

The Hummingbird



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The ECLAC Port of Spain Newsletter

2014: International Year of Small Island Developing States

2014 has been declared as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). SIDS were first recognized as a distinct group of countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

So far, 179 nations have acknowledged that "small island developing states are a special case both for environment and development and are considered

extremely vulnerable to global warming and sea level rise."

The countries of the Caribbean are classified as SIDS; low-lying coastal countries that tend to share similar sustainable development challenges, including small but growing populations, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, excessive dependence on international trade, and fragile environments.



Their growth and development is also affected by high communication, energy and transportation costs, irregular international transport volumes, disproportionately expensive public administration and infrastructure due to their small size, and little or no opportunity of creating economies of scale. The Barbados Programme of Action was adopted in

1994 to assist SIDS in their sustainable development efforts.

Many SIDS now recognise the need to move towards low-carbon, climate resilient economies, as set out in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) implementation plan for climate change-resilient development.

This year, September 2014, the Third International Conference on SIDS will be held in Apia, Samoa, and will focus on partnerships.

ECLAC poster and essay competition

ECLAC launched a poster and essay competition for primary, secondary and tertiary level students, in the Caribbean, to celebrate the International Year of SIDS.

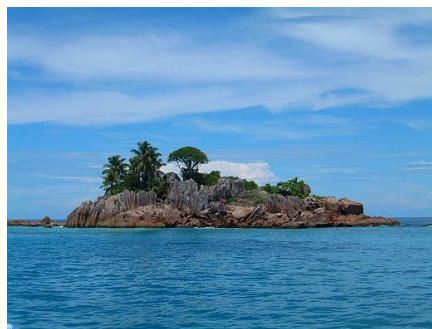
Youth of the Caribbean were encouraged to express through art and the written word, their perspective on both the challenges and opportunities of small island living.

The competition was open to all Caribbean countries that are members or associate members of ECLAC.

The essay topic was "Unleashing the creativity and resilience of our people to build prosperous Caribbean societies."

The poster topics for both junior and senior categories were: (a) Island Living: Small is Beautiful; (b) Protecting our island home: the impact of climate change; (c) A rich heritage and culture: the true wealth of our nations; (d) Going green: reducing waste and promoting sustainable energy use.

Expert Group Meeting on Rio+20



THE United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) held an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) at ECLAC Port of Spain on 17-18 March 2014, on "Implementing Rio +20: Integrated Planning for Sustainable Coastal Area Management in the Region".

At Rio +20, member states stressed the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas, and of their resources for sustainable development.

Yet there are increasing, complex chal-

lenges in preserving and maintaining healthy, resilient and productive oceans for the prosperity of present and future generations.

In the Caribbean region, coastal countries are highly dependent on their oceans and marine resources. However, many threats to the oceans and related ecosystems persist, such as unsustainable coastal development, climate change, overfishing, and marine pollution.

It is therefore critical for these countries to continue integrating coastal area management into their national planning processes, to ensure the protection and preservation of their natural environment, economies and development prospects for generations to come.

The EGM sought to enhance the awareness and capacity of national and regional experts and decision-makers on these issues.

The Regional Roundup



CARICOM Leaders accept Caribbean Reparatory Justice Programme

A CARIBBEAN Reparatory Justice Programme (CRJP) has been accepted by the CARICOM Heads of Government as a basis for discussions on reparations from slavery and native genocide.

Chairman of the Caribbean Community Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves made the disclosure during a press conference following the Intersessional Meeting of the Conference of the CARICOM Heads of Government which was held between March 10 and 11 at Buccament Bay in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The CARICOM Chairman said that the Caribbean Reparatory Justice Programme was a strategic and operational plan which consisted of 10 points prepared by the Regional Reparations Committee.

He further outlined that a request for a full apology from the governments of Europe involved in the transatlantic slave trade, the establishment of Caribbean Cultural institutions, an education programme specifically to address illiteracy and debt cancellation were among the recommendations in the CRJP.

Saint Lucia nurses offered jobs in Trinidad

THE government of Trinidad and Tobago has offered to employ qualified nurses from Saint Lucia who wish to work in the twin island republic.

The offer was made by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar during the recently held meeting of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Currently, Trinidad and Tobago employs some 60 nurses from St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Saint Lucia's Prime Minister Dr Kenny

Anthony welcomed the offer from the government of Trinidad and Tobago, noting that there are several nurses who were trained in Cuba that are in search of job opportunities.

