

December 2000

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Dr. Len Ishmael, Director of ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, reviews the challenges of the past year, and looks forward to the year 2001

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ECLAC conducts a social, economic and environmental assessment of Belize, in the aftermath of Hurricane Keith.

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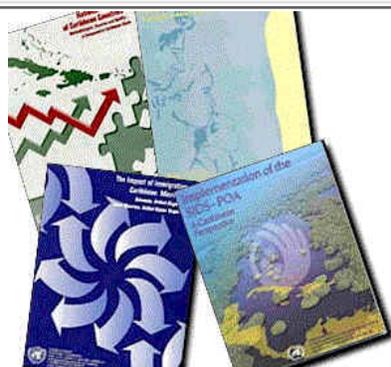


Popularising science and technology in the Caribbean.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A review of ECLAC/CDCC's activities and challenges faced in the year 2000, and a look towards 2001...



The year 2000 proved to be an exciting one for the secretariat, in many different ways. It marked the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Caribbean Development & Cooperation Committee (CDCC) – a very unique organ (the first of its kind), designed to facilitate intergovernmental cooperation among Caribbean countries, regardless of historical evolution and ideology.

CDCC also provided the only 'window' for the integration of the non-independent countries into the region. Held in March, the commemorative ceremony and two-day conference allowed member states the opportunity to recall the evolution of the CDCC, and its early objectives, to reaffirm commitment to the ideals which it represents, to its work and to its secretariat, ECLAC's headquarters for the Caribbean.

Despite limited resources and notwithstanding the reality of servicing a total of 23 countries at the international, regional and national levels, the Secretariat successfully met the challenges of delivering its work programme in the fields of information services, science and technology, economics, trade, social affairs, tourism and sustainable development, while at the same time introducing new elements

In response to increasing demands for its expertise in conducting macroeconomic assessments of damage caused by natural disasters, the secretariat went one step further, and laid the foundation for the creation of a core of expertise with multidisciplinary skills in various parts of the subregion, to enable deployment, at short notice, of assessment teams comprising personnel within or in close proximity to affected countries. These teams will also be part of a nucleus whose assistance might be enlisted by ECLAC for undertaking assessments in different countries of the region.

In furtherance of these objectives, in July, the Secretariat hosted a three-day *Training Workshop on the ECLAC Methodology for Assessing the Macro-economic, Social and Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The first of these workshops was conducted at ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Port-of-Spain. Professionals from 12 countries from both the public and private sectors were trained in the use of the ECLAC methodology in undertaking such assessments. At the request of the Government of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) a total of 20 nationals were trained in the use of this methodology.

On 12 October 2000, this office received an urgent request from the Government of Belize to undertake an assessment in the wake of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Keith between 30 September and 1 October. By 22 November, a 13-member team comprising staff from ECLAC's Mexico and Caribbean offices, together with support from the PAHO, IICA and UNICEF Belizian offices, had completed an assessment of damages. On 7 December 2000, the report was presented at a high level meeting by the Government of Belize to the IDB in Washington DC, the World Bank, and the IMF, with impressive representation from the donor community.

Disaster management was not the only area of concern and expertise that occupied our attention this year, however. The secretariat, mindful of its mandate relating to global summits, played a leadership role in preparing for the United Nations General Assembly review of three major summits: Beijing +5, WSSD+5 and ICPD+5, dealing with the social issues critical to gender, poverty and the aged. This office provided technical assistance to CDCC Members in the follow-up of the implementation of Programmes of Action and National Action Plans resulting from these conferences, and convened regional meetings to provide a forum for Caribbean consensus on the main issues, prior to their deliberation at both the hemispheric and international levels. Technical assistance was also provided to Member States' Representatives in New York, immediately prior to, and during the deliberations. In the area of Women's Rights and Gender, the secretariat provided technical assistance to several member states, in terms of reviewing gender legislation and assisting in the formulation of Action Plans for the integration of gender policy in the respective countries' development planning frameworks.

The Secretariat also worked with other international agencies operating in the region – the UNDP and the Commonwealth Secretariat – in conducting training workshops on gender mainstreaming in several member states, in May and June of this year. We received a great deal of support as well in the execution of social programming, from other organisations such as the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the Department for International Development (DFID) U.K. Office.

One of the major challenges for CDCC members in the twenty-first century is the rapidity with which change in global trading arrangements and in other areas is taking place. Almost before a country has begun to deal with a change in the international economic order and attempt to plan accordingly, another scenario unfolds for which it might not have been prepared at all. Mindful of this, member states continued to seek the Secretariat's expertise in the areas of trade and economic performance, and planning and development: to conduct audits on the management of development planning in respective countries; to examine the efficacy of a particular economic diversification programme (namely tourism, offshore financial services and informatics); to assist in streamlining land use policies and legislation; and to support the institutional strengthening exercises of governmental machineries.

With regard to Land Use Planning, several initiatives were conducted this year. In early October 2000, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Port-of-Spain, in collaboration with the Latin America and the Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), co-hosted a *High Level Seminar on Basic Planning Functions*. This seminar was one of 17 regional conferences hosted by this Office this year, and provided a forum for participants to exchange ideas and experiences with economic and social planning projects or systems, used by the countries in the region. Sessions dealt with the evaluation of plans, programmes, and strategies and projects; planning and policy coordination; as well as examination of long-range thinking, and institutional rationalisation. Seminar participants were drawn from various government ministries representing several countries in the region, including Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Curaçao, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

In addition to this seminar, whose work coincided closely with the secretariat's other initiatives in Disaster Management Planning, the Office was instrumental in helping the region move beyond the normal concept of a professional society, by creating a virtual association – the Caribbean Planners Network (CPN). The CPN is the result of an ECLAC initiative, begun in December 1999, to deal with issues affecting the development of the planning profession in the Caribbean. Created by Caribbean planners as a network for professional planners, as well as those professionals who work in the planning profession, it is a mechanism to provide a forum within which planners can share ideas and experiences they have garnered from working in the Caribbean. It also serves as an educational forum, providing support to student planners, allied professionals and the wider public, on issues pertaining to the theory and practice of planning, in the region.

