



## ECONOMIC SURVEY

LAUNCH OF THE ECONOMIC  
SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN

## ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

HIGH-LEVEL SIGNATURE AND  
RATIFICATION CEREMONY AT THE  
74TH UNGA

## MIGRATION

ECLAC PARTICIPATES IN CARIBBEAN  
MIGRATION CONSULTATIONS



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

# CONTENTS



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4

## Article

Ministers call for radical shift at ECLAC conference

8

## Feature Article

ECLAC launches the Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2019

12

## Article

ECLAC attends Earthquake summit in Chile

16

## Article

ECLAC participates in Caribbean migration consultations

18

## Article

Archaeologists Search for STX's Enslaved Ancestors

20

## ECLAC Caribbean Family

Book Display at CARIFESTA XIV

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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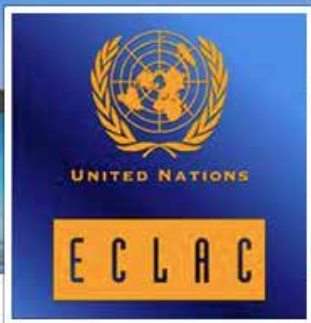
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# ECLAC CARIBBEAN



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Timeline

About

Events

Photos

More



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## September Events

5

International Day of Charity  
5 September 2019

8

International Literacy Day  
8 September 2019

21

International Day of Peace  
21 September 2019

27

World Tourism Day  
27 September 2019

28

International Day for Universal Access to Information  
28 September 2019



**ECLAC Caribbean**

Posted Sep 4

Practice and demonstrate to children equal decision-making process at home. (SDG 5)



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Posted Aug 7

Policy makers and experts have identified ways in which persons with disability can enjoy the benefits of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).



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## MINISTERS CALL FOR RADICAL SHIFT AT ECLAC CONFERENCE

**M**inisters and heads of planning from Latin American and the Caribbean recently called for a radical shift in the development model in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The shift will require long-term planning and the strengthening of multilateralism.

This, at the XVI ECLAC Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning, which was held in Montevideo, Uruguay on 28-29 August 2019.

Inaugurated by the Director of Uruguay's Planning and Budget Office, Álvaro García, by ECLAC's Executive Secretary, Alicia Bárcena, and by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uruguay, Mireia Villar, the Conference was attended by senior authorities from 24 countries in the region, seven of which were Caribbean nations – the largest ever Caribbean presence at the event.

In her remarks, Bárcena underscored that the world today is facing extreme financial challenges in terms of growth

and trade, and she warned that inequalities are increasingly within countries, rather than between the center and the periphery.

"Growth is mediocre in general in the region. Twenty-one of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have seen their economies decelerate and we have the greatest levels of indebtedness in history, which are not generating greater productive investment," she said.

Bárcena recalled that the 2008 crisis marked a turning point in the economic model, generating a hyper-globalization that has led to financial assistance with high risks; changes in global wealth and growing inequalities in middle-income countries; and societies that are not investing in the future.

"We thought that the 2008 crisis had passed and that the global situation was going to improve, but 11 years later, underlying problems remain. This has led to the crisis of multilateralism, of migration and of democracy," she stated.

Against this backdrop, Bárcena underscored the relevance of planning for discussing, projecting, rethinking and asserting the image of the region that we want. She emphasized that the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, and the Escazú Agreement – among other international instruments – provide the necessary frameworks for all actors involved in development to dialogue and reach agreement about the state policies needed for the region to achieve development with equality and sustainability.

The event also featured a Caribbean panel discussion on "Planning for resilience in Caribbean countries", moderated by ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, who underscored that few countries are more indebted than those in the Caribbean. Presenters on this panel included Chairman and Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Wayne Henry; Physical Planning Officer of the Department of Physical Planning of Saint Lucia, Werner Houson; Recovery



## JAMAICA LAUNCHES DIGITAL IMMIGRATION FORMS

and Development Cooperation Specialist in the Office of the Prime Minister of the British Virgin Islands, Patlian Johnson; and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development of Dominica, Gloria Joseph.