"This is how CARICOM should work. If there are shortages of skills and labour in one CARICOM country, then the shortage should be resolved by inviting other CARICOM countries to supply those skills," said Anthony, commenting on the offer of employment from Trinidad. (CARIBBEAN NEWS NOW)

Daily flights to Saint Vincent

CARIBBEAN Airlines Limited (CAL) will soon start a daily service to the ET Joshua International Airport in St Vincent. This comes right on the heels of the airline's plans to develop greater connectivity between the Caribbean and Central America.

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Captain Jagmohan Singh confirmed that service would begin around mid-April, using one of the ATR aircraft to operate the bridge.

It is expected the flight would depart Piarco International Airport around 7 am with an immediate turnaround back to Port-of-Spain. He said this would facilitate connections out of Piarco International to destinations in the United States, Canada and even Europe.

For almost two years St Vincent's Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves had been threatening to take the Trinidad and To-

bago (T&T) government to court over the fuel subsidy it was giving to CAL. Whether T&T backed away from any legal fight with its CARICOM partner or whether it was an agreement made behind closed doors is not known, but removal of the subsidy was announced by Finance Minister Larry Howai in his Budget presentation last September.

Whether it is by design or otherwise, CAL is now servicing three destinations in the southern Caribbean, which is also served by LIAT, of which Gonsalves is the chair of the shareholder governments.

Like the rest of the world, Caribbean's home market has suffered because of the downturn of the global economy, but in recent times, has shown to be rebounding although the demand for connectivity from Central America has remained. (TRINIDAD NEWSDAY)

Using tourism to reduce poverty



Bahamas Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe speaks at the conference.

CAN tourism help reduce poverty in the Caribbean region?

That was one of the questions discussed at the recently held Small Island Developing States conference in the Bahamas, where Bahamian Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe called for a "paradigm economic shift" in the way regional countries view the link between tourism and poverty.

"We can use tourism to reduce poverty, [to make it] easier to trade, to drive food prices down and to travel," he said.

Wilchcombe was speaking as part of a panel on "maximizing the local benefits of tourism" at the conference, which was held at the newly-debuted Melia Nassau Beach Resort on Cable Beach.

Globally, the tourism sector accounts for more than 260 million jobs with 40 percent of all travel going to a developing country destination. (CARIBBEAN JOURNAL)

Mexico keen on deepening Caribbean relations

THE Caribbean Community (CARICOM)/Mexico conference and the sixth summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and their benefits to the region were among the areas discussed when Mexico's foreign affairs minister, José Meade Kuri-breña paid a courtesy call on his Barbados counterpart, Senator Maxine McClean.

In addition, Mexico's foreign minister said the ACS conference was "a good way for Mexico to become closer to the Caribbean in a more structured fashion with topics that were relevant not just for the Caribbean but in terms of defining reasons [for] the bilateral relationship between the different Caribbean states". (CARIBBEAN NEWS NOW)

ECLAC in the Caribbean

Evaluation of ECLAC post-disaster assessments

THE Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in collaboration with the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), held a meeting in Saint Lucia to discuss the evaluation of ECLAC post-disaster assessments in the Caribbean in Rodney Bay Village, Saint Lucia on 25 February 2014.

An area of discussion was the challenges for disaster risk reduction through the mechanism of insurance. Several issues which affect the development of insurance markets for risk in the Caribbean were presented.

Among the main factors were: 1) underdeveloped risk identification and forecasting; 2) the non-homogenous nature of disaster risks; 3) low demand for insurance given the infrequent manifestations of disaster risks relative to other types of risks; 4) poor regulatory framework for insurance; 5) restrictions on regional insurers; and 6) substantial international aid in response to disasters



Heavy flooding caused by hurricane.

which serves as a disincentive to assume risk cover.

It was noted that governments in the Caribbean were often deficient in undertaking insurance coverage for many public and social assets, which then result in significant recovery costs with the occurrence of a natural disaster. Considering constraints to the actual implementation of recovery efforts, data and information inadequacies were identified, as well as limited human and institutional capacity, some limitations of disaster assessment methods, particularly where such methods undervalue ecosystem services, and lack of political will.

Published reports

ECLAC regularly publishes reports and documents based on research and analysis of events and issues within the Caribbean. Some of our recent published work includes:

1. Information and communication technology for disaster risk management in the Caribbean.

This paper examines the role of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for disaster risk management (DRM) with a specific focus on the Caribbean, and includes the review of literature and case studies, as well the administration of a survey instrument that collected the feedback of 13 regional DRM agencies.