The intellectual or research activity of the secretariat often provides the basis for policies that are implemented by CDCC members. These frequently take the form of concrete investigations into areas of interest for member countries, such as the efficacy of employing or tailoring certain social, environmental, economic, or technological development strategies and policy directions.

To sum up... the year went by in a blur of activity. In September, as is customary, I briefed CDCC Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York, on the work of the Secretariat and provided technical documents in support of their own work at the UN. We continued to provide technical support as a member of the tripartite committee comprising ECLAC, the OAS and the IDB, to the FTAA Consultative Group on Smaller Economies. We were prolific with our publications. Of special interest to all member countries was our publication on the special vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States. We undertook a large number of missions and provided technical support to many of our member countries in a diversity of areas, and have been enormously gratified, in turn, by their support.

We look forward to an equally productive year in the one that follows, and the opportunity to continue to serve the region. Allow me to take this opportunity to wish you, and yours, the happiest of holidays, and the brightest of prospects for the New Year.

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ECLAC officials assist Government of Belize in a Social, Environmental and Macroeconomic assessment of the damage caused by Hurricane Keith

Between 30 September and 2 October 2000, Hurricane Keith pounded Belize with high winds, torrential rains and tidal surges. While casualties were low, during those fateful three days, Keith cut a path of destruction that affected some 190,000 people in the northern half of the country. Belize's tourism and farming sectors were particularly hard-hit by the storm, which caused some US\$250 million in economic losses — an amount roughly equivalent to 40 percent of its gross domestic product.

In November of this year, a team of ECLAC personnel visited Belize, upon an invitation from that country's government, to conduct a comprehensive macroeconomic assessment of the damage caused by Hurricane Keith. The exercise, which began mid-November, ended on 22 November 2000.

Dr. Len Ishmael, Director of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters, headed the Belize Assessment Team for the Caribbean, with Ricardo Zapata-Martí, Chief of the International Trade Unit of the ECLAC Mexico Office as Team Technical Leader. Other team members from the ECLAC Caribbean Headquarters included Lancelot Busby (who focussed on macroeconomic issues) and Asha Kambon (who examined the social impact) of the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. Also on the team were colleagues from the Belize offices of other regional and international organizations, namely the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The Mission was funded by an IDB grant to the Government of Belize.

The Hurricane and its Impact

Hurricane Keith evolved very rapidly from an area of disturbed weather that had persisted in the western Caribbean during the last week of September. Its passage resulted in excessive rainfall – roughly 815 millimetres in a 72 hour period – mainly over the Belize, Cayo and Orange Walk Districts, and to a lesser extent the Corozal and Stann Creek (North) Districts. Excessive wind and storm surge caused extensive infrastructure damage, mainly along the coast. The accompanying torrential rains and floods resulted in environmental damages and losses in crops, livestock and physical infrastructure. Reports are that the hurricane left behind significant coastal erosion, damages to reef, mangrove and sea grass bed ecosystems, losses in wildlife, especially birds, a contamination of waters due to the overflow of sewer lagoons and the inundation of septic tanks, and a deterioration of the future potential of the fisheries sector due to the destruction of natural fish hatcheries.

As indicated earlier, the area most affected by Hurricane Keith was the northern part of the country and the offshore keys – where the level of economic development is highest and where most of Belize's export revenues are generated.

The direct onset of the hurricane and the ensuing floods caused the destruction of homes and rendered homeless thousands of people in Belize City, San Pedro, Corozal and Orange Walk. Many of these people depend on subsistence and commercial farming, and were left facing at least two to four months of interruption in economic and productive activity. In addition, key tourism areas in the east and south, namely Ambergris Caye and Caye Caulker were severely pummelled by the hurricane.

An interesting (and perhaps "merciful") characteristic of Hurricane Keith is that it spared Belize a significant loss of lives – overall, only 10 people died. This is partly because of the path the storm followed, in that its impact was not centred on the poorest southern regions. Another key factor is the quick and efficient response of the Government to the disaster, through its National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and Ministry of Health, both of which moved quickly to take the necessary steps to preclude a health epidemic. Notwithstanding the small number of fatalities, however, the emotional effects of material loss and social and family disruption continue to impact the people of Belize.

ECLAC's Assessment

In the *Hurricane Keith Damage Assessment Report*, the Assessment Team estimates that "the magnitude of the losses exceeds the country's capacity to address reconstruction needs on its own, particularly if the aim is also to reduce the impact of similar events in the future..." The Report strongly recommends international cooperation in the recovery and rebuilding effort, and emphasises an approach that reduces the country's vulnerability, is compatible with its development strategy, and can be implemented within the government's and the private sector's absorption capacity.

The Assessment Team estimated total damage to the country overall at BZ\$560.1 million / US\$280 million, of which direct damage, estimated at BZ\$423.3 million / US\$211.6 million, constitutes roughly 75%.

Total damage to the economic sectors is estimated to be BZ\$330.6 million, some 59 per cent of total damage estimated. The most affected sectors are the productive ones: tourism and agriculture represent over 47 per cent of the direct damage measured. Losses to infrastructure account for about 16 per cent of total damage; and the most important social damage occurred in housing (over 12 per cent of total direct and indirect damages). The team reports that the direct damages, losses or damage to infrastructure are equivalent to almost 93 per cent of the country's gross capital formation in 1999. Indeed, in terms of indirect damage, Keith is expected to cost Belize almost 46 per cent of the savings accrued for 1999.

Given the damage sustained in the tourism and export agriculture sectors, impacting negatively on livelihoods, the country's exports and export earnings have fallen. Farmers in the Orange Walk district and lobster fishermen operating on Ambergris Caye are unable to feed their families, because of the loss of their crops and fishing gear. Indeed, export earnings from fishing are expected to decline in 2001.

According to the Report, the loss of tourist visitors, when combined with the estimates of direct and indirect damages to the sector, has impacted the balance of payments in the final quarter of 2000, and will continue to do so well into 2001. The damage caused by the hurricane also has implications for the country's import bill: an estimated impact on international trade puts the import figure at BZ\$115.3 million, which would be spread over the rest of 2000 and into 2001.

