

BIG data

HOW GOVERNMENTS CAN USE DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES

8 things to know

ABOUT AGEING IN THE CARIBBEAN

Sneak Preview

ECLAC HOSTS MICRO-DATA EXPERT GROUP MEETING

--- TOURISM: OVER 70% OF INCOME

Volume 2 - Issue 9

Sept 2015

DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO: 69.5

ENROLMENT RATES: OVER 90%

--- BY 2035: 2 MILLION OLDER ADULTS

1990-2014: 328 DISASTERS

MATERNAL MORTALITY: 0.2%

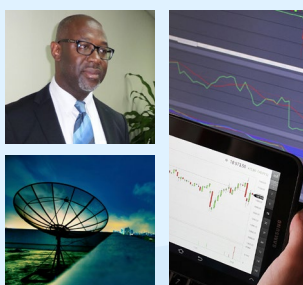
SERVICES: OVER 70% OF GDP

FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT: 12.4%

--- TRADE-TO-GDP RATIO: OVER 90%



CONTENTS



4

Sneak Preview

Expert group meeting on Micro-data

6

Things to know

Ageing in the Caribbean

8

Disaster Training

ECLAC staff visits the Franklin D. Roosevelt School in Costa Rica

10

Follow Up

The Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2015 with Michael Hendrickson

12

Feature Article

Big data in the Caribbean

16

State of Affairs

Recent activity by Caribbean governments

17

Around the Caribbean

Guyana Rupununi Music and Arts Festival
Curaçao's North Sea Jazz Festival

23

ECLAC Caribbean Family

The OJT Experience

ECLAC CARIBBEAN



UNITED NATIONS



ECLAC Caribbean
Non-profit Organisation

Liked

Following

Message



Timeline

About

Events

Photos

More



Like us on Facebook

Upcoming Events

5 United Nations International Day of Charity
5 September 2015

8-9 International Literacy Day 2015: Literacy and Sustainable Societies
Paris, France.
8-9 September 2015

8-10 UNICEF Executive Board,
Second regular session 2015
United Nations Headquarters, New York.
8-10 September 2015

16 United Nations International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
16 September 2015

25-27 United Nations Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda
United Nations Headquarters, New York.
25-27 September 2015



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted Aug 5

Children in Costa Rica received a visit from #ECLACCaribbean staff. Find out more: <http://vrb.al/disaster-cr2>



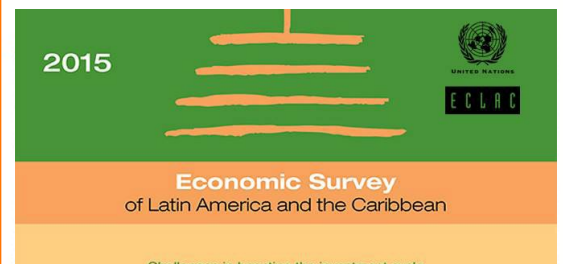
Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted July 23

ECLAC launched its annual report on the region's economies, with new projections for each country: <http://bit.ly/1ejosal>



Like · Comment · Share



ECLAC Caribbean

Posted July 8

How will Latin America and the Caribbean finance its sustainable development? Know more at: <http://bit.ly/1J4V3JG>



"For financing development we must combat tax evasion and avoidance and illicit flows".

Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC.

Like · Comment · Share

Expert Group Meeting: Micro-data

CLAC Caribbean is collaborating with officials from Caribbean statistical offices in Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago to review census data collection process with the aim of proposing procedures and a methodology for the dissemination of the four national census micro-datasets to researchers.

As part of this collaboration, an expert group meeting will be organized next month. Led by Francis Jones – Population Affairs Officer – this undertaking will enhance the availability

of Caribbean census micro-data for research purposes, while continuing to protect the confidentiality of individual census respondents.

