radiance Modeste of the British Virgin Islands topped the Seafood competition, while Rodney Corbin of Barbados won the Cemoi-sponsored Chocolate category. Best Rum Drink went to Bonaire; St. Lucia topped the vodka drink category, and Best Mystery Bar Drink, sponsored by Angostura, went to Curaçao.

A combined team representing chefs from some of the Caribbean destinations that were impacted by last September's hurricanes also competed. The team, which included members from Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands, won the Tony Mack Spirit of the Competition award.

"CHTA applauds this year's Taste of the Caribbean participants, their national hotel and tourism associations, team managers and sponsors for another incredible demonstration of passion, purpose and performance," said Frank Comito, Director General and CEO of CHTA. "These participants are the future of tourism and the teamwork and camaraderie on display augurs well for a united Caribbean." ■

**SNEAK
PREVIEW**

ARTICLE

Look out for more
in upcoming issues!



STUDY ON DEBT SUSTAINABILITY

The hefty debt burden faced by Caribbean countries has been an area of major concern over the last few years, as this has restricted the capacity of affected economies to achieve sustained growth. Several countries have made attempts to reduce their debt, mainly through restructuring or fiscal consolidation, however, as most have not adopted comprehensive economic reforms to complement these adjustment efforts, the initial gains have been too small or have not been sustained.

Against this backdrop, ECLAC Caribbean has embarked on a new study on 'Debt Sustainability, its impact on economic growth and ability of the Caribbean to achieve the SDGs'. In 2000, some Caribbean countries had public debt-to-

GDP ratio of over 100 percent --- Guyana (167.4%), Barbados (108.5%), Antigua and Barbuda (102.7%) --- which was over the debt sustainability threshold of 40% for developing countries.

Amidst the ongoing new global development agenda set forth by the international community in 2015, the heavily indebted economies of the Caribbean are attempting to achieve their development goals. To date, no study has been undertaken to assess and deepen the analysis on how the debt-burden has affected safety nets, education and health programs in the Caribbean and its potential for derailing the achievement of its SDGs by 2030.

The forthcoming ECLAC Caribbean study aims to fill this gap by helping to understand the extent to which the debt

burden has impacted these areas. To get a deeper grasp of the situation, case studies will be carried out on the experiences of Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

In this regard, ECLAC Caribbean will be sourcing data from the Ministries of Health, Education, Finance, Planning and Development, Social Development and Family Affairs, Youth and Gender of the Belize, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago governments.

It is expected that the study will be published later this year. ■

STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Barbados

MOU WITH CHINA

- Aug -

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Vice President of the First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University in China, Dr. Luo Tianyou and Chief Executive Officer of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) of Barbados Louise Bobb. The MOU is aimed at securing expertise and medical support for a number of areas at the QEH. In addition to this, the Government of China made two donations of medical equipment and consumables, including two anesthetic machines, valued US\$ 400,000.

MOU WITH MOROCCO

- Jul -

Barbadian and Moroccan officials have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on technical cooperation aimed at widening the areas in which both countries collaborate. The draft MOU outlines capacity building through technical assistance, training and expert visits, as well as grant funding and financial assistance opportunities. There is currently, already a bilateral cooperation in agriculture under which Barbados receives technical assistance, and has benefited from a Moroccan grant fertilizer programme and Soil Fertility Mapping Project.



Cuba

NEW EMPLOYMENT RULES

- Jul -

The Cuban government has published new rules relating to self-employment on the island. The regulations, will enter into force on 7 December and comprise six new regulations, five laws, a decree and 14 complementary resolutions of the ministries involved in their implementation. The changes are aimed at correcting deficiencies and ensuring that private work continues to progress in an orderly manner throughout the island.

NEW CONSTITUTION

- Aug -

On 22 July, Cuba's National Assembly approved a draft of an updated constitution. The proposed new constitution contains 224-articles and will replace the 1976 national charter that was enshrined on the island following Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution. The Cuban media made a point of highlighting that the proposed changes redefine the institution of marriage as being between "two persons" rather than "a man and a woman" - a change that opens the way for the legalization of same-sex marriages.