The Assessment Team notes that poorer households were more adversely affected (in terms of damage and displacement) than other income groups in the population. Roughly 26 to 40 per cent of the population of Belize has been defined as living below the poverty line (based on a 1996 Poverty Assessment Survey). As many as 20 to 30 per cent of the households have been defined as poor, in those four districts which were affected severely by Hurricane Keith.

On the whole, the economy of Belize will suffer greatly as a consequence of the passage of Hurricane Keith. Projections are that its dynamism will be reduced severely in 2001, and it is expected that by 2002 it could regain the brisk pace of growth it experienced prior to the disaster. The Assessment Team asserts that with well organised support from friendly donor countries pledging investments in strategic areas and with proper project sequencing, Belize's balance of payments might be able to avoid the pressure that would otherwise be brought to bear on the exchange rate parity of the country.

Help to rebuild again...

Almost immediately since the disaster took place, the people of Belize have been receiving assistance from the international community. In October, the UN System co-ordinated the donation of hundreds of thousands of dollars in emergency supplies to Belize's National Emergency Relief Organization and other NGOs in the country. At the time the ECLAC team arrived in country in November to conduct its own assessment of the damage, total foreign assistance actually received amounted to roughly BZ\$5.2 million. Prior to the Assessment Team's visit, a World Bank mission toured Belize to assess the damage to the country's roads and infrastructure, in order to reorient its available resources for the country, as well as to study the possibility of providing additional funds. Since the advent of Hurricane Keith, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved emergency funding to the tune of US\$20 million to assist Belize, via its Emergency Reconstruction Facility.

The IDB went even further and hosted a meeting of international donors on Thursday 07 December 2000, to rally additional financial support for Belize. During the meeting, held at the IDB's headquarters in Washington D.C., government officials from Belize and delegates from 20 bilateral and multilateral aid and development agencies sought to analyse the damage caused by the hurricane, and discussed ways to help the country achieve its priorities for recovery and reconstruction.

ECLAC was represented by Dr. Len Ishmael, Head of the Delegation; Mrs. Margarita Flores, Deputy Director of the ECLAC Mexico Office; and Mr. Ricardo Zapata-Martí, Chief of the International Trade Unit of the ECLAC Mexico Office, and Technical Leader of the Belize Assessment Team.

(CLICK [HERE](#) for highlights of Dr. Ishmael's Address at the Meeting of International Donors.)

Forming the basis for the discussion was the *Hurricane Keith Damage Assessment Report*, which was prepared by the Mexico Regional Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America (on behalf of the Assessment Team). Also providing the basis for discussion at the donors' meeting was a *Recovery Management Strategy* prepared by the Government of Belize, aimed at enhancing that country's preparedness for natural disasters, improving the livelihood of citizens and increasing economic efficiency. Since Hurricane Keith, the Government of Belize has created a special multi-sectoral task force to manage the Recovery Management Strategy (RMS), with the involvement of the people of Belize and the co-operation of the international community. The key focus of the RMS is the improvement of Belize's natural disaster preparedness and protection of the environment, while advancing poverty alleviation policies.

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REMARKS BY

DR. LEN ISHMAEL

***Director / ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean
and
Head of the Belize Disaster Assessment Team***

AT THE

MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS' FOR BELIZE

Thursday 07 December 2000

We at ECLAC are honoured to have had the opportunity to assist the Government of Belize in their efforts to both quantify the extent of damages from Hurricane Keith, on their macro-economic performance, and in their bid to start the reconstruction process. We note with appreciation the extensive support extended by the Government of Belize, and the organisations which participated with the ECLAC Team in the formulation of the report being presented to you this morning. IICA, PAHO and UNICEF were integral members of this Team, as were others. We also note the valuable support provided by IDB.

Before we launch into the technical aspects of the ECLAC presentation, I wish to share the following thoughts with you. A disaster, such as witnessed by the effects of Hurricane Keith on Belize, serves in no small measure to underscore the economic, ecological and social vulnerabilities of a country.

The Belizian economy is highly dependent on two main sectors, namely Tourism and Agriculture, precisely the two most affected by the storm. The country is also extremely ecologically vulnerable:

- Much of the coastal area is at or below sea level;
- Many communities are constructed in low lying, swampy areas;
- Much of the hinterland is flat, with little gradient to the coast, exacerbating a situation where the movement of flood waters from the land to the coast is difficult and protracted;
- The cayes themselves are extremely vulnerable. Ambergris Caye, for example, is no more than 15 feet at its highest point. San Pedro, its main community, is now a densely developed community of over 10,000 persons, a fourfold increase of the population of 1990.

The country is also socially vulnerable: 14 per cent of the Belizian population comprises refugees from neighbouring countries. A significant percentage of the increase in population in San Pedro can be attributed to this group. The country has one of the highest rates of population increase in the region – over 40 per cent of the population is less than 14 years old. Several communities are made up of homes which are not safe and sanitary, in conditions which compromise public health.

It was clear for the Team, that evacuating the cayes in the face of an emergency is extremely difficult, due to the numbers involved, and the air-lift and sea carrying capacities available. In addition, Hurricane Keith developed from a Tropical Storm to Category-4 Hurricane in less than two days. There is, therefore, urgent need to ensure that hurricane shelters are provided on the cayes.

The fragility of the cayes is vividly reflected in their coastal area. The construction of numerous jetties, sea walls, piers, near shore dredging for sand fill – combine to contribute to extensive damage to coastal property, beaches and the reef itself.

Long term investments are needed in the area of land use planning, coastal zone management, and in the formulation and implementation of appropriate building codes and standards.

It is clear, however, that the reconstruction process must be one which seeks to rebuild while reducing Belize's vulnerability; which is compatible with the country's development agenda, and most importantly – is not beyond the absorptive capacity of the country.

In the course of undertaking this assessment, we were struck by two things... The first was the speed with which the government, with the assistance of some organisations, was able to assess immediate damages and formulate reports. The second – the sheer resilience of the people.

We at ECLAC have offered our services to the Government of Belize as partners in the reconstruction process, and make the same offer, here.

It is my pleasure at this time to introduce to you the other members of the ECLAC delegation: Mrs. Margarita Flores, Deputy Director of the Subregional Headquarters for Central America in Mexico; and Mr. Ricardo Zapata, Chief of the International Trade Unit, also in Mexico.