Internationally, many countries and organizations have developed methods and procedures for the dissemination of anonymized census micro-data, although relatively little use is made of these techniques in the Caribbean. Jamaica and Saint Lucia – both of which will be well represented during the meeting – are two of the countries leading the way in this regard. ■



Caribbean Broadcasting Union Awards 2015

with Alexander Voccia

Organized once a year, the Caribbean Broadcasting Union Awards give due credit to the hard work, dedication, journalistic integrity and stellar achievements of media colleagues throughout the region. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of this most prestigious media event, ECLAC Caribbean had the privilege to confer one of the awards of the evening, on behalf of the United Nations system in Trinidad and Tobago.

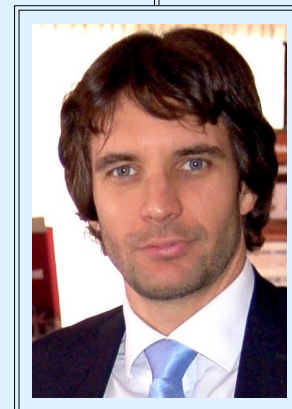
“It is our duty and responsibility to raise awareness on these issues. Whether we work for newspapers, broadcasting agencies or – as is my case – for the United Nations”

Presenting the award under the theme of ‘Citizen Security & Community Safety in Trinidad and Tobago’ was Alexander Voccia – Coordinator of ECLAC Caribbean’s Strategic Planning & Outreach Unit. Before naming the awardee - Jabari Fraser - of CCN TV 6 in Trinidad and Tobago, producer of the news documentary, ‘Prison Confidential’, Alexander took the opportunity to put the spotlight on the efforts being undertaken

by the UN in Trinidad and Tobago to address this important issue.

Alexander underscored that “the United Nations is working hard to ensure that security policies include the necessary institutional procedures and social actions to protect and guarantee the total and effective liberties and rights of people”. In this regard, Alexander further reiterated that prevention, control and investigation of crimes are what the UN is striving for, in order to safeguard public order and protect vulnerable groups.

Putting the spotlight on the media’s role in addressing these issues, Alexander concluded his remarks by inviting colleagues to look at what more could be done to get the messages across. “Let us look at what we do, and at what more we can do. It is our duty and responsibility to raise awareness on these issues. Whether we work for newspapers, broadcasting agencies or – as is my case – for the United Nations, we are all media professionals. Opportunities exist for a more dynamic interaction between the United Nations and media colleagues in the region, on these as well as on other development matters. I invite us all to seize these opportunities.” ■



Caribbean Broadcast Awards 2015 - Grenada.

8

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

Ageing in the Caribbean

The population of the Caribbean is ageing at an increasingly rapid pace. This imminent ageing has major implications for public policy in areas such as pensions, health and social care. The impacts will also be felt in the workplace, community and family life.

Later this month, the Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder abuse and the Rights of Older Persons will take place in Dominica - more on that in next month's issue of *The Hummingbird*. For now, here are eight things to keep in mind as regards Ageing in the Caribbean:

1.

The number of persons aged 60 and over will increase from 1.1 million (13 %) to 2 million (22%) by the year 2035.

2.

Caribbean persons in their 40s and 50s, substantially outnumber the preceding generation and over the next 20 years the ageing of this generation will lead to a rapid increase in the number of older persons.

3.

Older persons are exposed to risks such as: reduction in or loss of income, loss of independence, failing health, disability and isolation.





The potential contribution of older persons to economic, social and family life is both under-appreciated and an untapped resource.

4.

Given the significant percentage of the workforce in the informal economy, engaged in small farming, or in self-employment as vendors, labourers, domestics, this sector of the workforce had no opportunity to contribute to a social security pension during their working lives. Non-contributory pension schemes will need to be considered to provide an important social service support to such persons as they age.

5.

Within the Caribbean, population ageing is most advanced in the territories of Aruba, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, Martinique and the United States Virgin Islands.

6.