Grenada

BILL TO BAN STYROFOAM

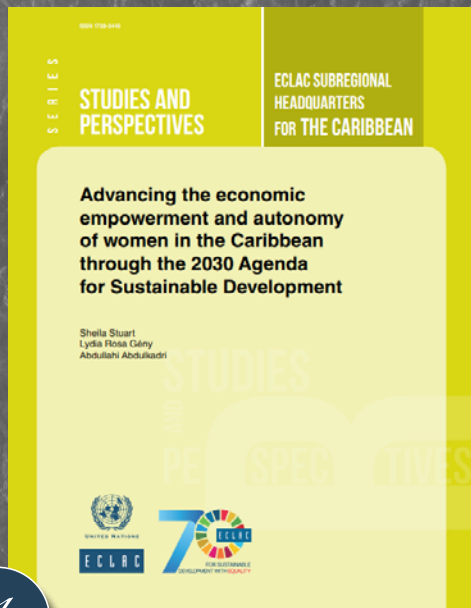
- Aug -

Minister in the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment with responsibility for Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Alvin DaBreo, introduced a new Non-Biodegradable Waste Control Bill, to the Lower House for debate. Mr. DaBreo, explained to fellow legislators that the bill entails prohibition of the importation and manufacture of Styrofoam products; the sale of Styrofoam products; and the prohibition for sale and offer for sale of food in or with these products.

EXCHANGE OF TACTICS

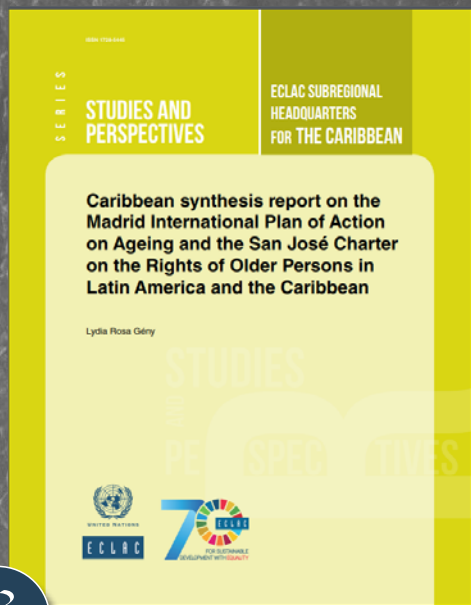
- Aug -

In an effort to reinforce the partnership between United States (US) and Grenadian forces in countering transnational threats, the US embassy in Barbados, coordinated a special weapons and tactics (SWAT) exchange between members of the US Special Operations Forces and Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) Special Services Unit (SSU) personnel. The week-long professional engagement was focused on exchanging tactics, techniques, and procedures for countering terrorist and other threats.



1.

Advancing the economic empowerment and autonomy of women in the Caribbean through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



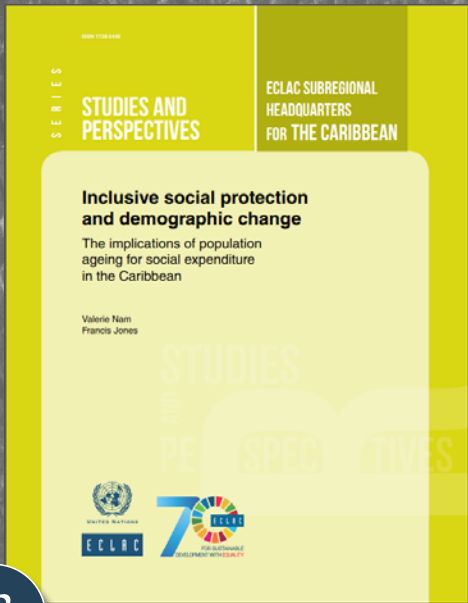
3.

Caribbean synthesis report on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Inclusive social protection and demographic change: The implications of population ageing for social expenditure in the Caribbean

2.

DIANE'S CORNER

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



DIANE QUARLESS
Director of ECLAC Caribbean

12/8



International Youth Day

The Caribbean is facing a demographic transition process that is already affecting the age and composition of its populations. How we prepare for the future and how we harness the potential of our youth in this process is absolutely essential.

#DirectorsTake

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





NEW RANGE OF GOURMET BREADS AT SAINT LUCIA BAKERY

The French know a thing or two about bread. For them, it is more than a piece of dough baked in the oven. For the French, every ingredient, the kneading of the dough, the baking process and the presentation are critically important. This was demonstrated recently at the Bonne Baguette Bakery in Saint Lucia, when they hosted a Fete de Pains Français, presenting a new range of gourmet French breads to complement their existing line.