During the panel, Quarless highlighted the range of challenges facing Caribbean countries in their pursuit of sustainable development due to their vulnerability. This includes, but is not limited to, the devastating impacts of climate change and extreme weather events; lack of economies of scale in production; proneness to external shocks; excessive reliance on external financial inflows and on few export/import markets; limited transport and communications; reduced scope for output diversification and limited human resources, compounded by high levels of migration of skilled individuals. These unique challenges define Caribbean countries as vulnerable members of the global community and highlight the vital importance of resilience-building to their very survival. ■

In a major step to reduce wait times at its airports, Jamaica has launched an online version of its immigration and customs declaration form.

The move, which would be the first by an English-speaking Caribbean country, means travelers can fill out their forms prior to their arrival, with the information sent to immigration officers for processing. "As Jamaica's arrivals numbers continue to soar, it's important that we offer a speedier process at our airports, so our visitors spend less time waiting in immigration and customs and more time enjoying the destination," said Donovan White, Jamaica's Director of Tourism. "We're continuously seeking ways to enhance our visitors' experience while in Jamaica and we hope this improved experience also promotes greater return visits for our guests."

The Online Passenger Declaration

Form captures the same information as the current paper Immigration and Customs Passenger Declaration Form. Once completed, the electronic form is then submitted to Immigration Officers and Customs Officers, who process passengers upon their arrival.

"The new system is efficient because it is user-friendly and requires minimal effort on the part of the traveller," said Andrew Wynter, CEO of Jamaica's Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency. "Once you click on one of the boxes, it moves you onto the next option; we don't want people spending too much time on the form, we want them focusing on their stay and experience in Jamaica."

As part of its continuing efforts to improve the arrivals experience, the customs agency's next project is to launch a mobile application, it said. ■



ECLAC launches the

# ECONOMIC SURVEY

of the Caribbean 2019

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**A**t the launch of the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean on 31 July 2019, Dr. Dillon Alleyne, the Deputy Director of ECLAC Caribbean, reviewed the macroeconomic performance of the regional economies in 2018 and outlined projections for 2019. The Hummingbird caught up with Dr. Alleyne for a one-on-one, following the launch.

[READ MORE](#)



# ECLAC launches the Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2019

## **Q: What are the main highlights of the Survey?**

We are pleased to report that economic growth strengthened across the region in 2018, a growth trend which is expected to continue in 2019. This, since all of the 15 Caribbean economies assessed in the Economic Survey are expected to post positive growth in 2019 for the first time since 2007. More specifically, Dominica (9.9%), Antigua and Barbuda (5.9%), Grenada (3.3%) and Saint Kitts and Nevis (3.1%) are expected to be the outstanding contributors to this positive forecast.

In particular, the average growth rate of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) economies is expected to strengthen to 4.2% in 2019, which is above the global and regional growth rates. In 2019, the service producing economies are expected to grow by 2.2% (up from 1.8% in 2018), while the goods producing economies are expected to post a growth rate of 2.0% (down from 2.2% in 2018).

## **Q: What are the factors driving these projections?**

Driving this outturn is an anticipated strong performance in tourism related activities, the construction sector, as well as robust results in the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programmes. The latter follows the reduction of the minimum investment requirements for the CBI programmes by some OECS economies, with Dominica having one of the lowest CBI investment requirements. In the case of Guyana, economic activity is also expected to accelerate (4.6%) ahead of the first commercial oil production in early 2020. As for the goods producing economies, their slightly weaker performance can be linked to subdued global commodity prices.

## **Q: What is the situation of the energy sector?**

The recovery in the energy sector has contributed to improved foreign exchange inflows. Nevertheless, the foreign exchange shortage is still acute.

In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, there was positive growth (1.9%) in 2018 for the first time in three years. This was largely driven by a recovery in the energy sector. In 2019, despite the effect of the oil refinery closure of the state-owned company Petrotrin in November 2018, growth is projected to be 1.6%, by virtue of a new natural gas project and of an increased implementation of public sector investment programmes.