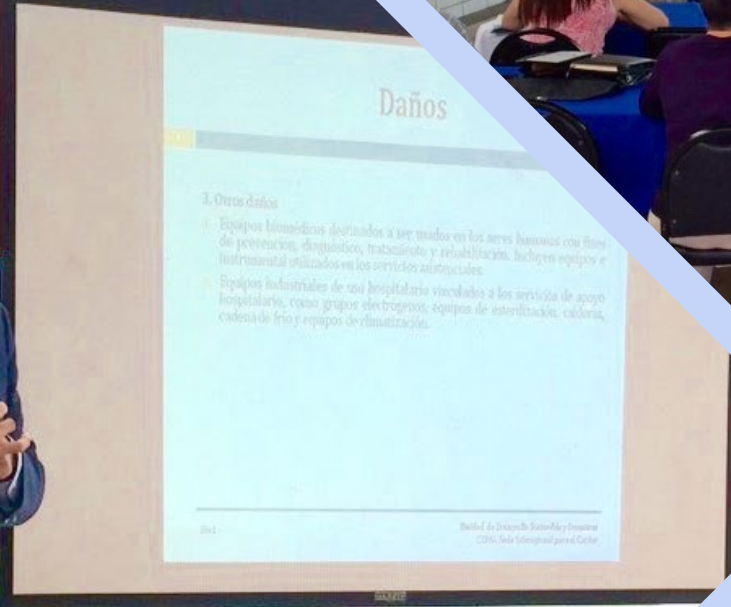
Older persons are rights holders, and greater recognition of these rights is in all of our interests.

7.

ECLAC is making every effort to put this increasingly urgent issue of population ageing squarely on the agenda of Caribbean governments, calling for the strengthening of policies and programmes for the region's senior citizens.

8.

Photo of older adults learning Mandarin at the Confucius Institute of Trinidad and Tobago by Blaine Marcano of ECLAC Caribbean / CC BY.





Costa Rica Disaster Training

Last month, ECLAC Caribbean staff members Omar Bello – Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Disaster Unit – and Leda Peralta – Associate Environmental Affairs Officer – visited the Franklin Delano Roosevelt School in Costa Rica where they delivered an awareness raising session to fourth grade students, as part of the organisation’s aim to reach out to a diverse demographic across the region, in promoting disaster assessment awareness from an early age. Here are some of the fond memories that they returned with. ■

The Economic Survey of the Caribbean 2015

with Michael Hendrickson



INTERVIEW

Q What everyone wants to know is if the Caribbean is on the right track for economic recovery. Can you tell us what the numbers suggest?

A Economic recovery in the Caribbean strengthened in 2014, as growth increased to 2.3% from 1.3% in 2013. There was an improvement in economic activity, which was driven by the continued rebound in tourism and construction. This in turn, helped to offset the impact of softer commodity prices on growth among commodity producing economies of the region.

Q What would you say is the major reason for this improvement?

A The fiscal position improved in 2014 as the deficit declined by half to 2.1% of GDP from 4.5% of GDP in 2013. This performance was influenced by a major fiscal consolidation effort in the service-based economies, which was aimed at reducing their unsustainable debt burden.

Q How has this improvement impacted the region?

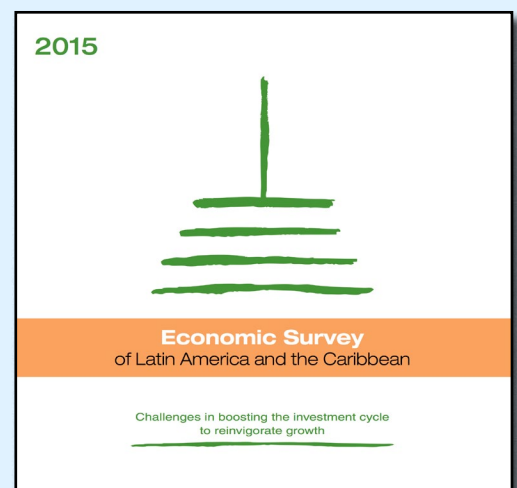
A The region has not seen as much positive impact as may be expected, since growth was not as job-creating as it could have been. The rate of unemployment fell only marginally to 15.9% in 2014, from 16.2% in 2013.