Walking into Le Mistral Lounge at Royal Saint Lucia Resort and Spa was like stepping into a bakery paradise. Every table was adorned with beautiful arrangements of Bonne Baguette's breads. Wonderful selections of French cheeses and tapenades were temptingly laid out. Nobody could resist, especially with the selection of wines served by La Cantina Wines.

His Excellency Philippe Ardanaz, the Ambassador of France to the OECS countries and Barbados, based in Saint Lucia, addressed the guests, describing how for the French bread and wine are so much more than just food and drink.

He explained that they are a way to communicate;

they are part of the fabric of life. "A day without good bread and wine is not a good day for a French person," affirmed the Ambassador.

He Riquette Bonne-Smith, the owner/manager of Bonne Baguette Bakery Ltd, on her use of flour imported from France and her use of traditional French methods in her preparation and baking to ensure that the breads possess an authentic French taste and look. Indeed, he declared Mme Bonne-Smith an "ambassador" for France through her bread.

Mme Bonne-Smith is proud that all the artisan breads, as well as her pastries and cakes, are made at Bonne Baguette's own bakery in Saint Lucia and that the products have no preservatives, chemical additives or colouring.

"I love beautiful food and I love to see people enjoy what they're eating; my breads bring pleasure and are wholesome," she proclaimed. ■

ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*

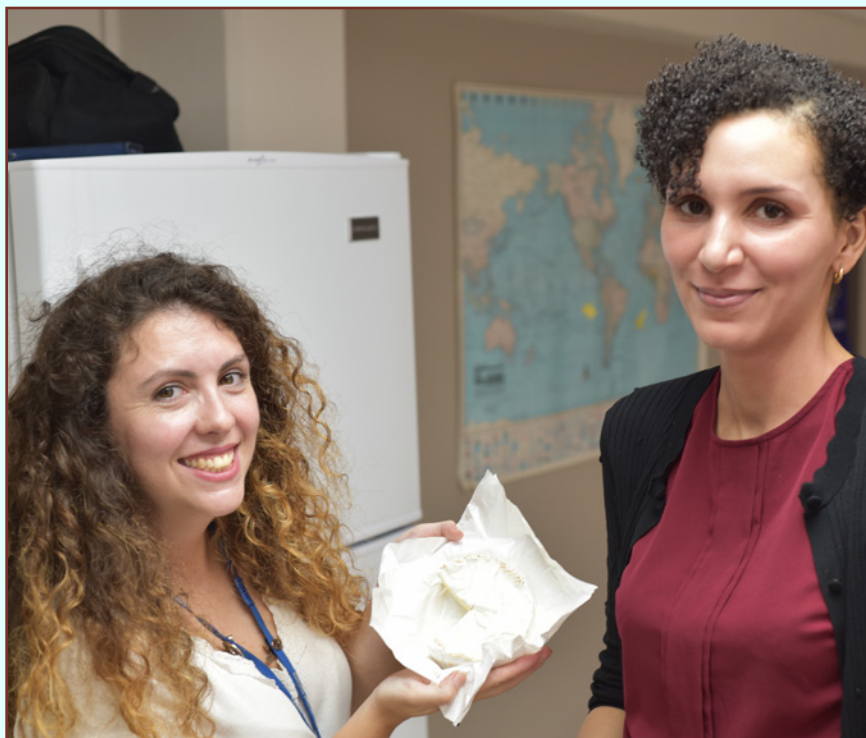
FRANCE SCORES WORLD CUP DOUBLE WIN!

Like millions of people across the globe, football fever affected the ECLAC Caribbean family during the World Cup 2018 competition, in which France claimed victory and the coveted “golden ball” trophy.

Like the excitement generated during the competition, anticipating the winner, staff created their own enthusiasm with our inhouse “World Cup Sweepstakes Competition”, which was won French staff member, Aurelie Quiatol. To celebrate the double win, Aurelie and fellow French colleague, Lydia Rosa Geny, planned a mini feast of French food and drink.

In addition to red and white grapes, there was Moët & Chandon champagne, red wine from the Côtes-du-Rhône region and plates filled with baguettes (French bread), crackers and a selection of French cheeses.

