



## CARIFESTA XIV

BIGGER AND BETTER IN TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO

## BUILD RESILIENCE

SIDE EVENT REVIEWS RESILIENCE  
BUILDING FOR MIDDLE-INCOME  
CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

## CARIBBEAN FIRST

CARIBBEAN FIRST STRATEGY  
HIGHLIGHTED AT CUBA  
INTERNATIONAL FAIR



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

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Cover Image courtesy CARICOM

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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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# ECLAC CARIBBEAN



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## August Events

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International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples  
9 August 2019

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International Youth Day  
12 August 2019

16-25

CARIFESTA XIV  
16 - 25 August 2019

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World Humanitarian Day  
19 August 2019

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Violence Based on Religion or Belief  
22 August 2019



**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Jul 26

The economic impacts of flooding in Jamaica and in Trinidad and Tobago. More here: <http://bit.ly/31XvyuF>



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**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Jul 15

Cover the pan with a lid. It reduces the amount of energy required to boil water by 75% (SDG 7).



Like · Comment · Share



**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Jul 8

When ice cubes are left over from a drink, don't throw them away. Put them into plants (SDG 6)



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## CARIBBEAN FIRST STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTED AT CUBA INTERNATIONAL FAIR

**T**he impact of natural disasters, public debt and social challenges affecting the Caribbean countries were among the issues discussed at a side event, organized within the ambit of the XVI EXPOCARIBE International Fair, which was held on 20th June 2019 in Cuba.

Entitled 'Caribbean First Strategy: The contribution of ECLAC to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean', the side event focused on the vulnerabilities faced by the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Representing ECLAC Caribbean at the International Fair was Deputy Executive Secretary, Raul Garcia Buchaca and Deputy Director of the Port of Spain office, Dr. Dillon Alleyne.

Buchaca stated, "The Caribbean First Strategy is a call to action, a renewed resolve to advance a more effective advocacy on behalf of

the countries of the Caribbean, drawing on the goodwill, solidarity and support that is being offered by friends and neighbours in the wider region and beyond."

He underscored that another important element of the Caribbean First Strategy is finding the appropriate forums for advocacy. "For instance, this year at the High Level Political Forum of the General Assembly; at the Climate Summit; at the Small Island Developing States' Review of the SAMOA Pathway; these will be opportunities for the countries of the Caribbean to again make their case convincingly to the international community. There are others; the G20; the meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions; the WTO; the Paris Club."

Buchaca noted that participation in these meetings should be planned and orchestrated, with the messages being well-honed and clear. "We at ECLAC are keen to play a role in building the firm foundation for such

messaging, through research, analysis and disruptive thinking in the search for solutions."

Meanwhile, in his presentation, Dr. Alleyne explained that the objective of the "Caribbean First Strategy was to raise the level of awareness of the international community to the structural and systemic challenges which the Caribbean faces. He referred to the ECLAC publication, 'The Caribbean Outlook', which identifies these challenges and points the way towards possible solutions. The Outlook identifies environmental issues, such as climate change and natural disasters, which will continue to be the most serious challenges that the Caribbean will have to face in the future.

To illustrate this point, Dr. Alleyne noted that hurricanes Irma and Maria, which hit the Caribbean in 2017, cost the English-speaking Caribbean more than US \$7 billion. However, when Cuba and Puerto Rico are included, this cost jumped to US \$93 billion.\*



Due to the high dependence of many Caribbean countries on the tourism and agricultural sectors, disasters typically reverse and hinder hard-won economic gains. Dr. Alleyne warned that in a few weeks time, the countries of the subregion will be preparing for another hurricane season, which emphasized the need for preparedness and building resilience.

In terms of indebtedness and vulnerability, Dr. Alleyne noted that Caribbean countries have not been able to bounce back fully from the global crisis of 2008-2009. "The major challenges on the domestic front are low growth, and fiscal stresses arising from a high debt burden. There is very strong correlation between the increased impact of climate change and rising debt levels in the Caribbean. For the Caribbean as a whole, the debt to GDP ratio rose from 64.6% in 2000 to 72.0% in 2012 and 73.7% in 2017. While countries have been engaging in severe fiscal adjustment/consolidation processes, the debt burden remains stubbornly high."