However, the announcement of unsuccessful infill drilling by BP could also have a negative impact on economic growth. In this regard, the recent downgrade of Trinidad and Tobago's credit rating by Standard & Poor's was driven by lower than expected energy production and economic growth, as well as by the delay in institutional reforms.

## **Q: How have the subregion's efforts towards fixed consolidation progressed?**

The Caribbean region has continued its fiscal consolidation effort. In 2018, fiscal deficits as a percentage of GDP decreased in 11 out of 15 Caribbean economies, despite the increased needs for fiscal resources after hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. As a result, 12 Caribbean economies experienced a decline in their public debt to GDP ratio.

Despite this progress, however, only two Caribbean economies' public debt ratios fell below 60% of GDP, which is the benchmark for sustainable debt. Given the Caribbean's vulnerability to external shocks, continued commitments to fiscal consolidation is therefore required to achieve sustainable growth.

## **Q: What is the current situation with regard to de-risking and blacklisting?**

Across the Caribbean, de-risking continues to negatively impact the real economy, as purchasing of foreign goods and services have become more difficult. Although some strides have been made in stabilizing the impact of de-risking, it remains



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*Across the Caribbean, de-risking continues to negatively impact the real economy, as purchasing of foreign goods and services have become more difficult.*

Dillon Alleyne - Deputy Director, ECLAC Caribbean

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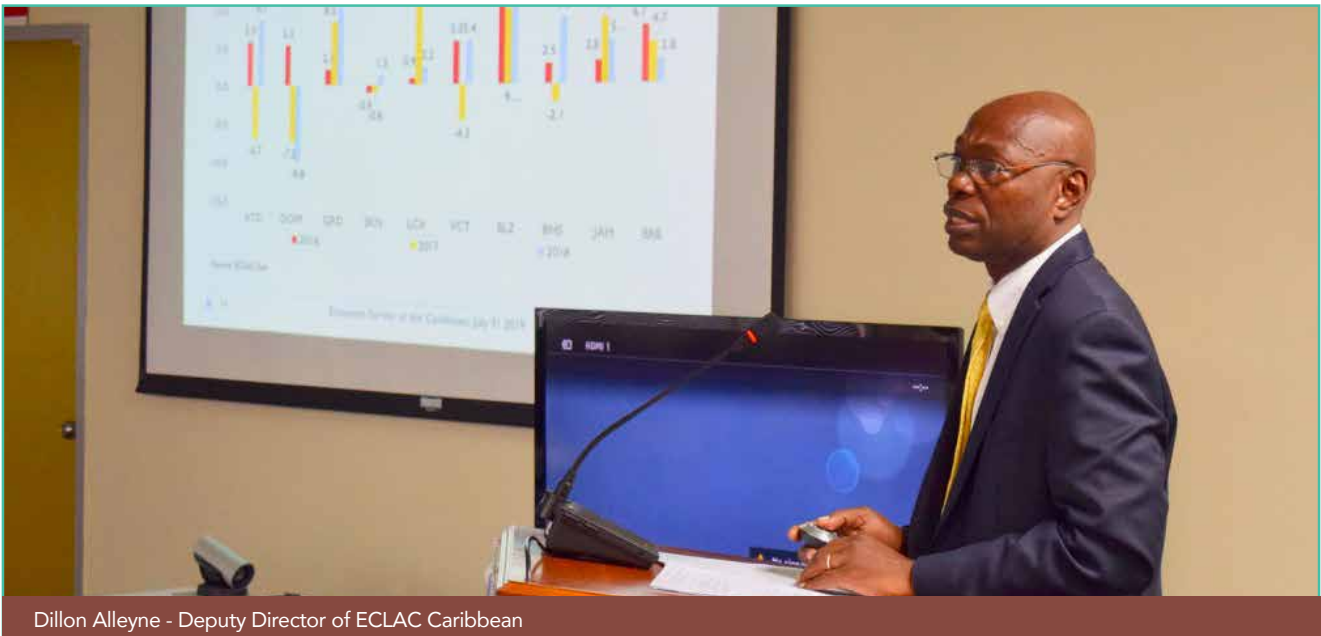
a risk across the region. ECLAC, in a recent study, identified a number of recommendations to address the impact of de-risking, including launching a transparency and media campaign; consolidating banks and banking systems; and strengthening AML-CFT regimes.