2. Situation of unpaid work and gender in the Caribbean.

One of the emerging statistical tools for collecting comprehensive information, detailing how individuals spend their time, on a daily or weekly basis, is time-use surveys. These surveys take many different forms to collect vital information which can be used to estimate not only value of paid and unpaid work, but also composi-

tion of the labour force.

3. Twenty-fifth session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee: Report of the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013.

This report highlights the activities carried out by ECLAC in the Caribbean subregion between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2013. In addition, countries of the Caribbean were included in activities organized under the 11 other substantive subprogrammes of the ECLAC programme of work 2012-2013.

4. Foreign direct investment in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean receives some of the highest levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the world, with many economies having FDI to GDP ratios above 10% in 2012. In the recent past, FDI flows have been particularly volatile, with the financial crisis in 2008 greatly reducing FDI flows to the Caribbean, although they have recovered in recent times.

ECLAC supports Trinidad with census software

THE Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has provided technical support to the government of Trinidad and Tobago, with the development of an online database for the dissemination of the census results.

This took the form of targeted sessions with staff of the Central Statistical Office and IT department within the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development that were geared at ensuring the finalization of a dynamic web-based application using REDATAM (REtrieval of DATA for small Areas by Microcomputer) software.

The database would enable greater public access to the census data for purposes of research, policy making and development. The technical assistance complements two previous national training workshops for staff of line ministries and the Central Statistical Office aimed at building capacity in the use of REDATAM for the processing, analysis and dissemination of micro data.



Barbados tradition: Landship

THE Barbados Landship is a truly unique part of the island's culture, whose origin can be traced back to the 1800s.

The best way to describe the landship is as a "theatrical group" which performs intricate dances that reflect the passage of ships through rough seas and the activities that take place on board. Some of the most popular dances are ribbon dances around a maypole.

The performers wear costumes that are similar to those worn in the navy.

Although the organization was based on the structure of the British Navy, its dances are performed to an African rhythm, often accompanied by a tuk band, once again reflecting the merged cultures of Barbados.

The Landship movement is not as strong as it once was, but its presence at local festivals still generates much excitement and interest.

Employee of the Year 2013



Congratulations to ECLAC Port of Spain's Employee of the Year 2013, Mrs. Lindy-Ann Edwards-Alleyne, Staff Assistant in the Economic Development Unit.

Careers at the United Nations



United Nations Assistant Secretary General Catherine Pollard (second from left), with United Nations Information Centre (Trinidad) Officer in Charge Amanda Laurence, ECLAC Director Diane Quarless, ECLAC Administrative Officer Jeanette Songe, and United Nations Human Resource Officer Lynn Goldberg.

ASSISTANT Secretary General of United Nations (UN) Headquarters, Catherine Pollard, visited Trinidad and Tobago in October 2013, where she met with staff of ECLAC, as well as university students. Pollard held lectures and discussions at the three University of the West Indies campus, to promote career opportunities for Caribbean nationals in the UN Secretariat.

Focus on the ECLAC Family

Indoor games evening

THROUGHOUT the year, the staff Social Events Committee of ECLAC Port of Spain organises various events for the enjoyment of staff, to share time together away from their desks.

One of the early events for 2014 was an indoor games evening, where people were encouraged to bring their own games. The evening turned out to be fun, competitive and lively, and even the visitors had a good time.



The indoor games evening brought out the competitive side of staff members.

Brawta: Something extra!

Recipe: Coconut bake

You'll need:

- 4 1/2 cups all purpose flour or bread flour
- 1/4 cup butter or shortening (i used shortening)
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon quick acting yeast
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1/4 cup freshly grated coconut

Preparation:

In the food processor (or bowl) place the flour, yeast, sugar, salt and the butter or shortening and work till you get a sort of crumbs texture. Add the grated coconut and give it another pulse, then add the coconut milk and make the actual dough.

To make the dough smooth and firm, remove it onto a floured surface and worked it until it's well-kneaded. Cut it evenly into two or more pieces, work it into the shape of the bake and allow it to rest for about 20 minutes.

Preheat your oven to 400F, then add the bakes on a cookie sheet and on the middle shelf for about 25-30 minutes or until they're golden

What's Up ... upcoming events in the Caribbean

30 April	Point Fortin Borough Day	Trinidad and Tobago
2-3 May	Carnival	Saint Thomas Virgin Islands
3 May	Batabano	Cayman Islands
26 May	Junkanoo	Bermuda
29 June—10 July	Carnival	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
4 July	Carnival	Saint John Virgin Islands