Regarding social vulnerability, Dr. Alleyne explained that a number of new challenges have emerged in the Caribbean, requiring a renewed social compact adapted to the special conditions of SIDS. Moreover, since all the areas of vulnerability are related, the poor are less capable of bouncing back after a disaster compared to those who have greater financial means. To address this challenge he suggested, "... developing programs aimed at effective social protection, skills training, emphasizing decent work, and addressing the emigration of much needed skills". He called for a people-centred strategy consistent with the pledge of Agenda 2030 that emphasizes people, a better planet, prosperity and peace. ■

\*According to ECLAC, the Caribbean loses an estimated average US \$3 billion each year because of storms.



## DOMINICA, A CARIBBEAN TOURISM COMEBACK STORY

**D**ominica has been seeing a remarkable surge in tourism arrivals that are the latest sign of the destination's post-Maria comeback story. Dominica's stayover arrivals in the first quarter of 2019 was over 23 thousand persons, which was an 87.5% increase over the same period in 2018.

The growth was buoyed by a blazing month of March, when Dominica reported a 110% improvement over the same period in 2018 and a 70% increase over the same period in 2017.

The Discover Dominica Authority (DDA), the country's destination marketing organization, said in a report. "The current trend suggests a positive outlook for

2019 which could bring visitor arrivals back to or possibly exceed pre-Maria levels,".

Dominica's tourism sector has seen a renaissance, with the rebirth of hotels like Secret Bay, Fort Young and Pagua Bay. In addition, the totally reimagined Jungle Bay eco-hotel officially opened its doors in a new location in the south of Dominica.

Dominica tourism capacity will also be getting a boost from a burgeoning luxury sector, led by this year's highly-anticipated debut of the Kempinski Cabrits hotel in northern Dominica. ■

(Caribbean News Now)





SIDS side event reviews

# RESILIENCE

# BUILDING

for middle-income  
Caribbean countries

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**V**ulnerable, heavily indebted middle-income countries of the Caribbean require special consideration in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. To help countries make this argument, a Caribbean SIDS side event was held on 10 July 2019 in New York, to offer vulnerable countries a strategic opportunity to present new compelling reasons why they are deserving of special consideration.

[READ MORE](#)



# SIDS side event reviews resilience building for middle- income Caribbean countries

**T**his special side event, entitled 'Building Back Better: Reckoning with Size in Pursuit of Resilience' was held in the margins of the 2019 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. It was organized by ECLAC, in collaboration with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations.

It was an opportunity to review the need for building resilience, and the many challenges, that small size presents. It was also an opportunity to explore remedies for the impacts of disasters through partnership and engagement with the donor community, the private sector and civil society.

Panelists shared their knowledge and perspectives on the efforts being made to achieve sustainable development among Caribbean SIDS. Special focus was placed on the challenges arising from the region's high exposure to devastating hurricanes and onerous economic challenges. Presenting during the event, ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, recalled that in the hurricane season of 2017, in the case of the British Virgin Islands and Sint Maarten, the total cost of damage and loss from the hurricanes was greater than 100% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP). She stated that rapid unplanned urban growth poses additional risks to the subregion. "It is estimated that 84% of the total population of the Caribbean lives in coastal areas, with crucial infrastructure near the sea.

"Furthermore, in most Caribbean SIDS,

economic activities close to the coast, such as tourism, fisheries and maritime trade, constitute a significant part of the region's GDP. This combination of recurrence of disasters and concentration of population and activities in low elevation coastal zones may increase the potential impacts of climate change if projected sea-level rise scenarios occur."

Caribbean countries also face structural constraints such as dependence on external financing, limited capacity to mobilize domestic resources, and very high levels of public debt. Quarless added that debt accumulation in the Caribbean is due to a number of factors, including the impact of negative external economic shocks, climate change, and natural disasters of increasing frequency and intensity.

High public debt and debt servicing has undermined the ability of Governments to sustain social spending and invest in the resilience of their infrastructure. In addition, economic difficulties have been aggravated by a secular decline in foreign direct investment in the subregion.

She said, "The vulnerability of the Caribbean cannot be discounted in any discussion of the economic performance of the subregion. For Caribbean SIDS, the elaboration of national development plans must include Disaster Risk Management (DRM) as an important part of the planning and development process.

"One of the central objectives, therefore, of the debate, is how to manage the risk of disasters and to integrate resilience into planning strategies,



“

*The vulnerability of the Caribbean cannot be discounted in any discussion of the economic performance of the subregion.*

*Diane Quarless - Director, ECLAC Caribbean*

”

and how to integrate DRM strategy frameworks and instruments into the process, to incorporate the allocation of human, technical and financial resources.”