Mr. Zapata was the Assessment Team's Technical Leader in Belize. It is, therefore, also my pleasure to invite him to present to you, the macro-economic assessment of the damage cause by Hurricane Keith in Belize.

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In the 21st century, the popularization of science and technology must rapidly extend the generation and circulation of knowledge and information. As in Latin America, the Caribbean faces several problems including low priority and lack of continuity and institutional systemization of scientific and technological development.

The areas to be reached by science and technology must be broadened to incorporate formal education and communication with non-formal ones, academic discourse with colloquial language, laboratory materials with domestic objects and ordinary daily achievements. It is also essential to make scientific and technological knowledge available to the ordinary citizen, which would allow for the making of informed opinions on these matters, so that they form part of daily conversations in the same way that politics and sport do. Activities leading to the popularization of science and technology must therefore be based on interdisciplinary dialogue and work, integrating diverse fields of knowledge and different theoretical and methodological approaches. In the long run, the popularization of science and technology, as every other social and cultural activity, must necessarily have an impact on the economic and social development of nations, specifically on sustainable development and the quality of life; preservation of the environment; knowledge and strengthening of the national culture; the learning of ethical values; education that is objective, creative, participative, independent, impartial, and plural; and the conscious pursuit of excellence.

Mindful of the above, a number of initiatives, specifically science and technology awareness projects were conducted in several Caribbean countries during the late 1980's and early 1990's, whereby personnel from various government and other institutions and agencies were exposed to the many ways in which the popular media could be used in the dissemination of information. While the result of these projects was increased awareness of the value of the popular media, actual use of the popular media was limited and the level of sustainability needed was not realised due to lack of funding to some extent, but, mainly, to the lack of trained personnel capable of producing the quantity and quality of material that would make dissemination projects effective. The Science and Technicolgy Unit of ECLAC has also observed that few reliable sources of information relating to the use of science and technology or to the contribution of science and technology to development efforts are available to assist in developing popularization programmes or for that matter, to inform policy making. With new initiatives in both education and technology, Caribbean governments and the scientific community are calling once again for the necessary awareness programmes to address the situation.

As part of the overall project on science and technology the effectiveness of the programmes conducted in the late 1980's and early 1990's were determined by a questionnaire that was circulated to Caribbean countries. In addition, the production of a five-minute video was commissioned, which constituted interviews with key persons from Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago who were involved in the dissemination of information through the popular media. Also incorporated into the video were short clips of previously produced material on science and technology issues, whether from the health, agricultural, educational or environmental sectors.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire sought to:

1. Identify science and technolgy organizations and associations in the Region
2. Determine which of the organisations or associations have as part of their mandate, the production and dissemination of science populraisation materials. These materials included posters, books, papers, magazines, newsletters, articles, information packages, photographs, video and audio programmes and CD ROMs/computer copy.
3. Identify programmes that were conducted on science and technology popularisation undertaken in the Region.
4. Determine the facilities that were available for the production of audio-visual material in the Region.

The questionnaire also sought to determine some of the constraints to the effective production and dissemination of science and technology popularisation materials and whether there was a need for additional training in the design, preparation and dissemination of such materials.

A preliminary analysis of the results revealed that, while there were productions coming from the Region emphasizing many aspects of science and technology, specifically on the environment, health, and education, much of the material lacked a clear indication that the information cited was "science and technology". In addition, it was the opinion of the respondents that there was the need for more collaboration between scientists and the persons responsible for the production of the material. The results also determined that there was a need for training in audio-visual production for science and technology-related programmes.

The results of the questionnaire and the interviews with persons involved in the production of material for the dissemination of material provided the basis for the conduct of these training workshops on the role of the media in science popularisation and the production of low cost video material.

The Video Production

A consultant was contracted to prepare a five-minute video production that would identify existing science and technology popularization initiatives in three countries (Guyana, Saint Lucia and Jamaica). The video was commissioned to serve as a guide for developing future projects and focused on a number of key issues in science and technology such as environmental pollution, agricultural innovation and disaster preparedness, and examine the ways in which some issues are communicated to different target groups. Emphasis was placed on the mass media, especially television and video and consisted of a number of short interviews with key national science and technology experts and included examples of mass media materials produced and disseminated in the three countries mentioned.

Guyana

Interviews were held with senior officials from the Ministry of Education; the University of Guyana; the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Presidential Advisor on Science, Technology and the Environment. Video material was provided on conservation activities in Guyana and a locally produced educational television series, footage of a computer exhibition, a science fair and gold mining activities. Computer-based material was also provided on the Simbiosis Network.

Jamaica

The Scientific Research Council (SRC) of Jamaica noted that the major focus of science and technology in that country was on school outreach activities such as Science and Technology Societies and Science Fairs. The Council provided a number of print materials and identified a documentary video on an integrated waste management project. The manager of the Science Learning Centre gave a practical demonstration of the many hands-on/interactive exhibits put on by the Centre and images of the Sculpture Park at the University of Technology were featured.

Saint Lucia

Key personnel from the National Science Council provided much of the information on what was available in Saint Lucia. Interviews conducted with senior officials of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment, the Natural Resources Management Unit of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the St. Lucia National Trust and the Office of Disaster preparedness. All the institutions had within the last three years been responsible for several video productions that were aired on national television.

Based on the country visits, it is apparent that there exists in the Region, a large body of predominantly video and print material on science and technology issues with emphasis on educational outreach, environmental education, agricultural innovation, disaster preparedness, technology, art and society and information technology. The preliminary results of the questionnaire and the interviews with officials of the various agencies provided the basis for the conduct of a training workshop on the role of the media in science and popularization and the role of the production of low cost video material.

The Workshop

The workshop comprised media practitioners (producers, directors, scriptwriters, especially those interested in the production of scientific and educational/public interest television programmes) and members of the scientific community (scientists, researchers and those involved in science outreach activities).

