

The Hummingbird



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The ECLAC Port of Spain Newsletter

ECLAC in the Caribbean

Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2014

THE 2014 launch of ECLAC's Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean economies takes place at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile on Monday 4 August 2014.

As in previous years, the launch will be presented via a press conference that will be broadcast via video to ECLAC's subregional offices in Mexico and Trinidad.

Addressing the press conference from Santiago headquarters, Executive Secretary Alicia Barcena will present the interim report on the economic performance of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Economic Survey, a flagship publication prepared annually by ECLAC, focuses mainly on the region's eco-



Executive Secretary
Alicia Barcena.

conomic performance during the first half of the year and provides updated growth forecasts for the coming months.

The report also examines challenges for the region's economic and social sustainability and its public policies, taking into account the current external environment.

Energy efficiency in the transport sector

THE transport sectors of three countries in the region were the focus of a recent ECLAC study, based on promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

These were Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which are all member states of ECLAC.

The transport industry, which comprises land, air and maritime modes, represents a critical component of any country's national development. One of the most fundamental attributes of the sector is the ability to move persons, goods and services between spatial locations at the local, regional and international levels.

Like many other Caribbean countries, these three territories are almost entirely dependent on imported petroleum as their primary source of energy, and have developed national policies that seek to improve energy efficiency and conservation in all sectors, promote the use of alternative sources to petroleum such as liquefied natural gas (LNG), and develop renewable energy technologies.

The study will be presented at a meeting on Friday 25 July 2014 in Castries, Saint Lucia. Participants from Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will join their Saint Lucia counterparts via the CISCO WebEx meeting online video conferencing technology.

Strategies for reducing the carbon footprint of the Caribbean will also be discussed, and presenters will make their recommendations based on the research conducted.

Published reports

1. Report of the Sixth meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism for the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

2. Report of the Third Meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable (CDR).

A number of conclusions and recommendations were put forward at the third CDR, co-hosted by ECLAC and the Government of Jamaica, on the basis of presentations and discussions centred on the theme "Exploring strategies for sustainable development and growth in Caribbean SIDS."

3. Report of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC).

The Committee endorsed the report of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism. It also welcomed the recommendations of the third meeting of the Caribbean Development Roundtable through the adoption of resolution 83 (XXV), Support for the findings of the Caribbean Development Roundtable.

SIDS Dialogue session

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines hosted a dialogue session on 10-12 June 2014 for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean convened the session as part of ongoing preparations for the Third International Conference on SIDS from 1-4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa.

The session served as a forum for Caribbean representatives from governments, civil society and regional organizations, to exchange views, taking into consideration priority issues to be addressed at the upcoming Samoa meeting.

ECLAC Director Diane Quarless encouraged countries to participate in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and indicated the need to mobilize representation for Caribbean SIDS at the Conference at the highest political level.

She also cited the case of the Pacific Region, which is partnering with Australia going forward to the meeting in Samoa, and expressed the hope that the Caribbean would be able to simulate this, by engaging those donors who are willing to support the Caribbean.

Sweet Lime Focus on the ECLAC Family

World Cup fever

LIKE millions of football fans around the world, staff at ECLAC shared the highs and lows of the Brazil 2014 World Cup tournament. And we went a step extra with our own in-house World Cup Sweepstakes friendly competition. Over the four weeks of the matches, we had two groups, the Clairvoyants and the Educated Guessers, putting in their picks for winners and losers.

The anticipation grew each day counting down to the finals, with much speculation on who would win the coveted prizes.

In the end, it was Meeting Services Assistant Aurelie Quiatol and Procurement Assistant Curtis Pierre, who scored the most goals, or points, to go home with their respective chocolate arrangements, courtesy the Social Events Committee.



Members of the Social Events Committee with Curtis (left) and Aurelie (second from right).

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
21 July - 4 August	Crop Over Festival	Barbados
31 July - 1 August	National Cup Match	Bermuda
1 August	Emancipation	Trinidad & Tobago
1-3 August	Cudjoe Head	Montserrat
4 August	Launch: Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean	Trinidad & Tobago
7-9 August	Carrot Bay Festival	British Virgin Islands
10 August	Jazz Festival	Bonaire
29-30 August	North Sea Jazz Festival	Curacao

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The Regional Roundup

Increase in hotel construction across the region



Hotel construction in the Caribbean.

THE Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico lead the Caribbean in the number of hotel rooms under construction, according to a new report.

A Caribbean/Mexico hotel development report found that the region had a total of 163 hotels and 27,690 rooms in the development pipeline through June.

The Bahamas had 2,706 rooms under construction, followed by the Dominican Republic with 817 rooms,

Puerto Rico with 471 rooms and St Kitts and Nevis with 245 rooms.

Mexico had 8,069 rooms under construction, according to the report.

Overall, the number of rooms under contract, which includes rooms at all stages of development (except unconfirmed), rose by 19.2 percent in June compared to the same period in 2013.

The number of rooms under construction in the Caribbean/Mexico region rose by

Brawta: Something extra!

Medicinal herbs with culinary uses

AN ordinary meal can be made extraordinary with the simple addition of some seasonings, or herbs. In an form, whether fresh, preserved or dried, herbs have secret elements that transforms simple dishes into flavourful, delectable delights.

Here are some herbs that have both medicinal and culinary benefits:

BASIL
This has a mild and sweet flavor and is used a lot in Italian and international cuisines.

MINT
This is one of the most commonly used and grown ingredients in many cultures. With a long shelf life, its core ingredient, menthol, gives it a

unique aroma and flavor. Mint leaves are versatile and are used in appetizers, main courses, desserts and beverages.

PARSLEY
Mainly used for garnishing and flavouring, this herb is dark green in colour with stubby stems.

ROSEMARY
This is a firm, woody herb with fragrant, needle-like leaves. Bittersweet and lemony to taste, it is popular for stuffings and dressings.

THYME
Both fresh and dried forms of this herb are popular ingredients for a wide variety of dishes across multiple cuisines.