The side event was intended to heighten awareness of the continuing challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS in preparation for the 74th session

of the UN General Assembly in September 2019. At this gathering, discussions on climate change, the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals, financing for development, and review of progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway will be held at Summit level at UN headquarters in New York. ■



The side event occurred at the UN Headquarters in New York



## CARIFESTA 2019 bigger and better!

**R**eady, excited and waiting for you," was the message to the people of the Caribbean at home and in the diaspora from Trinidad and Tobago, at the launch of CARIFESTA (The Caribbean Festival of the Creative Arts) XIV in Port of Spain recently. The festival hub is The Grand Market at the Queens Park Savannah.

Dancers, drummers, spoken word artistes, and the sweet sound of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra entertained an appreciative audience, as the CARIFESTA logo was unveiled and the festival officially launched by Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Culture, Nyan Gadsby-Dolly.

This roving mega festival, which is held in a different Caribbean country every two years, was first held in 1972 to celebrate the arts, to foster a vision of Caribbean unity and to advance Caribbean culture, regionally and internationally.

This year, from 16-25 August, visitors to the festival, including many from 20 sister countries of the Caribbean and the Caribbean's far-flung diaspora, will converge in Trinidad and Tobago to enjoy the best the region has to offer in music, dance, theatre, film, the visual, culinary and literary arts, fashion, folklore and craft.

Under the theme, 'Connect, Share and Invest' CARIFESTA will showcase the best of all the countries of the Caribbean in one place, while those interested in doing business will find a ready-made marketplace for trading in cultural goods and services.

CARIFESTA is wholesome family entertainment and is held at a time of year when families can enjoy a wide range of activities suitable for all ages to experience the cultures of several countries at one go. ■



# HISTORY OF CARIFESTA

The Caribbean Festival of Arts, CARIFESTA, give expression to the uniqueness of our Caribbean reality. Like other significant institutions such as cricket, CXC, and CARICOM that symbolize a Caribbean commonality, the Festival emphasizes our unity in the midst of our diversity.

CARIFESTA, which has been hailed as “the inspirational exchange of creative flows”, has its underpinnings in the staging of the first Caribbean Festival of Arts in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1952. This event spurred some enthusiasm in the Region for celebrating the excellence of Caribbean artistry.

The creation of the West Indies Federation was marked by the staging of a Festival in Trinidad, through the auspices of the Extra Mural Department of the then University College of the

West Indies. This celebratory spirit must have infused the artistic community of the Region, for it was at a regional gathering of artists in Guyana in 1970, that the idea of a grand Caribbean festival was conceived.

The enthusiasm of the artists attending a Caribbean Writers and Artists Convention in Georgetown in 1966 and again in 1970 during Guyana’s Independence and Republic celebrations, found favour with Prime Minister Forbes Burnham who spearheaded the conversion of the idea into a resplendent exposition of artistic forms and cultural artifacts that became the first Caribbean Festival of Arts in Guyana in 1972. ■

## What visitors to CARIFESTA XIV can expect:

1. Country nights dedicated to each participating country to showcase its unique arts and culture
2. Signal events in dance, music visual arts, film theatre and fashion
3. A Youth Village
4. Community Festivals
5. Street Festivals
6. A super concert with some of the Caribbean’s top artistes
7. A film festival with feature films from across the region
8. Mas Camp
9. Fashion shows
10. Panyard
11. Literary Festival
12. Caribbean Jazz Show
13. J’ouvert
14. Live Music District
15. Visual Art Tours and Exhibitions
16. Culinary demonstrations and cook-offs
17. Rum Shop
18. Comedy Show
19. Food and Drink Festival



Feature address by  
Dr Dillon Alleyne at the

# ANNUAL REVIEW SEMINAR

of the Central Bank of  
Barbados

**B**y 2030, the world's economy and society are expected to be greatly influenced by a variety of new technologies, which signal a fourth industrial revolution. This poses for regions like the Caribbean, enormous risks and opportunities.

These were some of the issues raised by ECLAC Caribbean's Deputy Director, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, who delivered the feature address at the Annual review Seminar of the Central Bank of Barbados, held from 23-26 July 2019.