Q There is a history of high indebtedness among Caribbean countries. Has this changed at all?

A Public debt contracted somewhat, but remained at 70.7% on average in 2014. Most economies had debt levels over 70% with the exception of a few including Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

Q What about the public sector in terms of investment?

A Monetary developments continue to be marked by weak private credit demand, associated with sluggish private investment. There was a spike in credit to the public sector, but there are concerns about the efficiency of the related public investment. Moreover, non-performing loans which had increased owing to the crisis have continued to trend downwards.





Q We have heard a lot about foreign direct investment. What changes have there been in this regard?

A Foreign direct investment - a crucial source of investment and technical know-how - contracted from 8.4% of GDP to 7.6% of GDP. This is despite the fact that the external current account deficit contracted marginally to 14% of GDP in 2014, reflecting higher tourism receipts and the benefit of lower fuel prices for most economies, except Trinidad and Tobago.

Q What can we expect from the regional economy during the course of 2015?

A The regional economy is projected to slow marginally in 2015 with possible growth of 2.1%. Growth in the service producers will be driven by continued recovery in tourism, while goods-producers will benefit from an expected firming of oil prices. The fiscal position is expected to be influenced by further consolidation to bring down debt levels, while the current account deficit is expected to widen owing to reduced exports.

Q What are some of the issues and constraints that the regional economy is facing, and that may impact its growth?

A Well, despite the welcome recovery in the Caribbean, there are still underlying structural constraints that remain, which could hinder growth and poverty reduction. A key challenge is the decline in investment during the period after the global crisis. We see that domestic investment has fallen from 28% of GDP before to 23% of GDP after the crisis in the service producers and remained stagnant at around 22% of GDP in the goods producers. This is an important cause for concern given the critical role investment plays in driving growth and development. Also, an important constraint has been the weakness of private investment.

Q How do we deal with these issues?

A What we need is careful analysis in order to point to the incentive and institutional reforms that are required to encourage entrepreneurs to invest in new productive activity.

Q In light of the challenges discussed so far, what is ECLAC doing to support its member and associate member states?

A In recognition of the financial constraint facing a number of businesses and also the wider impact of high debt, ECLAC has proposed a debt relief strategy to help Caribbean

small island developing states (SIDS). The strategy centres on multilateral institutions writing off debt owed to them by Caribbean SIDS, and using the earmarked debt service payments to create a Caribbean Resilience Fund. The Fund would be managed by a reputable institution such as the Caribbean Development Bank and would be used to finance projects aimed at growing the economy, reducing poverty and protecting the environment. The fund would provide finance for rehabilitation and reconstruction after disasters such as hurricanes and floods. A counterpart fund - the Macroeconomic Stabilization Fund - would be used to provide countercyclical finance to address economic shocks such as terms of trade shocks.

Q Do you see this as a step in the right direction?

A Debt relief at this time is deemed justified, as the fiscal adjustment to achieve sustainability by the region would be very large and costly in terms of growth and reduced social protection. In addition, much of the growth in debt stemmed from shocks, rather than fiscal imprudence. Furthermore, the region has limited access to concessional external finance. Therefore, debt relief complemented by increased domestic resources could go a long way in helping the region finance its sustainable development. ■



BIG DAY

MATTERS TO US



ATA US ALL

The world is experiencing nothing short of a data revolution, which has brought with it a new set of challenges and opportunities. Big data, a critical element of the data revolution, has mostly been harnessed by the private sector to gain competitive advantage and drive firm value. Now the international community, led by the United Nations, is making strides to channel this data revolution for sustainable development.