With regard to blacklisting, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has responded to the recently updated European Union (EU) blacklist with sharp disapproval, as seven of 15 countries on the EU blacklist are in the Caribbean. Blacklisting can mean a risk to reputation, stricter controls on EU financial transactions, and reduced EU development funding. Stronger coordination is needed among CARICOM countries, and governments must assess and address deficiencies to ensure compliance.

**Q: Looking ahead, what is needed for inclusive and sustainable economic growth to be achieved?**

For inclusive and sustainable economic growth, strengthening of investment is a key condition. Also, exports should be expanded in non-traditional sectors such as education and health care, whilst key sectors like tourism should be upgraded by improving infrastructure and training as well as trade facilitation.

Efforts must include building technical capacity for prioritizing and managing capital investment programmes. It is also necessary to lock in the gains of fiscal consolidation through institutional reforms such as the strengthening social security programmes and the reduction of crime. ■



Dillon Alleyne - Deputy Director of ECLAC Caribbean



## THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND ITS SUPPORT TO SDG ADVANCEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

**T**he growing United Arab Emirates (UAE)-Caribbean relationship is rapidly extending to a number of sectors and areas ranging from politics to culture.

One of the highlights of the cooperation of the UAE with the Caribbean has been its contribution to the attainment of SDG 7, which calls for greater access to affordable and clean energy, through the launch of the UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (UAECREF).

This partnership stems from the UAE's keenness to boost bilateral relations between the country and the Caribbean island states, and from the desire to drive sustainable economic and social development. The initiative also celebrates the similarities shared by both the UAE and the Caribbean such as high potential for solar energy and the willingness to diversify their energy matrix.

The primary objective of this bilateral cooperation is to support renewable energy projects across 16 Caribbean countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic,

Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago; across different cycles.

The fruits of this partnership are already visible. The Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have already launched national projects under the Fund, setting the leading pace of a brighter renewable energy future to come.

Altogether, the three projects, which broke ground in November 2018, will deliver 2.35 MW of solar energy and 637 kWh of battery storage capacity, while displacing more than 2.6 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. In total, diesel savings will count for more than 895,000 liters per year, worth approximately US\$1.1 million.

Responding to the need to increase the resilience of Caribbean energy grids, the three projects are also designed to withstand up to 160 miles per hour winds and extreme weather, following a new requirement introduced in the UAE-CREF in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. ■



## HIGH-LEVEL SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION CEREMONY OF THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT AT THE 74TH UNGA

**C**ivil society across the Caribbean has been enthusiastically encouraging governments in the subregion to ratify The Escazú Agreement, an important multilateral instrument that offers countries a dynamic platform for advancing towards full access to information. It is a platform that enlivens participation that goes beyond mere consultation, and that promotes environmental justice.

The Agreement, officially named 'The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters', was adopted at Escazú, Costa Rica, on 4 March 2018. It is the only treaty stemming from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Escazú Agreement is a salient example of the commitment of Latin America and Caribbean to a more equal, just and sustainable development. Its ultimate aim is to ensure the right of present and future generations to a healthy environment through access to information, public participation, justice, capacity-building and cooperation.

The Escazú Agreement was opened for the signature of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on 27 September 2018, at the UN Headquarters in New York, coinciding with the General Annual Debate of the UN General Assembly.

To date, the agreement has 17 signatories, including Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. So far, However, only one country, Guyana, has ratified it. To enter into force, the agreement needs to be ratified by 11 States.

The Escazú Agreement will be one of the four environmental treaties that UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, will highlight on 26 September 2019 in the Treaty Event Area ("Kuwaiti boat") in the General Assembly building. During the event, which will focus on treaties that support the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, authorities from Latin America and the Caribbean will sign and ratify the Agreement at the highest level possible. ■



## ECLAC ATTENDS EARTHQUAKE SUMMIT IN CHILE

**W**ith an annual average allocation of 1.2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to mitigate the effects of natural catastrophes, when it comes to earthquake impact mitigation and anti-seismic infrastructure, Chile is one of the best prepared countries in Latin America. It thus seems fitting that its capital, Santiago, was chosen as the location for The Latin America Earthquake Impact Mitigation Summit, from 25 to 26 June 2019.