The theme of the seminar was 'Critical Minds for Critical Times: Economic research as a building Block for Transformative growth in the Caribbean', a theme which Dr. Alleyne described as timely, given that the subregion is at a crossroads, whereby serious decisions are needed to achieve sustainable development.

Dr. Alleyne said that "While the coming technological changes have been labelled as disruptive technologies, it has been suggested that these are the technologies that matter. Among them are mobile internet, automation of knowledge work, the internet of things, cloud technology, advanced robotics, autonomous and near autonomous vehicles, next generation





genomics, energy storage, 3D printing and renewable energy.”

Of these, he pointed out that two areas were of considerable importance. One was robotics, which will reduce the demand for a variety of service jobs. The other was renewable energy technologies, which will create efficiency for small states with these abundant resources.

He pointed out that these changes were happening at a time of severe regional challenges and recalled that since the global crisis of 2008-2009, Caribbean economies have not returned to pre-crisis levels of growth and that a few have been in recession. “For the commodity producers (Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago), the days of the commodity super cycle of high prices are long over and many have seen the decline in revenue and in a few cases there are foreign exchange shortages.”

Dr. Alleyne also addressed the issue of the declining capacity of the Caribbean to export. “Caribbean’s exports performance has been in decline for some time. Over the

period 1995 to 2017, the Caribbean export share of global exports has seen both new and old exports falling.”

In closing he gave a number of recommendations through which the Caribbean can achieve sustainable growth. These are broken into four important areas. First an industrial policy is necessary to identify additional and complementary activities where there are positive spillovers. Among these are competitiveness policies, trade and inward FDI policies, policies to foster innovation, human resource training, upgrading the tourism sector, policies towards SMEs to name a few. Complementing this is the necessity to properly develop and make more accessible information and communication technologies (ICT). In this respect there is need for the implementation of a broadband strategy, harmonizing spectrum management, strengthening national and regional e-governance and address local content deficits.

Secondly, diversifying of markets and activities by encouraging a broader range of entrepreneurs. Among these activities are the development

of skills for the provision of global services, including those in the creative industries, that go beyond tourism.

Thirdly the role of regional integration and enhancing opportunities for regional value chains cannot be underestimated. As part of an expanded regional economic space it is important to identify clear strategies to encourage greater production integration and cooperation.

Fourth, a renewed focus must be placed on building technical capacity not just to jump start innovation but also to allow local entrepreneurs to identify appropriate technologies for sustainable development. This means that the share of R&D investment in GDP must be consistent and should increase. Building a knowledge economy engagement with the Caribbean diaspora is important as it can promote opportunities for knowledge diffusions between the region and those abroad. ■



## PANEL DISCUSSION AND SEMINAR EXPLORE HOW TO ACHIEVE QUALITY EDUCATION

**E**ducators\* play an important role in creating a learning environment that is conducive to high quality educational and a lifelong learning experience for students. Such an environment could further the attainment of Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is dedicated to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

This and other key elements of educational leadership were the focus of discussion at a session on “The Sustainable Development Goals and the Caribbean Region” and a panel discussion on “Development Trends in the Caribbean: Caribbean Outlook- 2018” during the recently concluded Educational Leadership training of the Education Summer Institute in St. John’s, Antigua and Barbuda, on 05 July 2019.

Representing the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at this event was Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean’s Statistics and Social Development Unit, Mr. Abdullahi Abdulkadri, who elaborated on ECLAC’s main findings in the Regional Commission’s flagships publication—The Caribbean Outlook. Among other factors, he emphasized the need to build human capital for enhanced development and underscored the important role of the education system in producing skilled professionals with relevant expertise to promote strong knowledge-based economies in the Caribbean. He highlighted the disconnection between the educational system and the needs of labour market and alluded to the high rates of youth unemployment in the Caribbean as partly a reflection of this disjuncture. He noted that Caribbean countries need education systems that focus on developing skills, especially those relevant for the global economy, as one means to address the prevalent problem of youth unemployment in the subregion.