For this effort to achieve its ultimate purpose of empowering people, increasing civic participation, devising better policies, and ensuring better decisions and greater accountability for better outcomes, data and statistics need to be produced on a broader range of issues, frequently and more timely. This is a tall order for the national statistical system of most countries in the Caribbean. For the Caribbean not to be left wanting in monitoring the post-2015 development agenda, the region must take full advantage of the data revolution.

At this important juncture, ECLAC Caribbean is calling upon the insights and knowledge of experts around the region to address Big Data issues. Hosted at ECLAC Caribbean's headquarters on 24 August, the expert group meeting will bring together representatives from the National Statistical Offices of the Caribbean region as well as other experts in Information and Communications Technology.

(continued on next page)



FEATURE ARTICLE

Data Revolution for Sustainable Development: The Caribbean Challenge

Big data is not just big. It is fast and varied. Simply put, the term Big Data is used to describe the enormous amount of digital information that is generated when people go about their daily activities including shopping, talking, texting, internet surfing, and traveling. It also includes information about natural phenomena generated and/or transmitted by machines, including satellites. The main characteristics of these data that qualify them as big data are that they are large in volume, they are generated very frequently and they cover a multitude of issues from a great number of sources.

The private sector has long realised the value of big data and capitalized on it to increase the value of their businesses. For example, Amazon has a wealth of data on purchases made by customers that it uses in making recommendations for future purchases.

The private sector has long realised the value of big data and capitalized on it to increase the value of their businesses....

The international community has now recognized the value of big data in contributing to sustainable development. Every time we use a mobile phone, do an internet search, and post on Facebook or Twitter about an issue, we create a digital record that could be of great value in stemming a disease outbreak, predicting the unemployment rate, or generating feedback on a government programme. However, these potentially useful data are for the most part, left unused for developmental purposes. This is due to a number of reasons. Official statistics are

produced using processes that are well-defined and structured. On the other hand, big data is highly-unstructured and is generated without consideration for any sampling requirements. Additionally, data for official statistics are collected with the assurance that privacy is protected and confidentiality is maintained, whereas big data are mostly privately generated information that was not intended for official purposes.

These considerations notwithstanding, the value of big data is now too great to ignore. The discussion should move from emphasizing the obstacles to the use of big data in official statistics, to that of harnessing the benefits of big data in official statistics while minimising the risks. If posts on Twitter and Facebook, and searches on the internet can accurately foretell a rise in unemployment in a region where unemployment data are irregular and reported over long lags, what will be the argument against big data? If mobile phone records can be used to improve the response time of public health officials to the outbreak of diseases, such as Dengue, Chikungunya or Zika virus, why should the government not explore that option? Already, the Caribbean region is regarded as data-poor, and big data presents many opportunities for the region. To take full advantage of these opportunities, however, statistical capacity building and institutional changes are imperative. Most importantly, the statistical community must warm up to new innovations that are bound to impact the traditional way of operating. The earlier these challenges are confronted, the better placed the region will be in order to capitalize on the data revolution for sustainable development. ■

DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO: 69.5 --- TOURISM: OVER 70% OF INCOME --- SERVICES: OVER 70% OF GDP --- 1990-2014: 328 DISASTERS --- 25 YEARS: 240K DEATHS BY DISASTERS --- WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT: 15% --- FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT: 12.4% --- MATERNAL MORTALITY: 0.2% --- HIV-POSITIVE AGED 14-49: 0.5% --- YEARS IN EDUCATION: 10.3 --- ENROLMENT RATES: OVER 90% --- 1965-2000: 70% GRADUATE MIGRATION --- INTERNET PENETRATION: 51% --- INVESTMENT IN R&D: 0.13 OF GDP --- ENERGY: 95% FROM FOSSIL FUELS --- BY 2035: 2 MILLION OLDER ADULTS --- **WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: 5.9%** --- TRADE-TO-GDP RATIO: OVER 90% --- DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO: 69.5 --- TOURISM: OVER 70% OF INCOME --- SERVICES: OVER 70% OF GDP --- 1990-2014: 328 DISASTERS --- 25 YEARS: 240K DEATHS BY DISASTERS --- **WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT: 15%** --- FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT: 12.4% --- MATERNAL MORTALITY: 0.2% --- HIV-POSITIVE AGED 14-49: 0.5% --- YEARS IN EDUCATION: 10.3 --- ENROLMENT RATES: OVER 90% --- 1965-2000: 70% GRADUATE MIGRATION --- INTERNET PENETRATION: 51% --- INVESTMENT IN R&D: 0.13 OF GDP --- ENERGY: 95% FROM FOSSIL FUELS --- BY 2035: 2 MILLION OLDER ADULTS --- WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: 5.9% --- TRADE-TO-GDP RATIO: OVER 90% --- DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO: 69.5 --- TOURISM: OVER 70% OF INCOME --- SERVICES: OVER 70% OF GDP --- 1990-2014: 328 DISASTERS --- 25 YEARS: 240K DEATHS BY DISASTERS --- WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT: 15% --- FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT: 12.4% --- MATERNAL MORTALITY: 0.2% --- HIV-POSITIVE AGED 14-49: 0.5% --- YEARS IN EDUCATION: 10.3 --- ENROLMENT RATES: OVER 90% --- 1965-2000: 70% GRADUATE MIGRATION --- INTERNET PENETRATION: 51% --- INVESTMENT IN R&D: 0.13 OF GDP --- ENERGY: 95% FROM FOSSIL FUELS --- BY 2035: 2 MILLION OLDER ADULTS --- WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: 5.9% --- TRADE-TO-GDP RATIO: OVER 90% --- DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO: 69.5 --- TOURISM: OVER 70% OF INCOME --- SERVICES: OVER 70% OF GDP --- 1990-2014: 328 DISASTERS --- 25 YEARS: 240K DEATHS BY DISASTERS --- WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT: 15% --- FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT: 12.4% --- MATERNAL MORTALITY: 0.2% --- HIV-POSITIVE AGED 14-49: 0.5% --- YEARS IN EDUCATION: 10.3 --- ENROLMENT RATES: OVER 90% --- 1965-2000: 70% GRADUATE MIGRATION --- INTERNET PENETRATION: 51% --- INVESTMENT IN R&D: 0.13 OF GDP --- ENERGY: 95% FROM FOSSIL FUELS --- BY 2035: 2 MILLION OLDER ADULTS --- WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: 5.9% --- **TRADE-TO-GDP RATIO: OVER 90%** --- DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO: 69.5 --- TOURISM: OVER 70% OF INCOME --- SERVICES: OVER 70% OF GDP --- 1990-2014: 328 DISASTERS



Red Hibiscus Flower typically found in the Caribbean region.

STATE *of* AFFAIRS

Suriname



SURINAME PRESIDENT SWORN IN

Aug 13th - Desi Bouterse was sworn in as president of Suriname for a second consecutive term. Bouterse's National Democratic Party (NDP) won the May 25 general elections and on July 14 he was elected for a second term by parliament.



SURINAME SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CDB

July 9th - The Suriname government signed two agreements with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for projects to improve Suriname's implementation of both the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the European Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Haiti



OFFICIALS SATISFIED WITH ELECTION DAY

July 12th - Haitian government officials and election authorities expressed satisfaction with the unfolding of the legislative ballot. Prime Minister Evans Paul and the President of the nine-member electoral council, Pierre Louis Opont, recognized that the days leading up to the ballot were marked by a series of violent incidents, however they insisted that Election Day was an overall success.



OAS CONGRATULATES HAITI

Aug 12th - The electoral observation mission from the Organization of American States (OAS) congratulated Haiti on conducting its first round of legislative elections. The mission characterized the elections as a step forward for Haitian democracy, despite there being some incidents of violence.