At the summit, ECLAC Caribbean was represented by Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Dr. Omar Bello, who presented the Damage and Loss Assessment methodology (DaLA) and its potential usages in disasters caused by earthquakes.

Dr. Bello's presentations focused on various technical aspects of earthquakes such as seismic activity monitoring systems, early warning systems, types of earthquakes in Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico, the most recent advances in energy dissipation mechanisms, and the behavior of structures during an earthquake and new technologies for strengthening them.

Participants at the Summit included approximately 100 representatives of seismographic research centers from universities in Chile and Mexico, international anti-seismic design researchers, policy

makers and executives of construction companies from Australia, Israel, Italy and the United States. Also present were representatives of Latin American governments, research centers, universities, engineers, investors, architects, engineering and construction companies, technology and equipment providers.

Dr. Bello noted that "all the participants were interested in getting to know the new projects and initiatives that are being developed in Latin America, in better understanding the anti-seismic construction codes, and in learning more about new technologies available."

Chile is one of the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which invests most resources in weighing the damages caused by natural disasters and mitigating them. Chile is also one of the most earthquake-prone countries worldwide – with 8,094 tremors being recorded in 2017, as per the National Seismological Center of the University of Chile. The country has one of the most rigorous anti-earthquake construction codes in Latin America, and is home to leading centers in structural engineering. Moreover, Chilean engineers are known to be pioneers in upgrading and innovating preventive technologies for disaster control. ■



## £20 MILLION CARIBBEAN REPARATIONS AGREEMENT

**T**he University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Glasgow have signed the first ever agreement for slavery reparations since British Emancipation in 1838. The £20 million agreement was signed at the Regional Headquarters of The UWI in Kingston, Jamaica last week by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles and Dr David Duncan, University of Glasgow's Chief Operating Officer, representing Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli.

The terms of the agreement call for the University of Glasgow to provide £20 million to fund research to promote development initiatives to be jointly undertaken with The UWI over the next two decades. The sum of £20 million was the amount paid to slave owners as reparations by the British government when it abolished slavery in 1834.

The agreement represents the first occasion on which a slavery-enriched British or European institution has apologized for its part in slavery and committed funds to facilitate a reparations

programme. In this instance, the two universities have adopted a regional development approach to reparations.

The funds will facilitate the operations of a jointly-owned and managed institution to be called the Glasgow-Caribbean Centre for Development Research. The Centre will target and promote solutions to Caribbean development problems in areas such as medicine and public health, economics and economic growth, cultural identity and cultural industries, and other 21st century orientations in Caribbean transformation.

The seminal agreement, the first of its kind in the Western World, brings to closure negotiations between the two institutions that began when the University of Glasgow published a report in 2018 revealing that between the 1780s and 1880s it received millions of pounds in grants and endowments from Scottish and English slave owners that served to enrich and physically expand the near 600-year-old university. ■



## LOCALIZING SAMOA PATHWAY IN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

**R**epresentatives from the small island developing states (SIDS) National Focal Points network and United Nations agencies met recently to discuss coordination of efforts to localize the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SIDS.

Held under the theme, “Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in coherence with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs”, the meeting was held in Cabo Verde from 25-26 July 2019. Organized by the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing

States (UN-OHRLLS), the meeting aimed at improving coordination between the UN and island governments in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Representing ECLAC Caribbean at the meeting was Sustainable Development Officer, Artie Dubrie, who shared ECLAC’s experiences and perspectives in supporting the sustainable development priorities of Caribbean SIDS. Dubrie acknowledged that the meeting helped to chart the future direction of SIDS national focal points in providing increased support for island governments to implement international goals and programmes of action.

“The advantage was that SIDS focal points and institutions responsible for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway were brought together. On the one hand, this helped to increase coherence in the handling of SIDS issues in United Nations processes, and on the other, it provided an important link between global, regional and national levels.”