In linking the need for human capital development to the SDGs, Mr. Abdulkadri highlighted Target 4.4 of the SDGs which states: “By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.” However, to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda as well as the rest of the Caribbean are on track to achieve this and other SDG targets, an effective SDG monitoring framework must be implemented at the national level. In this regard, he noted that many Caribbean countries have not performed an assessment of their capacity to produce data for the SDG indicators. The fact that the National Statistical System of most Caribbean countries is not formally established, the untimely and inconsistent dissemination of official statistics, and the limited funding of National Statistical Offices are major obstacles that need to be addressed in ensuring an effective monitoring framework. Mr. Abdulkadri encouraged participants of the educational leadership training to see the 2030 Agenda as a platform for greater use of administrative data to inform policy and the monitoring of the SDGs.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Antigua and Barbuda, organizes the Educators’ Summer Institute (ESI) as an annual professional development programme for administrators, teachers and other stakeholders. In its eleventh year, the 2019 ESI was held from 1-12 July. Participants at this year’s institute, which included education officers, principals, vice principals and senior teachers, had the opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of the key indicators for SDG 4 and the role they can play in strengthening their monitoring and reporting in Antigua and Barbuda. ■

\*Including Education Officers, Principals, Vice Principals, and other senior teachers





## TRINIDAD FILM RECOGNIZED AT SDGS IN ACTION FILM FESTIVAL

**A** short film from a Trinidadian filmmaker was chosen as one of the six winners of the 2019 SDGs in Action Film Festival, which was held during the recent UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.

The film by Carver Bacchus is entitled "Turning a Page", and won in the category, Ensuring Quality Education and Jobs. It is a short documentary that explores how differently-abled students relate to the world through creative outlets like a paper recycling project at their school.

The SDGs in Action Film Festival, coordinated by the UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a competition seeking short films that highlight how people and organizations around the world are taking action for the 17 global goals.

The Festival was launched in 2018 in connection with the HLPF on Sustainable Development that takes place each July at UN Headquarters in New York. The competition offers amateur and professional filmmakers around the globe the chance to submit animated or live-action films up to 20 minutes long that showcase a person or project working on tangible solutions to the world's biggest threats and making the SDGs our reality.

The categories for 2019 were Protecting our planet, Reducing inequalities, Building peace, Ensuring quality education and jobs, Young Filmmaker (24 years old or younger), and SDGs in Virtual Reality/360 degrees. There were over 900 entries from all over the world.

The winning videos in the other categories were (Protecting Our Planet): 'Aquastory' by Marina Lobo, Portugal; (Young Filmmaker): 'One Million Lights Zambales,' by Carmel Limcaoco, Philippines; (Building Peace): 'Kumekucha: It's A New Dawn,' by Angi Yoder-Maina, Kenya; (SDGs in Virtual Reality/360 degrees): 'River of Mud,' by Tadeu Jungle, Brazil; and (Reducing Inequalities): 'Sadok (honest)' by Geraldine Ottier, Italy.

All six films were shown at the Festival on 11 July 2019 at UN Headquarters, in the presence of the filmmakers. ■



## ECLAC MEETING ANALYZES ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FLOODING IN THE CARIBBEAN

In the Caribbean, flooding events often result in significant disruptions of both economic and social life. For example, the island of Hispaniola has suffered several flooding events over the past two decades, the most significant of which claimed the lives of more than 900 persons in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in 2004.

Similar events have also affected Jamaica (2017, and 2018); Trinidad and Tobago (2016, 2017, and 2018); and several islands of the Eastern Caribbean including Saint Lucia (2013, 2016); Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2013); Dominica (2013, 2017); Antigua and Barbuda (2010); Barbados (2010); and the British Virgin Islands (2010; 2017). Mainland Caribbean territories have also had their challenges with flooding, as was the experience of Guyana in 2005; Belize in 2015; and Suriname in 2008.

The economic impacts of such events in Jamaica and in Trinidad and Tobago, together with possible remedies and proposed courses of action, were at the centre of discussions at a recent expert group meeting hosted by ECLAC Caribbean. At the meeting, senior government officials and regional technicians discussed the specific experience of the Caribbean subregion, in light of the findings emerging from an ECLAC study, entitled 'An Economic Analysis of Flooding in the Caribbean – The case of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago'.

The study, which focuses on selected areas in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, investigates the potential economic impacts of recurrent flood events and compare these with the cost of potential flood control interventions.

Similarly, in the case of Trinidad and Tobago, flooding results from a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors such as topography, rainfall patterns and soil

types, coupled with inadequate land use and watershed management practices.

The Damage and Losses Assessment methodology (DaLA) is used to calculate potential costs related to flood events. Planned government interventions in the selected areas will be used as a parameter for the cost of flood adaptation measures.