The specific objectives of the workshop, which was held in Grenada, were to:

- Familiarize the local Science and Technology Community on the role of the media in Science and Technology popularization
- Expose participants to the methods of producing low cost video material
- Provide members of the scientific community with the opportunity to work with media professionals in producing such materials
- Inform the local media practitioners of important local and regional scientific and technology issues and concerns
- Enable media practitioners to work with the Science and Technology community and produce a short video feature on the small and medium sized enterprises, since this was an area with a link between the application of science and technology to create employment in the Region.

Activities

Over the four-day period, media personnel viewed and evaluated a number of local video productions on issues of Science and Technology and were then exposed to new techniques and innovations in interviewing, presenting, directing and new digital technologies in video production. Both groups of participants (media personnel and scientists) took part in sessions on the identification of projects, brainstorming, pre-production planning and production planning, as well as scriptwriting. After the talks and demonstrations, the production of the video was undertaken, giving participants an opportunity to practice what was learned during the first two days of the workshop. At the end of the workshop, participants were:

1. more sensitized to the effective use of television (including the screening of any local / regional productions on scientific themes)
2. able to identify a subject, concept and creative idea
3. able to write for television
4. made aware of the television production process (from videotaping on location to editing)

Conclusion

The Science & Technology Unit of ECLAC endorses the philosophy (as outlined by Martinez in his paper *The Popularization Pyramid of Science and Technology*) that formidable challenges face developing societies such as these in the changing technological capacity for storing, retrieving and transmitting information. According to Martinez, science and technology popularization activities must contribute to the arduous and difficult task of separating preponderant knowledge and information from that which is banal, superficial, ephemeral and unnecessary. In the long run, the popularization of science and technology, as every social and cultural activity, must necessarily have an impact on the economic and social development of nations, more specifically:

- The sustainable development of a nation and the good quality of life of the population
- The preservation of environment
- The knowledge and strengthening of the national culture
- The learning of the highest ethical values
- An education that is objective, creative, participatory, independent, impartial and laic
- The consciousness and pursuit of excellence.

The achievement of the above goals require the implementation of strategies that would generate continuous and permanent spaces for education, information, debate, appropriation and construction of knowledge. Such strategies must be adapted to each segment of society. In order to develop and strengthen a dynamic scientific and technological culture, dissemination strategies must mobilize political, institutional, and technological structure. This will enable the population to understand the complexity and "global-ness" of the contemporary world, to develop competence that is transferable to the world of labour and production, to the field of study, artistic expression and daily life.

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Recent global economic developments and their implications for the Caribbean

After going through a turbulent period, the world economy made a remarkable turnaround in 1999, belying some earlier predictions of a potential global recession.

The robust growth of the United States economy and a stronger than anticipated recovery in some Asian countries provided the engine of global economic recovery in 1999. The resurgence in oil prices from exceptionally low levels of 1998 also had a significant positive impact on the world economy. Some degree of stability was also witnessed in currency and financial markets world-wide, particularly in emerging markets. Consequently, capital flows to emerging markets in Asia rose slightly, reversing the downward trend observed in 1998. This was underpinned by structural reforms and financial sector restructuring implemented in the crisis afflicted countries of East Asia. In Latin America and the Caribbean, capital flows declined sharply. All in all, economic performance varied significantly across regions and within countries.

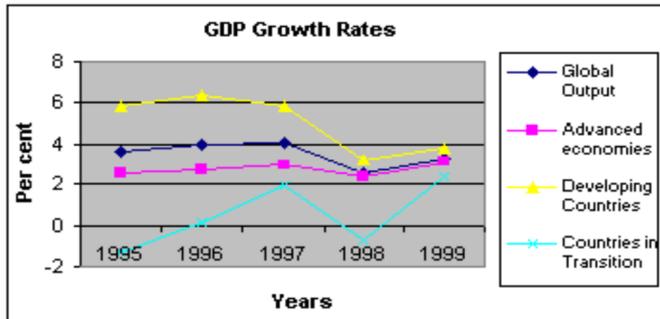


Chart 1. GDP growth rates

The remarkable strength of the United States economy once again provided the motor of global economic recovery. In 1999, the economy grew substantially by 4.2 per cent, the highest of all the industrialised economies. Underpinning this robust growth has been the

high level of investment in the information technology sector, the backbone of the 'new economy'. Expectations about high growth potentials of this sector have attracted massive capital inflows and this in turn has contributed to high valuation of computer and information technology stocks. The labour market has tightened further with the creation of more than 2.7 million non-agricultural jobs. As a result the unemployment rate has fallen to an all time low of 4.2 per cent while productivity growth has made it possible to increase real wages without putting any real pressure on consumer prices. The continued expansion of the economy also provided a boost to the US trade. Buttressed by high investment and consumption growth, the US merchandise imports grew by 12.4 per cent, faster than the 1.8 per cent growth for exports. Consequently, the current account deficit widened further to US\$400 billion or 3.7 per cent of GDP. Therefore, foreign savings continue to be a dynamic source of financing the growing US current account deficit. All might be well if this trend continues into the future, but should investors' sentiments towards the US economy become unfavourable this could lead to reduced capital inflows and trigger a correction in the exchange rate and the stock market, thereby dampening growth. The Asian crisis has already underscored the vulnerability of countries that are heavily dependent on foreign savings.

The dynamic strength of the US economy provided an impetus to not only the North American region, but also sustained recovery in other regions such as Asia, Europe and some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through dynamic demand for their exports.

Output growth in developing countries rebounded slightly by 3.8 per cent in 1999 after declining by 3.2 per cent in 1998. The strong recovery in the crisis hit East Asian economies coupled with an increase in oil prices were responsible for this moderate expansion. In Asia-Pacific as a whole, output grew by 6.0 per cent in 1999. Mexico and some countries in Central America and the Caribbean recorded satisfactory growth rates. Elsewhere in the developing world, the growth remained weak. The divergence in economic performance can be explained by differences in export structures, attractiveness to capital flows and the importance or lack thereof of intra-regional trade. Countries which, rely heavily on the production of narrow range of primary commodities for export and, are less attractive to capital inflows recorded lower output growth. These factors were responsible for lacklustre economic performance in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Output growth dipped below 3.0 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa for the first time in five years. Weather-related factors such as drought and floods in Southern Africa and political instabilities in the Great Lakes region and Sierra Leone served to aggravate the decline in output.