Participants discussed achievements, challenges and gaps in the first five years of implementing the SAMOA Pathway, and emphasized the need to strengthen linkages between the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the wider 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.



## REGIONAL ROUNDUP - NEVIS CULTURE MINISTER PLEASED WITH CULTURAMA 45 FESTIVITIES

The meeting also provided an opportunity to review the preparations of a toolkit to harmonize monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda on the ground.

The Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway will take place on 27 September 2019 and will review all major commitments of the last five years through a SIDS lens – from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the outcomes of the 2017 Ocean Conference. ■

**M**inister of Culture in the Nevis Island Administration, Eric Evelyn, is happy with the outcome of this year's Culturama celebrations and Cultural Street Parade, which took place in Charlestown last month.

"Culturama has been fantastic. Of course, we have had our challenges. We have had our little difficulties here and there but overall, I have been very, very pleased with the way things have turned out. We billed it as the best ever and I think it is turning out that way," Evelyn said.

As a participant in the parade, Evelyn played mas with a masquerade group from Nevis. He noted that the number of traditional dancers participating was important.

"Actually, we have three masquerade groups. The one in front is David Dynasty. I am playing with the Cotton Ground Masquerade that's the one headed by Duggins, and there is one behind from St. Kitts as well. "We intended that we must have at least 45 masqueraders on the road this afternoon. We have more than that and so we are very delighted." Culturama, known as "De Caribbean's greatest summer lime," is the foremost cultural event on Nevis in which Nevisians celebrate their cultural heritage.

The festival was started in 1974 by the Nevis Dramatic and Cultural Society (NEDACS) at a time when the organization felt Nevis was losing its cultural heritage. The 12-day event has become a permanent feature on the calendars of regional festivals. ■



## ECLAC PARTICIPATES IN CARIBBEAN MIGRATION CONSULTATIONS

**T**here is urgent need to establish a coherent framework for migration in the Caribbean in the context of the impact of natural disasters and climate change. This call to action emerged from a meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago on 6-7 June 2019, entitled, 'The Regional Consultation towards a framework for regional cooperation on human mobility in the context of disasters and adverse effects of climate change in the Caribbean'.

Four relevant topics for Caribbean migration were discussed: displacement trends and overall human mobility dynamics; environmental drivers of forced migration; protecting

and addressing the needs and rights of persons displaced by climate change; and helping people move out of harm's way.

Representing ECLAC Caribbean at the meeting was Dr. Omar Bello, Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit. Dr. Bello explained that there are four characteristics of disasters in the Caribbean that can cause migration. These are the large relative costs of disasters in the Caribbean; the high impact of disasters on the tourism sector – which is the sub-region's main productive sector –; the devastating effect of disasters on the housing sector; and the extended length of time

necessary for the reconstruction process to take place.

The meeting was organized by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the International Office for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. Representatives of 16 Caribbean countries were in attendance as well as representatives from regional institutions such as Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC). ■



# STATE *of* AFFAIRS



Barbados

## SCHOLARSHIPS FROM CHINA

- Aug -

Eleven Barbadian students were granted Chinese Government Scholarships to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the People's Republic of China. This year's recipients are among over 90 Barbadian students who have been given such scholarships to study at universities in China. The awards were given at an official reception which was attended by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Barbados, Yan Xiusheng, as well as the Barbados' Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Santia Bradshaw.

## SUPPORT FOR THE BAHAMAS

- Sept -

The Barbadian public came together to raise BDS \$440,956.41 (US\$220,478.20) in a national telethon held to support the people of The Bahamas. This comes out of an initiative by the Government of Barbados to match the public's donations. The Cabinet has also agreed that if any requests for assistance are made by the Regional Security System, the country would play a major role in supplying troops to assist the Bahamian people in maintaining law and order.



Grenada

## DIGITAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT

- Aug -

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved an International Development Association Credit of US\$15 million for Grenada to support the country's digital government strategy. The Digital Government for Resilience Project is designed to help Grenada reduce the time spent on tax-related transactions, increase the number of civil registry transactions processed digitally, and improve continuity of government services.