Jamaica



JAMAICA SECURES US \$130M LOAN

August 5th - The Jamaican government plans to strengthen its program for economic growth with a US \$130 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This is the second tranche of a policy-based loan series, providing budget support for the government's fiscal policy reform. The first tranche was approved in February 2014.



JAMAICAN PM ADDRESSES UNSC

July 30th - Jamaican Prime Minister, Portia Simpson Miller, addressed a special United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate on peace and security challenges facing small island developing states (SIDS) at the UN Headquarters in New York on July 30th. During her statement to the Council, PM Simpson Miller endorsed the proposal for debt relief for Caribbean SIDS made by ECLAC's Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena at the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in Barbados earlier that month.

Guyana Rupununi Music and Arts Festival

The 2nd Rupununi Music and Arts Festival will take place on September 18-20 in Guyana, and a large team of volunteers are pooling their talents and organizational skills to make it an even more enjoyable experience than the first.

The site is Rock View Lodge in Annai, a territory nestled between two Amerindian villages where the Pakaraima foothills meet the tropical rain forests in the south American country.

The festival has an interesting background. It was developed following an informal discussion at the South Bank in London in 2012, between a Guyanese flautist and the Lodge owner. Two years later, after further discussions with other artists and entertainers, the outdoor camping event was inaugurated.

The two principal organisations involved are *mapz Arts Management and Rock View Lodge*, who are guided and supported by a wide range of individuals, volunteers, traditional communities, musicians and artists, organisations and private sector companies.

The festival's focus is simple: create a pleasant campsite in a wonderful setting, invite some great people with their families and friends and provide some music that you may never hear on your radio.

It is an interesting adventure that provides visitors with many opportunities to explore Guyana's interior pre- and post- the festival weekend. From bird watching to fishing, walking to riding, it is an exploration of a beautiful country, and the musical experience could start from anywhere! ■

Fender Marcus Miller Jazz Bass autographed by Marcus Miller by Sebastiaan ter Burg / CC BY



**trinidad
+tobago
film /15
festival**

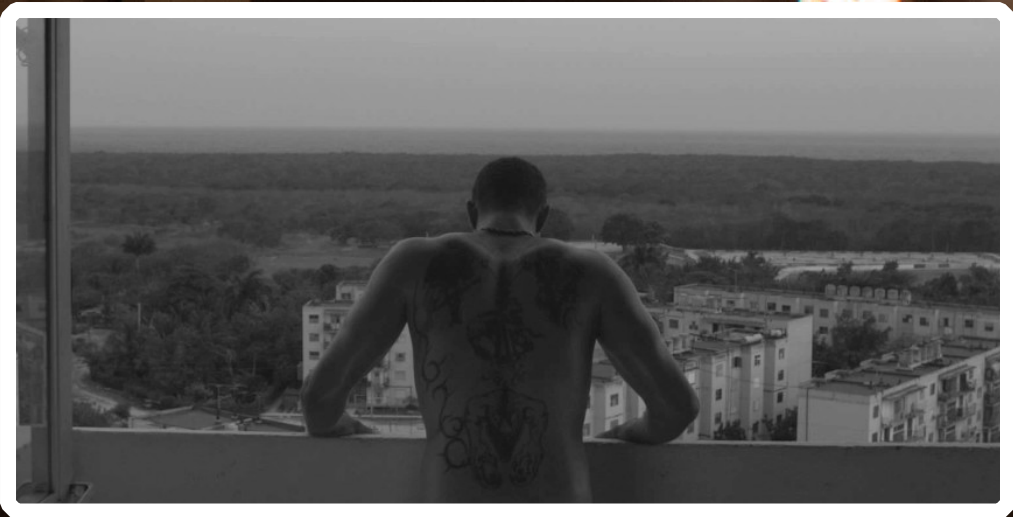
SOME OF THE POPULAR
FEATURES INCLUDE:

The Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (TTFF) is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Among the many exciting things being planned by the organisers this year, is the opportunity for movie fans to share in the TTFF's repository of knowledge and skills as mentors in a mentoring programme set up by the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism.