The same factors that contributed to slow economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa were also at work in Latin America and the Caribbean. Output growth declined substantially from 2.1 per cent in 1998 to 1.0 per cent in 1999 on account of adverse international economic conditions and, more particularly deterioration in non-fuel commodity prices and reduced capital inflows. This contributed to the worsening of the already serious poverty problem as evidenced by contraction in per capita income and rising unemployment. However, marked differences were discerned in economic performance across countries within the sub-regions. Mexico, Central American and some Caribbean countries recorded better economic performance than the Southern Cone countries. Due to their strong trade and financial ties with the United States, the former group of countries benefited from the booming US economy, while the latter was more affected by the sharp decline in intra-MERCOSUR trade. Mexico's exports, which mostly comprised manufactured goods (85 per cent) benefited from stable prices, while Southern Cone countries' exports, which are made up of primary commodities were affected by the deterioration in non-fuel commodity prices. The reduction in capital flows also contributed to the weak economic performance in the region. Although Latin America and the Caribbean receives more than half of the FDI flows to developing countries, net resource flows to the region fell by about 30 per cent to US\$107 billion in 1999, the lowest level since 1996. Net lending from private creditors was particularly hard hit and plummeted from US\$56 billion in 1998 to US\$5 billion in 1999. FDI surged to a record US\$89 billion in 1999 of which the bulk was accounted for by the privatisation of petroleum conglomerate YPF in Argentina. Privatisation and cross-border mergers and acquisitions provided the impetus to the boom in flows.

These differences were also manifested in economic performance of the Caribbean countries. Countries that have managed to diversify their economies into services and manufacturing and were able to take advantage of the booming US economy by exporting more to that market recorded robust growth in real output. Notable among these were the Dominican Republic with growth of 8.2 per cent, the Bahamas (5.8 per cent), and Trinidad and Tobago at 4.2 per cent. Although oil is the largest foreign exchange earner for Trinidad and Tobago, the economy has become fairly diversified and export of petro-chemical based manufactured products has increased in recent years. The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Jamaica and Suriname recorded weaker growth on account of poor export performance, particularly bananas for the OECS countries and bauxite for Jamaica. Economic reforms which have been implemented in the sub-region, and which invariably included macroeconomic stabilisation, have contributed to low inflation rates. This trend continued in 1999, when consumer prices declined in line with those of the region's major trading partners. In Trinidad and Tobago, for example, consumer prices declined from 5.6 per cent in 1998 to 2.6 per cent in 1999.

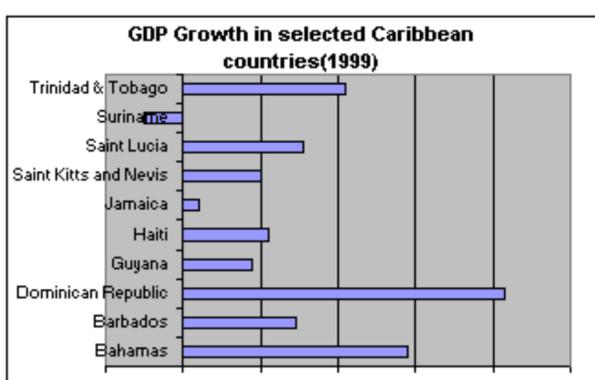


Chart 2. GDP growth rates

The massive capital inflows, particularly FDI, have also contributed to the robust growth of the Trinidad and Tobago economy. Elsewhere in region, FDI flows continue to gain momentum, driven fundamentally by privatisation programmes, which are being implemented in a number of countries. In the Dominican Republic, for example, the long awaited privatisation of the sugar company Consejo Estatal de Azucar

(CEA) was completed with the finalisation of a 30-year lease agreement with four private companies. Proceeds from this privatisation programme are estimated at more than US\$11 million a year. In Guyana, the government made a bold step in finalising the privatisation of the Electricity Company. This is expected to provide the needed impetus to the domestic economy through more capital inflows to finance investment projects. Across the region, there is still further scope for divestment of utilities, telecommunication and transport and financial services.

Unlike the primary commodity-dependent economies, developing countries that managed to diversify their exports such as those of Asia, recorded better economic performance. In fact, output in the whole of Asia grew on average by 6.0 per cent in 1999 compared to 3.8 per cent in the previous year. Most significantly, the crisis afflicted Asian-4 countries seem to have recovered from the ravages of the financial crisis. In fact, output growth rebounded significantly to 2.5 per cent after contracting by a substantial 9.5 per cent in 1998. GDP grew by 10½ per cent in Korea, 5½ per cent in Malaysia, and 4.3 per cent in Thailand in 1999. On the trade front, the recovery of the electronic goods industry which, accounted for more than 80 per cent of the exports of Malaysia and South Korea contributed to strong export growth. In China, GDP grew by 7.0 per cent in 1999 compared to 7.8 per cent in the previous year. Had it not been for the recovery that is underway in other Asian countries, the Chinese economy might have grown much more slowly. In line with strong economic recovery, the value of merchandise exports of the five countries most affected by the financial crisis of 1997-98 grew by 9.5 per cent (in value terms). The recovery in intra-Asian trade was also responsible for the strong surge in exports. In the East Asian crisis economies, improved investor confidence in some countries led to a rebound in net resource flows. These flows increased by US\$6 billion in 1999, after falling by US\$45 billion in 1998. Notably, portfolio equity flows more than doubled to US\$19 billion, but were offset by a decline in foreign direct investment (FDI) and other flows. Despite the return of economic recovery in the Asian crisis countries, corporate and financial sectors remain in a severe distress, with high levels of bankruptcies and non-performing loans, especially the Chaebols of South Korea. This underscores the need for accelerating the process of corporate and financial sector restructuring.

While the East Asian crisis-hit economies have staged strong recoveries, V-shaped in the case of the Republic of Korea, the Japanese economy on the other hand is struggling to emerge from a recession. The economy registered a growth rate of 0.3 per cent, reversing the stagnation of 1998. With the economy still in a virtual Keynesian type liquidity trap characterised by declining private consumption, rising saving ratios and falling prices only an aggressive export strategy particularly to the recovering Asian economies could help to jump start the ailing economy. In fact, Japanese exports grew substantially by 8.0 per cent in 1999 after contracting by 7.8 per cent in 1998. Exports to the Republic of Korea grew significantly by some 30.0 per cent.