Against this backdrop, the EGM analyzed the findings of the study in terms of the impacts of recurrent flood events, which have resulted in significant disruptions to economic and social life. In the case of Jamaica, flooding was identified as the most frequently recurring natural hazard affecting the country. The cause of such events is to be found in cases of extreme rainfall, which are typically associated with tropical storms, hurricanes and depressions. The impact of these phenomena is further heightened by hydrological issues and land use variables, which combined may lead to flooding.

For example, the 2018 October flood in East and Central Trinidad affected an estimated 150,000 people and 4,100 households. According to the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, approximately 75 per cent of local farmers were severely affected through the loss of crops and livestock. Similarly in Jamaica, six storm events between 2002 and 2007 resulted in 60 fatalities and US \$1.02 billion in damages. Since 2010, Jamaica has experienced several more flooding events, with at least three major occurrences in 2012, 2017, and 2018. Meeting participants included representatives from the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Government officials from Jamaica and representatives of the Water Resources Authority, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). ■





## GUYANA FIRST COUNTRY TO SIGN UP TO DEVELOP MARITIME ECONOMY PLAN

**G**uyana has become the first country in the Commonwealth to sign up to the Maritime Economy Plan which aims to develop the country's potential in the sector.

The government is receiving support from the Commonwealth Maritime Economics Programme in the crafting of the plan. At the opening ceremony for the consultations, British High Commissioner to Guyana, Greg Quinn commended the government's forward-thinking.

"I believe this reflects the vision of the government and all its agencies. They are aware of the fact that the future of Guyana must rest in its effective use and conservation of all sectors of the country's economy," the High Commissioner said.

"The plan aims to identify sectors of the maritime industries that foster sustainable development and to prepare a tailored action plan to address gaps, overcome obstacles and build capacity to grow those sectors. In the process, it will consider the government's short, medium and long-term priorities," he explained. He said the plan will be tailored to meet Guyana's specific needs and priorities. It will also be aligned with Sustainable Development Goal

(SDG) #14 – 'Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources'.

Commissioner of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GL&SC), Trevor Benn noted that the plan will develop the potential of Guyana's marine economy in a sustainable, resilient and integrated way.

He said it also help Guyana tackle some of the challenges it faces in the sector: "Some of which relate to outdated navigation charts that requires urgent attention – high degree of vulnerability to external and economic environmental shocks and climate change, ocean acidification, extreme weather events, pollution, overfishing, loss of habitat, loss of modern hydrographic data all of which I hope with the start of this consultation, we will be able to address."

The joint work on the development of the Maritime Economy Plan began back in 2016. Stakeholders were drawn from all sectors of the country. Consultants Jonathan McCue and Felipe Stiegler are leading the consultation process. ■

(Caribbean360)

## □ Cooperation Opportunities for Korea

### □ Conclusion



## FORUM OF KOREA-CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP

**F**rom 10-14 July 2019, the Republic of Korea (ROK) government brought together representatives from nine Caribbean states, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and ECLAC to explore ways of promoting environmental cooperation for sustainable growth.

These discussions took place in the context of the 9th Forum on the Korea-Caribbean Partnership, during which ECLAC Caribbean was represented by Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Dr. Omar Bello, and Economic Affairs Officer, Willard Phillips.

The Forum was held under the theme, 'Environmental cooperation partnership for sustainable growth', and provided an opportunity for continued engagement with

Caribbean countries in broad areas of mutual cooperation and development.

One of the topics discussed was the vulnerability of Caribbean states to climate change and natural disasters. During the formal one-day meeting of the Forum, ECLAC's delegates delivered two presentations. During the first, Dr. Bello presented the results of ECLAC's work in assessing the economic impacts of disasters in the Caribbean with a particular focus on the historic 2017 hurricane season. The second presentation was delivered by Phillips and focused on the status of renewable energy (RE) and energy policy development in the Caribbean. Phillips also highlighted areas for possible future Korea Caribbean partnership in strengthening RE development in the subregion.