## PLEDGE MADE FOR BAHAMAS

- Sept -

The Government of Grenada has pledged US \$100,000 to the immediate relief effort for the people of The Bahamas. Grenada's contribution was in keeping with an agreement made by leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, that all members will make a similar pledge. In addition to the government's pledge, Grenadian citizens have a chance to make individual contributions to the Bahamas relief effort.



Saint Lucia

## ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Sept -

The Government of Saint Lucia has begun implementing the Road Improvement and Maintenance Program (RIMP IV). RIMP IV is the largest single investment in roads being made by the government and will rehabilitate approximately 81 kilometers of roads throughout various communities and is being financed by a loan from the Export-Import Bank of Taiwan, in the amount of US\$42 million.

## NEW DIPLOMATIC TIES

- Aug -

The government of Saint Lucia has established diplomatic relations with both the Government of Nepal and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda. These relations seek to promote mutual understanding and strengthen cooperation between the countries. The relations are to be guided by the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, particularly the respect and promotion of international peace and security.



## ARCHAEOLOGISTS SEARCH FOR STX'S ENSLAVED ANCESTORS

**D**uring a study tour that began in July on St. Croix, archaeologist Steve Lenik, historian Garrey Dennie and nine students from St. Mary's College in Maryland unearthed findings of the enslaved families who lived in the long row houses at Estate Bethlehem.

The first study tour of Estate Bethlehem in 2017 revealed very dense deposits of food remains, along with ceramics, pottery and glass bottles from the years 1750 to 1825. The findings provide a window into the nature of the daily lives of the enslaved Africans in both the 18th and 19th centuries.

Lenik conducted archaeological digs in 2002 at Estate Bethlehem Old Works, the sugar plantation, recording a cemetery of enslaved Africans and a laborer village that existed from the early 1800s.

The tour this year, said Lenik, focuses on the long row houses.

"It appears that most of these row houses are structures in many places on St. Croix and most

of the Caribbean that was built from 1790 to 1830 and up to 1840 as the slave trade was ending," Lenik said. "I believe these were built in the 19th century, based on the ceramics, and occupied until they closed the factory in 1966. So that's the second phase of housing. The factory closed for a time in the 1930s during the Depression."

Lenik also said he believes many of the cinder block houses and detached kitchens are probably from the mid-20th century. "In one place, you have the experience of a laborer or a more specialized person – a sugar boiler. In archaeology, we are looking at what happened in the front yard – the side yard – in the rear. We have oral histories we're doing as well, even insights from Professor Garrey."

Undergraduate students at St. Mary's College who are helping with this project come from a wide range of disciplines, with majors ranging from physics, economics, chemistry, computer science and other fields, but all are connected to archaeology. ■



## 2017 HURRICANE SEASON, UPDATED

In the Caribbean, the reconstruction process that followed the devastation caused by the 2017 hurricane season is still ongoing.

The exact status of this process was at the center of the presentation of Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean's Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit, Dr. Omar Bello, at the XXVII meeting of the Association of Caribbean States' Disaster Risk Reduction Special Committee, held in Trinidad and Tobago on 14 June 2019. Dr. Bello clarified that the process is expected to be long due to the magnitude of the damage, as well as the lack of financial resources.

In 2017, ECLAC assessed the impacts of hurricanes Irma and Maria by using the damage and loss assessment (DaLA) methodology. Although traditionally used to assess disasters, in the coming years the methodology may also be deployed to assess the impacts of other kinds of natural phenomenon, such as sargassum.

Moreover, in his presentation, Dr. Bello noted that "although such events may not cause destruction in terms of physical damage, they still generate losses and additional costs in tourism, fisheries and environmental sectors, that are worth being assessed."

Representatives from ACS members including Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico Panamá, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela attended the meeting, as did representatives from Argentina, Peru and Chile and from the University of Indies and National Statistics and Geography Institute of Mexico (INEGI).