In the services sector, tourism continues to be the fastest growing sector, accounting for more than one third of the total value of service trade. Global tourism grew by 4.1 per cent in 1999 compared to 3.1 per cent in 1998. The United States continues to garner the lion's share of tourism receipts. Although tourism plays an important role in the economic development of many Caribbean countries, the share of the region in global tourism remains very small. This suggests that Caribbean countries need to diversify and revitalise their tourism product in order to improve their market share in the global tourism sector.

In conclusion...

After slowing in 1998, the world economy picked up considerably in 1999. The United States economy, which was left relatively unscathed by the Asian contagion, provided the motor of global economic recovery. Overall, the world economy is projected to grow even faster by about 4.0 per cent in 2000. This is premised on a soft landing and the US economy with growth increasing marginally and equity prices coming down slowly and a gradual correction of the current account deficit. To reap the benefits of a growing world economy, the Caribbean countries need to pursue growth-enhancing policies and remove all the structural obstacles to growth. Moreover, advancing economic diversification, attracting foreign direct investment, and improving international competitiveness could be the key to sustained economic growth for the region.

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Meetings & Workshops convened by the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat in 2000

The following meetings and workshops were convened by the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat during 2000...

An ad hoc expert group meeting on gender mainstreaming in the Caribbean

Port of Spain

13-14 January 2000

Ad hoc expert group meeting on ICPD+5 process for the Caribbean subregion

Port of Spain

24-25 January 2000

Expert group meeting on the changing role of planners in the Caribbean subregion

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

28 January 2000

Eighteenth Plenary Session of the CDCC and Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the CDCC

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

30 March - 1 April 2000

A joint ECLAC/CDCC/Commonwealth Secretariat Caribbean Regional Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming

Antigua and Barbuda

2-4 May 2000

Expert meeting to discuss the establishment of a Caribbean Digital Library on the Web

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

22 May 2000

A workshop on the development of science and technology indicators for the Caribbean

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

25-26 May 2000

A training workshop on the ECLAC methodology for assessing the macroeconomic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

10-12 July 2000

A training workshop on the ECLAC methodology for assessing the macroeconomic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters in the British Virgin Islands, upon the request of the Government of the British Virgin Islands

British Virgin Islands

17-19 July 2000

Meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Planners Network (CPN)

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

30 June 2000

An expert group meeting on Maritime Transport in the Caribbean, convened in collaboration with the Transport Division at ECLAC Headquarters

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

14-15 September 2000

An expert group meeting on agriculture: the impact of new technologies on food nutrition and health

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

28-29 September 2000

A high level seminar on basic functions of planning, convened in collaboration with ILPES

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

5-6 October 2000

An ad hoc expert group meeting on gender and macroeconomic policies and planning in the Caribbean

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

16-17 October 2000

An expert group meeting on social development programmes & policies in the Caribbean

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

23-24 October 2000

A regional conference on managing space for sustainable development in SIDS, convened by SEDU of the UWI and UNDP

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

23-24 October 2000

A regional seminar on the impact of economic reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean: To present the findings of the book: Growth employment and equity, convened by the Economic Division at ECLAC Headquarters

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

27 October 2000

The Caribbean meeting on intra-regional migration

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

9-10 November 2000

Training workshop on FTAA process as it relates to competitiveness and standards for Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua & Barbuda

13-14 November 2000

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2001...

A meeting of experts to evaluate the Caribbean countries' compliance with the Special Data Dissemination Standard, and to examine various aspects of the dissemination of information on new information management technologies
January 2001
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Tenth meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the CDCC
6 & 7 March 2001
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Inter-Agency meeting of the ECLAC system
8 & 9 March 2001
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Meeting of experts to review strategies and actions taken to eliminate violence against women
June 2001
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

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Abstracts of Selected ECLAC/CDCC Documents published in 2000

Summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council which may be of special interest to member countries of CDCC

18 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.605

This document brings to the attention of CDCC member countries, a summary of 26 resolutions adopted by the 54th session of the General Assembly and 1 resolution adopted by the Security Council. Subjects of these resolutions include: elimination of discrimination against women; ending the U.S. embargo against Cuba; the outcome of the World Social Summit; the older person; the Law of the Sea; the interests of non-self governing territories; the World Summit for Children; democracy and human rights in Haiti; protection of migrants; the stability of developing countries; disaster reduction; and SIDS.

Study of gender mainstreaming in the Caribbean

42 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.607

Based on a study of ten Caribbean countries this paper attempts to describe and analyse how these countries institutionalised the responsibility for gender equity throughout government activities, both administratively and in policy and programmes. The impact of these gender mainstreaming activities is also examined. The countries studied were: Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Report of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the ICPD+5 process for the Caribbean subregion

12 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.608

This meeting was convened to propose a subregional approach towards fulfilment of the decisions of the International Conference on Population and Development and to assist governments to participate in the Third Session Ad Hoc Committee. Youth, training, ageing and migration are among issues dealt with in the report.

Education and its impact on poverty: equity or exclusion

39 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.609

This paper examines the poor and their relationship with the education system in the Caribbean through an analysis of data from recently conducted poverty assessments in selected Caribbean countries. It agrees that education is one of the single most vital elements in combating poverty and that it is a right. The paper suggests that there is genuine belief that education will lead to better opportunities and an improved standard of living. The paper reports that some 38 per cent of the population in the Caribbean are classified as poor, and their poverty acts as a constraining factor to access and to the quality of education that is received. Exacerbating the state of poverty is the generally low performance level of the education system. The paper concludes therefore, that the education system is failing poor children and recommends a rescue plan for the education system which will transform it into a catalyst for genuine social equity.

Report on the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on gender mainstreaming

8 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G. 613

ECLAC/CDCC convened a meeting of experts in the field of gender mainstreaming over a two-day period, 13-14 January 2000, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The experts discussed and evaluated the research process and findings of studies conducted by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat on the status of gender mainstreaming in 10 Caribbean countries. The study, which was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Gender Equity Fund, documented and evaluated the implementation of governments' mandate to incorporate gender analysis and planning in all aspects of development planning and was to be used by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to, inter alia, strengthen its technical assistance programme in the area of gender mainstreaming.