Various other ways for cooperation were also discussed on RE, which is a pressing issue in the Caribbean region. The Forum also solidified the future-oriented cooperative partnership between the ROK government and Caribbean states, which is expected to become much stronger. To illustrate the growing interest in these issues, participants from CARICOM, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, the Korea Meteorological Administration and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology, shared presentations on "Korea-Caribbean cooperation in addressing climate change and natural disasters" in the first session of the Forum. Over the four days, participants had the opportunity to visit several Korean institutions involved



## SAINT LUCIA'S MUST-VISIT SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

in providing research, development and related technical services, including the Korea Meteorological Administration, the Samsung Innovation Museum; the office of the National Emergency Management Agency of Jeju Island, and the Korea Electric Power Corporation's commercial wind power plant. Delegates were also exposed to several cultural aspects of Korean life, including cuisine and a number of heritage and historical sites. ■

**T**he well-known Caribbean music festival is back in Saint Lucia this year with the return of Mercury Fest. The beach music party is a popular event around this time of the year.

This year's event will be headlined by Jamaican reggae and dancehall artists Wayne Wonder and Kranium, who will be joined by Dennery Segment Megastars-Black Boy, Cooyah and Umpa. A lineup of top DJs from Saint Lucia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Trinidad and Tobago and Sint Maarten will also be present.

"Last year the event welcomed foreign nationals from Martinique, France, the United States, Trinidad, Dominica, Guadeloupe, the UK, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic and we look forward to welcoming all the visitors who will grace our shores during the action-

packed weekend," said Christopher Gustave, Marketing Manager for Caribbean and Events at the Saint Lucia Tourism Authority.

This year's event will include even more beach amenities, including waterfront cabanas and an expanded foam pit, among others. "Mercury Fest is proving to be an ultimate experience that has exposed its true potential as a major visitor attraction. With hoteliers, taxi and tour operators as well as vendors who directly benefit from the economic activity of this event eagerly awaiting its staging, we anticipate that this mega event will continue to progress as a global attraction, placing even more spotlight on Saint Lucia as the events capital of the Caribbean," said Saint Lucia Tourism Minister Dominic Fedee. ■

(Caribbean Journal)





## NEW ECLAC STUDY TO PROMOTE RENEWED REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM

**E**CLAC Caribbean has undertaken a study which will make a case for a revitalized Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC-RCM). The new study will re-examine the function of the RCM and the recommendations which were made during recent meetings of the CDCC.

Functioning as a regional body, the CDCC-RCM was established to serve the Caribbean countries in the advancement of SIDS sustainable development agendas.

The upcoming study outlines the ways in which economic, social and environmental conditions have changed radically since the first articulation and global acceptance of the need for specific attention to the vulnerabilities and challenges to sustainable development of the SIDS, which dates back to the BPoA.

To better respond to the evolving challenges that confront Caribbean SIDS, the study makes the case that repositioning the CDCC-RCM as The Caribbean-Forum for Sustainable Development will ensure that

SIDS specific priorities are entrenched and consistently addressed within national, regional and global sustainable development portfolios. Having this regional unifying mechanism will also reduce the reporting burdens and at the same time provide for coherencies in implementing, evaluating, monitoring and reporting across multiple agendas.

More on the findings of this study will be revealed when it is published later this year. ■

# STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Grenada

## IMF CONSULTATION

- Jul -

The executive board of the International Monetary Fund concluded a routine consultation with the government of Grenada. Following their visit, they reported that the Grenadian economy has shown continued growth. Specifically, the gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 4.25 per cent in 2018, driven by strong activity in construction and tourism. Unemployment has been reduced but remains high at 21.7 percent as of mid-2018. Finally, inflation has remained low and bank credit growth is positive.

## DIGITAL CRIME DATA

- Jul -

The governments of the United States and Grenada launched a Police Records Management Information System (PRMIS) that will help the Grenada Police Force to improve data management and analysis. The system, a key component of the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) CariSECURE project, uses standardized crime and violence data to foster evidence-based policy and programming across nine eastern and southern Caribbean countries, including Grenada.



Jamaica

## JAMAICA READY TO EXIT IMF

- Aug -

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Resident Representative, Dr Constant Lonkeng Ngouana, said that Jamaica has made tremendous progress over the last six years and is now ready to exit its current arrangement with the organisation, speaking at a public forum at the Bethel Baptist Church, on Monday, July 29. Jamaica's current programme with the IMF is scheduled to officially end in November. The country will, however, continue to benefit from technical assistance.

## FUNDING ALLOCATED TO FARMERS

- Aug -

The ministry of industry, commerce, agriculture, and fisheries, through the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), is spending \$15 million to assist farmers affected by the ongoing drought. In addition, minister is making formal approaches to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the UN Green Climate Fund for assistance in identifying small portable drip irrigation systems to assist the small farmers.