During the event, which is held on an annual basis, the ACS' Special Committee presents the current activities and future plans of the organization in the field of disaster risk reduction. ■

# ECLAC CARIBBEAN *Family*

## Book display at CARIFESTA SYMPOSIUM



**E**CLAC Caribbean was one of the main subregional think tanks invited to participate at the recent CARIFESTA XIV in Trinidad and Tobago. Representing ECLAC Caribbean at an extensive display of our publications was Library Assistant, Tricia Blackman, who shared her knowledge of our work with several persons who expressed interest in the publications, during the symposium, entitled 'Journey Round Myself: Crossing Borders, Strengthening Connections, Breaking Boundaries'. She said, "I was absolutely thrilled to be a part of this cultural event representing the organization and I was pleased with the interest in our work from persons who attended the symposium."

The book display was also supported by other United Nations Caribbean Offices, such as the UN Information Centre (UNIC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), who contributed resources on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024, and decent work in culture, respectively. Dr. Suzanne Burke, Chair of the Symposium Sub Committee, welcomed participants to the event, which took place at the Department of the Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) at The UWI in St. Augustine from 19-22 August.

Publication recipients included CARIFESTA country delegates from departments of



culture, CARICOM representatives, policymakers, regional academics, researchers, students, activists, art practitioners, creative entrepreneurs and presenters from the region and beyond.

One ECLAC Caribbean publication that caught delegate's attention was the report entitled "Assessing opportunities for enhanced integration of the associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean", which identifies how ECLAC associate members can increase collaboration with ECLAC member states. Reviewing the publication was the delegation from Guadeloupe – which included the Minister of Culture, Mr. Georges Brédent, and Ms. Gilda Gonfier, the Director of Culture – which expressed an interest in exploring areas for possible collaboration with ECLAC Caribbean.

The four-day symposium included a variety of events, such as plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops and master classes on a range of topics including culture and creative industries, indigenous traditions, arts, social change, climate change, Caribbean aesthetics and post-colonial issues. Other regional organizations that participated in the event included UNESCO, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC).

The theme "Journey Round Myself", comes from an Errol Hill article that was written in 1999, wherein he reviewed how effective his thesis was in asserting that the National Theatre was built upon and emerged from Trinidad Carnival.

Highlighted events were the opening ceremony, spotlight sessions and the closing ceremony. At the

opening ceremony, Professor Kei Miller delivered a stirring address on the theme 'Re-Imagining Caribbean Futures'. According to the programme he is a renowned and "gifted Jamaican poet, essayist and novelist whose work has won many esteemed awards." While during the closing session an esteemed panel of scholars and diplomats discussed reparations for the Caribbean.

CARIFESTA XIV Symposium delegates also had the opportunity to sign up for the ECLAC Caribbean mailing list to receive notifications of its latest publications, including the quarterly FOCUS magazines and monthly Hummingbird newsletters. ■

# Caribbean Rice & Red Beans

## What you will need:

- ¼ cup vegetable oil (or canola)
- 2-3 garlic clove , minced
- ½ medium onion , diced
- 2 teaspoons creole spice [Homemade recipe here](#)
- 2 cups uncooked long grain rice
- 1 sprig fresh thyme or 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 13.5 oz can (1 ¾ cups) coconut milk
- 15.5 oz can red kidney beans , rinsed and drained
- 2 small bay leaves
- salt and fresh ground pepper , to taste
- 2 ¼ cups chicken broth or water (see notes)
- 1 teaspoon chicken bouillon (optional)
- 1 whole scotch bonnet pepper.
- 1 teaspoons paprika (optional)

## Method:

1. Wash rice until water runs clear. Drain water.
2. Heat a saucepan with oil. Then add onions, garlic, thyme, and hot pepper, sauté for about a minute.
3. Stir in rice to the pan, followed by beans for about 2 minutes, then add coconut milk, bay leaf, bouillon powder, creole spice, with 3 cups of water, bring to a boil reduce heat, cover with a lid and simmer until rice is cooked, about 20 minutes or more. Stir occasionally from the sides to prevent burns , add more water if needed.
4. Adjust for salt and pepper. Discard bay leaves You have to stir occasionally to be preventing any burns.
5. Serve warm



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