

## Samoa takes centerstage ... at Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

SOME faced with the threat of possible extinction due to sea-level rise brought about by climate change, the world's 52 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will take the spotlight in Apia, Samoa on 1-4 September 2014.

The Third International Conference on SIDS will provide world leaders with a first-hand opportunity to experience climate change and poverty challenges of small islands.

It is envisaged that there would be the creation of over 200 concrete partnerships to lift small islanders out of poverty – all of whom are facing rising sea levels, overfishing, and destructive natural events like typhoons and tsunamis.

The issues on the conference agenda include sustainable economic development, oceans, food



Downtown Apia, Samoa.

security and waste management, sustainable tourism, disaster risk reduction, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women.

The list of 52 SIDS covers a wide geographical area and includes Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Nauru, Palau, Maldives, Cuba, Marshall Islands, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The conference is expected to adopt a plan of action, also called

an outcome document, ensuring some of the priorities for SIDS. A preparatory committee, co-chaired by New Zealand and Singapore, has finalised the outcome document which will go before the conference for approval.

It is noted that SIDS have specific vulnerabilities, and the difficulties they face are severe and complex. The small size of SIDS creates disadvantages, which can include limited resources and high population density.

These can contribute to overuse and depletion of resources; high dependence on international trade; threatened supply of fresh water; costly public administration and infrastructure; limited institutional capacities; and limited export volumes, which are too small to achieve economies of scale.

### ECLAC in the Caribbean

#### Enhanced skills needed for expanded ICT use in Disaster Risk Management

INFORMATION and communication technologies (ICTs) have the potential to significantly improve the management of disaster risk in the Caribbean. This according to a new ECLAC study, entitled Information and Communication Technologies for Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean.

Co-authored by Atiba Phillips and Robert Crane Williams, it describes many opportunities for the use of ICTs in improving disaster planning and prevention.

Geographic Information Systems

(GIS) applications to model the potential impacts of a hurricane and to identify areas at risk of landslides, are examples of this.

The study identifies the need for increased attention to be given to the sharpening of technical skills in ICT for disaster risk management, if the region is to benefit meaningfully from this opportunity.

Some 13 disaster risk management offices in the region surveyed in the publication, report an inadequacy of technical skills for optimal use of

available ICTs. More importantly, the highly-specialized skills needed to implement and maintain new ICT projects are often difficult to source in the Caribbean.

Co-author Williams, noted: "It's clear that lives and money can be saved if Caribbean countries can make more effective use of ICT systems in disaster planning and response, but much more attention must be given to the development of the expertise required to implement these systems and to keep them running. It is therefore important to find ways to increase and support the size of the ICT talent pool in the Caribbean."

**Sweet Lime** Focus on the ECLAC Family

## Farewell to Kohei Yoshida



AT the end of July, we said Bon Voyage to Associate Economic Officer Kohei Yoshida, who was part of the ECLAC for three years. We wish him well on his new post in New York, USA.

## Caribbean Lingo

### Pirate Phrases

Pirate phrases are fun to help get you into the mood of talking and acting like a pirate.

Here are some popular ones and what they mean:

- \* Aaaarrrrggghhhh! - exhortation of discontent or disgust.
- \* Ahoy! - Hello!
- \* Batten down the hatches - put everything away on the ship and tie everything down because a storm is brewing.

- \* Blimey! - exhortation of surprise.
- \* Blow me down! - expression of shock of disbelief.
- \* Heave Ho - give it some muscle and push it.
- \* Landlubber - big, slow clumsy person who doesn't know how to sail.
- \* Savvy? - do you understand and do you agree?
- \* Scuttle - to sink a ship

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
10 - 14 August	Spice Mas	Grenada
24 - 26 August	Great race: Powerboat racing	Trinidad & Tobago
29-30 August	North Sea Jazz Festival	Curacao
30 August	Annual Rose Festival	Saint Lucia
3-9 September	International Billfish Tournament	Puerto Rico
10 September	St George's Cay Day	Belize



## The Regional Roundup

### Weather warning for Saint Lucia

AFTER the devastating rain and flood of December 2013, Saint Lucia citizens have been urged to remain vigilant over the next few months, as the island braces for possible low pressure systems that weather officials predict could become the region's first major cyclone for the 2014 hurricane season. The Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) reported showers and thunderstorms associated with an area of low pressure was located about 1000 miles east of the southern Windward Islands. The NHC warned residents of the Lesser Antilles that environmental conditions were marginally conducive for this system to development into a



A collapsed road in Saint Lucia in December 2013.

tropical depression, while it moves generally west-northwestward, and urged them to monitor the progress. Last December, five people were killed and Saint Lucia suffered millions of dollars in losses after a low level trough system caused widespread damage also in neighbouring islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica.

## Brawta: Something extra!

### Recipe: Pepperpot

PEPPERPOT is one of the easiest traditional Caribbean foods to prepare. The only thing you'll need that's out of the ordinary is a bottle of Casareep, but you'll find that it's a good investment because you are sure to want to make this delicious traditional Caribbean recipe again.



Pepperpot tastes best with plantain, coo-coo or fresh bread as side dishes, but also goes well with ground provisions or rice.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 lb stewing beef, oxtail or cowheel
- 1 lb pork or pig's trotters
- 1 lb shrimp or skinless chicken
- ½ lb salted pigtail or salted pork
- ½ cup cassareep
- 1 scotch-bonnet or habanero pepper
- 1 large onion, diced

- 1 small bunch fresh thyme, or 2 tsp dried thyme leaves
- ½ head garlic, diced
- ½ tsp ground clove
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 dashes Angostura Bitters
- Salt and black pepper to taste

#### Preparations:

The traditional way to make pepperpot is to cube meats, add all the ingredients to a large stewing pot and cover with water. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for approximately 2 hours, or until meat is very tender.