Trinidad and Tobago

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING STUDY

- Jul -

A new study on human trafficking is expected to provide a greater understanding of the problem of human trafficking within and across its borders. The Canadian firm, Dunn, Pierre, Barnett and Company, Canada Limited, has been engaged by CARIFORUM to conduct the comprehensive study. Countries involved in the study will include Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

## CARICOM IMPACS

- Jul -

The CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) and the Commonwealth Secretariat have collaborated to build capacity of over 110 participants from Trinidad and Tobago and over 300 regional participants at a three-day course schedule for July 23rd – 25, 2019 in Port of Spain. The workshop was titled: Preventing Violent Extremism Course in CARICOM and aims to advance the CARICOM Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



## A MUST-VISIT FOOD FESTIVAL IN ST BARTH

**T**he sixth annual St Barth Gourmet Festival has announced the eight featured guest chefs for this year's event. The guest chefs attending the festival include Chef Arnaud Faye, Relais & Châteaux La Chèvre d'Or; Chef Eric Bouchenoire, Joel Robuchon Ateliers; Chef Guillaume Goupil, Burgundy; Chef Jean-Denis Rieubland, Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa; Chef Taku Sekine, Dersou and Cheval d'Or; Chef Stéphane Buron, Le Chabichou; Chef Patrice Vander, Hôtel Royal Evian Resort; and Chef Philippe Jourdin, Terre Blanche Hôtel (Côte d'Azur).

From 6-10 November 2019, these chefs will work alongside local culinary teams to represent the best of French gastronomy at the island's hotels and restaurants.

As St. Barth's signature event, the Gourmet Festival celebrates a longstanding tradition of culinary excellence.

"Gastronomy is an integral part of St. Barth culture and our tourism industry," states Nils DuFau, president of the Territorial Tourism Committee of St. Barth. "St. Barth is synonymous with world-class cuisine and we look forward to reaffirming our position as the culinary capital of the Caribbean with our signature event." This year, Chef Arnaud Faye has been named patron of the festival and will deliver opening remarks and serve as president of the jury for select events.

The Chefs' dinners will be held at Le Barthélemy Hotel & Spa, Hotel Christopher, Hotel Le Toiny, Le Sereno, Hotel Manapany, Le Tamarin, L'Esprit Jean-Claude Dufour and Nikki Beach. Reservations for the festival dinners can be made by directly contacting festival partner hotels and restaurants. ■

(Caribbean Journal)



# ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*

## ON-THE-JOB TRAINEES COMPLETE CONTRACTS

**E**CLAC Caribbean's two on-the-job trainees (OJT) recently successfully completed their two-year tenure at the office.

Deion Smith and Arianna Ottley received high praise from ECLAC staff, for their excellent work in the area of information technology. While on assignment to the organization, they both performed duties under the scope of the Caribbean Knowledge Management and Communication Unit.

During their time with us, both Deion and Arianna were often called upon by staff to solve from the simplest to the more complex challenges related to information technology and office computers, and they were always able to solve every issue.

ECLAC Caribbean staff wishes them both the best for their future careers, which are sure to be quite as fruitful as it was over the past two years. ■



# Caribbean Bean Stew

## What you will need:

- 1-pound dry Beans
- 1 oz smoked Bratwurst Sausage (or any smoked sausage)
- 1 cup Tomatoes, fresh, medium dice
- ½ cup Parsley, roughly chopped
- ½ cup Cilantro, roughly chopped
- ½ cup Green Onions, finely sliced
- ¼ cup fresh Dill, finely chopped
- ¼ cup fresh Garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon Coconut oil
- 1 teaspoon Lemon zest, fresh
- 2 tablespoons Lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 tablespoon Chipotle pepper flakes (can substitute hot Paprika)
- 1 tablespoon Rosemary infused salt (can use regular salt)

## Method:

1. Add six cups of water to pressure cooker. Add the beans and pressure cook on high for 40 minutes.
2. Quick release the pressure.
3. Allow the beans to cool for 10 minutes, then add ½ cup of the beans with some of the cooking liquid to a blender. Blend for 10 seconds and pour that mixture back into the stew and stir to thicken.
4. Add all additional ingredients into the stew and cook for 5 minutes more over medium heat, stirring to incorporate.
5. Remove from heat and serve.







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