Aurelie was kind enough to describe to the Hummingbird the cheese selection. She explained that the cheese plates enjoyed by the staff included samples of camembert (surface-ripened cow's milk cheese from Normandy, France); brie (soft cow's-milk cheese named after the area from where it originated in France); gouda (made with partially skimmed pasteurized cow's milk, of Dutch origin, and covered with a natural or paraffin wax rind); edam (semi-hard cheese that originated in the Netherlands and produced in France). Also included was blue cheese, which is a general classification of cheeses that have had cultures of the mold *Penicillium* added. ■





LONGEST SERVING STAFF MEMBER RETIRES

After serving 40 fruitful years at ECLAC Caribbean, Human Resource Assistant, Joanne D'Abadie, retired in June 2018. In what can only be described as a bittersweet occasion, the Hummingbird takes pleasure in sharing pieces of Joanne's farewell statement, while she was surrounded by the warm-hearted companionship of her many long-standing colleagues.

"The time has come for me to retire from ECLAC and you can imagine that there is a cocktail of emotions after 40 years of service - nostalgia to leave the ECLAC family and excitement to step into the next phase. I have been preparing and planning for this day for the last four years and those of you who know me well can attest to having seen my count down screen saver on my computer, that started 435 days ago.

"I started my UN career in my early 20s in 1978 and was fortunate enough to have worked in every single substantive Unit office in their various incarnations over the last 40 years. My longest stint was in the Director's Office where I served for 25 years as Personal

Assistant. In 2007, I was transferred to the Human Resources Unit.

"As an avid supporter of IT, I was challenged to learn the new tools being introduced by the UN and to experiment and introduce others for HR processes. I took up that challenge with enthusiasm and to this day I remain a major advocate for IT in the work place.

"ECLAC and the UN on the whole have been so very good to me. Forty years later, I walk away fully satisfied with my contributions, and hope that they have added value to the work of the organization and provided a return on the investment that the organization placed in me.

"As I prepare to leave, I feel that I am the winner here and I shall be eternally grateful for the numerous opportunities afforded me to contribute and learn.

"Apart from the valuable work experiences, perhaps even more importantly are the precious friendships I have made. I will stay in touch as you are part of my life outside the UN too. My career mentors like my previous

directors and supervisors! You taught me well.

"What comes next? I have been preparing for life after ECLAC to pursue my passion for teaching yoga and gained my teacher training certification in 2014 in Canada. I have been teaching on a part time basis since 2015 and this is where my future path will take me. I also expect to be busy devoting time to my hobbies of reading, gardening, beach time, gym, running and learning and playing with IT software. I expect to be very busy!

"Thank you to each of you for journeying with me. For being part of my life and who I am. My parting words of advice – Never, ever settle for mediocrity. Always strive for excellence. There is never an excuse for delivering less than your best." Joanne D'Abadie

We send you off with all out best wishes, Joanne, as you continue on the path that life leads you, confident that you will be a success at whatever you do! ■



Cornmeal Bread

Minutes to Prepare: 2hrs 40 min

Serving: 30 servings

What you will need:

6 cups all-purpose flour
2 1/2 (.25 ounce) packages active dry yeast
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
2 cups warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
1 tablespoon cornmeal
1 egg white
1 tablespoon water

What you need to do:

1. In a large bowl, combine 2 cups flour, yeast and salt. Stir in 2 cups warm water, and beat until well blended using a stand mixer with a dough hook attachment. Using a wooden spoon, stir in as much of the remaining flour as you can.
2. On a lightly floured surface, knead in enough flour to make a stiff dough that is smooth and elastic. Knead for about 8 to 10 minutes total. Shape into a ball. Place dough in a greased bowl, and turn once. Cover, and let rise in a warm place until doubled.
3. Punch dough down, and divide in half. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Cover, and let rest for 10 minutes. Roll each half into large rectangle. Roll up, starting from a long side. Moisten edge with water and seal. Taper ends.
4. Grease a large baking sheet. Sprinkle with cornmeal. Place loaves, seam side down, on the prepared baking sheet. Lightly beat the egg white with 1 tablespoon of water, and brush on. Cover with a damp cloth. Let rise until nearly doubled, 35 to 40 minutes.
5. With a very sharp knife, make 3 or 4 diagonal cuts about 1/4 inch deep across top of each loaf. Bake in a preheated 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) oven for 20 minutes. Brush again with egg white mixture. Bake for an additional 15 to 20 minutes, or until bread tests done. If necessary, cover loosely with foil to prevent over browning.
6. Remove from baking sheet, and cool on a wire rack.

Serve hot.



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

MEDIA CONTACT

Tel.: 1 868 224 8075

E-mail: eclac-media-pos@eclac.org

Give us your feedback at:

<http://vrb.al/hb-survey>

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