It's a responsibility the group takes seriously, as its selection was based on its reputation for "cutting-edge world cinema and experimental film, training opportunities for local and regional filmmakers, international outreach, and for making such an impact for Caribbean cinema".

Last year, MovieMaker magazine named the TTFF one of the 25 coolest film festivals in the world.

Also in celebration of its landmark anniversary, TTFF is giving the opportunity to less fortunate children to join in the fun. Under the DreamTicket initiative, boys from the St. Dominic's Children's Home and girls from the St. Jude's Home for Girls in Trinidad, will get to attend screenings of family-friendly films, from September 15 -29. ■



PROJECT OF THE CENTURY
CARLOS MACHADO QUINTELA
CUBA, ARGENTINA, GERMANY,
SWITZERLAND

MURDER IN PACOT
RAOUL PECK
HAITI, FRANCE, NORWAY



VENICE
KIKI ÁLVAREZ
CUBA, COLOMBIA

AMY
ASIF KAPADIA
UNITED KINGDOM



Curacao's *North Sea Jazz Festival*



The sixth edition of the Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival takes place at the site of the World Trade Center Piscadera Bay near Willemstad in the first week of September 2015. For the two-day event this year, there are three stages, two outside and one inside the World Trade Center. Every year, the organizers, Fundashon Bon Intenshon and their partners, have been presenting line-ups that satisfy every musical taste – and this year will be no different.

From Latin superstars like Juan Luis Guerra, Marc Anthony, Mana and Carlos Santana, to Soul legends like Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson, and Gladys Knight, diverse artists have graced the stage and delivered spectacular performances. Activities take place throughout the week, with free concerts on the Brion Square, in addition to smaller warm up performances all over the island by buzz making up-and-coming musicians, prior to the culmination on the weekend. ■



Curaçao's North Sea Jazz Festival photo courtesy www.iammadein.com/

ECLAC CARIBBEAN

Family

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES



Trainees from the ECLAC Caribbean Office and other UN Agencies.

The OJT experience: preparing to survive the future job market

Action! The most recent instalment in the Brown Bag lunchtime series has so far turned out to be the most interactive. The On-the-Job Trainees (OJTs) at ECLAC Caribbean delivered a witty skit in the style of the popular television series 'Law and Order', followed by a short presentation on how to prepare to survive in the future job market.

This session was aimed at illustrating the experiences of the organization's trainees, the competencies they learned and the skills they developed over the last year at ECLAC Caribbean.

The light-hearted approach offered a delightful balance to the serious themes expressed but was as impactful and resounding as the trainees intended. These included: the importance of professionalism, the need for language

learning within international organizations, the importance of setting objectives for training, and the need for constructive feedback.

ECLAC Caribbean's trainees were joined by colleagues from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Brown Bag Lunch sessions are regularly hosted by the ECLAC Caribbean family as an informal lunchtime events. The sessions are meant to facilitate discussion of ideas, and sharing experiences and knowledge. The atmosphere is typically relaxed, with staff opting to bring along lunch or snacks as they participate. The series was proposed by ECLAC Caribbean Director, Diane Quarless, and is coordinated by Staff Assistant Lindy-Ann Edwards-Alleyne. ■

CONTACT US

ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean,
1 Chancery Lane, P.O. Box 1113,
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies.

Telephone: 1 868 224 8000
Facsimile: 1 868 623 8485
E-mail: registry@eclacpos.org

MEDIA CONTACT
Tel.: 1 868 224 8075
E-mail: media-pos@eclac.org

SOCIAL MEDIA



www.eclacpos.org