Industrialization, new technologies and competitiveness in the Caribbean

24 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G. 614

The present global economic climate and new trading regimes demand that Caribbean countries become more competitive in all their activities and not just in the manufacturing or agricultural sectors, the main focus of most discussions on trade liberalization. On the surface, there seem to be few areas in which small States with limited resources can become competitive, except in tourism, that does not in itself require technological developments by the States themselves. The use of appropriate technologies and policies to properly manage the resource is not always seen as vital to the continued survival of the industry. In such a scenario, States that play catch-up and continue to depend solely on imported technologies and processes, thereby replacing their indigenous knowledge base and activities, may never attain competitiveness in their products. This paper analyzes selected sectors in the subregion namely, the banana industry, the food sector, tourism and small and medium-sized enterprises to show how industrialization, through technological development, can lead to competitiveness. It also suggests some policy implications, actions to be undertaken and hurdles to overcome if the region is to benefit from its abundance of flora and fauna and to manage these for the betterment of its people.

Report of the Expert Workshop/Expert Meeting on the development of indicators of science and technology for the Caribbean

8 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G. 615

Efforts at the popularization of science and technology in the Caribbean and programmes aimed at introducing a culture of science and technology in Caribbean society have had mixed success over the past decade. These programmes have suffered from a lack of support from both policy makers and the general public. In 1988 a Regional Policy on Science and Technology was developed with assistance from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) and the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST). The policy identified the need to create greater awareness of science and technology in the development process, and for greater attention to be paid to scientific and technological issues in the development of projects and programmes that can promote sustainable development in the region. This report provides a synopsis of the present situation including reports from the five countries which participated in the Expert Group Meeting. Discussions focussed on the questionnaire prepared to facilitate data collection, the sources of information and the actual collecting of the data.

Phenomenon of ageing and the situation of older persons in the Caribbean

19 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.616

In its resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the General Assembly decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons and to take note of the conceptual framework of a programme for the preparation and observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/50/114). In resolution 50/141 entitled "International Year of Older Persons: Towards a society for all ages", the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the regional commissions, within the existing mandates, to bear in mind the goals of the Year when convening regional meetings in 1998 and 1999 at which to mark the Year and formulate action plans on ageing for the twenty-first century. This paper outlines the four facets of the conceptual framework: the situation of older persons; lifelong individual development; multigenerational relationships; and development and ageing populations. The paper also looks at the income, housing, and health needs of older persons and identifies five main challenges encountered in addressing the phenomenon of ageing.

Failure of Seattle and its implications

13 p. ECLAC. Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean. LC/CAR/G.617

This paper examines the evolution of the positions of developing countries on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It reviews recent trends in international trade, the Uruguay Round agreements and their implementation, emphasizing some of the issues of concern advanced by the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in particular the developing countries. In the build-up to Seattle, there were diverging concerns and positions expressed by participating countries. Intense campaigns were launched by various powerful interest groups against trade liberalization, which made it very difficult for an agenda to be agreed on in Seattle for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations. There were many issues surrounding the failure of the Seattle Ministerial Conference, including the following: unfair competition from low-wage developing countries; dissatisfaction with the implementation of the agreement; the dispute settlement mechanism; trade-related investment measures; and the time given to the implementation of the various agreements. Some of the possible implications of the failure of the conference are: the probable slowing down of the further liberalization in agriculture and textiles and the increased use or intensification of the use of antidumping and safeguard measures by developed countries among themselves and against imports from developing countries. The failure to start these negotiations may lead to increased protectionism, increased unilateral trade actions, decrease in technical assistance or strengthened conditionalities for such assistance and increased pressure on the developing countries to give in to the demands of the developed countries.

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A Listing of ECLAC/CDCC Documents published in 2000

<i>CODE</i>	<i>DOCUMENT TITLE</i>
LC/CAR/G.600	The Caribbean in the decade of the 1990s – Summary
LC/CAR/G.601	Provisional agenda of the 18 th session of the CDCC
LC/CAR/G.601/Add.1	Provisional annotated agenda of the 18 th session of the CDCC
LC/CAR/G.602	Draft work programme for the 2002-2003 biennium
LC/CAR/G.603	The changing role of planners: Ad Hoc Meeting report – January 2000
LC/CAR/G.604	ECLAC/CDCC through the years: Twenty-five years of Caribbean research Vols. 1 and 2
LC/CAR/G.605	Summaries of resolutions recently adopted by the UNGA and the Security Council which may be of special interest to member countries of CDCC
LC/CAR/G.606	Implementation of the ECLAC/CDCC work programme for the 1990-1999 biennium
LC/CAR/G.607	Study of gender mainstreaming in the Caribbean
LC/CAR/G.608	Draft report on the ad hoc expert group meeting on ICPD+5 process for the Caribbean subregion
LC/CAR/G.609	Education and its impact on poverty: Equity or exclusion
LC/CAR/G.610	Report of the meeting of experts to discuss the establishment of a Caribbean Digital Library on the Web
LC/CAR/G.611	Report of the 18 th session of the CDCC
LC/CAR/G.612	Reconceptualizing social indicators in the Caribbean: A review and discussion
LC/CAR/G.613	Report on the ad hoc expert group meeting on gender mainstreaming
LC/CAR/G.614	Industrialization, new technologies, and competitiveness in the Caribbean
LC/CAR/G.615	Report of the workshop on the development of indicators of science and technology for the Caribbean
LC/CAR/G.616	The phenomenon of aging and the situation of older persons in the Caribbean
LC/CAR/G.617	The failure of Seattle and its implications
LC/CAR/G.618	Report of the training workshop on the ECLAC methodology for assessing the macroeconomic, social and environmental impacts of natural disasters
LC/CAR/G.619	Poverty and social integration in the Caribbean
LC/CAR/G.620	Report of the meeting of the advisory committee of the Caribbean Planners Network
LC/CAR/G.621	Report on the experts meeting on maritime transport in the Caribbean
LC/CAR/G.622	Report on the high level seminar on basic planning functions

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